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Happy New Year to all our supporters

Since our last communication, quite a lot has been happening with which we would like to briefly bring all of our friends and supporters up to date...

As well as focusing our efforts on assisting with the funding of the new Mkak Primary School classrooms, we have also been allocating donations - towards implementing a health program and completing work on the organic farm learning centre. As mentioned in this Newsletter, our next Fundraiser will be on July 24 this year; until then we are continuing with our wine-drive fundraiser, which has been a great success over the past few years. There is a variety of quality wines to choose from and orders can be placed through this link: [Humanitus Foundation Fundraising Wine](#).



Jeffrey Richards and Port Welshpool artist/donor Kerrie Inns at the Fundraising dinner at Bhopa Devi Restaurant in June 2014

One issue that is often raised by many of our supporters is that of tax deductibility for donations - or, moreso, lack thereof. As all of our funds are directed towards projects outside Australia it is virtually impossible for Humanitus to obtain deductible gift recipient status through the taxation department. Through not having the DGR status we have already missed out on what would have been rather generous donations - which is indeed disappointing. Hence this issue really is a priority for us now. Of course we are not alone here as thousands of charities in Australia are in our position. The only solution to this predicament is for Humanitus to partner with an organisation which can offer tax deductibility to all donors, including donors of their partner organisations. In essence, donors would make their donation through the partner organisation, which would then redirect the donation to Humanitus. We hope to have a partnership in place in the very near future and will advise everyone as soon as this is sourced and formalised.

On a final note, we would like to thank our IT Director in Frankfurt, Christopher Coelle, for completing the enormous task of rebuilding the Humanitus Foundation and Sidoarjo Fund websites. Once the new platform had been designed and built, almost ten years' worth of information had to then be moved across. We are extremely pleased with the new-look website and are now busily bringing it up to date with new and historical information and photos. If you have some spare time we urge you to have a look through the website www.humanitus.org. Any feedback or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Once again we thank you all for your continued support of Humanitus.

**Best wishes from the Humanitus Team,
Jeffrey, Christopher, Sally, Simon, Angus, Celine and Julie**

Sumatra Update

Lontung Primary School and Tuk Tuk Primary School

In January 2015, Jeffrey, Angus and Celine met in Sumatra with plans to locate another needy school that Humanitus could work with on Samosir Island. The plan was to also visit the Lontung School which Angus and Celine have spent so much time working on. Disappointingly, due to the remote location of Lontung, and the state of the roads due to the wet season, we were unable to make the long journey by motorbike to Lontung. Our visit also coincided with the Indonesian school holidays so even if we could have made the journey out there the children and teachers were on holidays so the visit wouldn't have been as fruitful as we would have liked. Nonetheless, we did receive a report saying that the school, and students are doing well since the renovations, supply of resources and installation of electricity. Apparently, due to the vastly improved standard of the school, and the students' grades, the Government of Indonesia has increased funding for Lontung, making it far more sustainable than in the earlier years.

Some of you may remember the assistance Humanitus gave to the Tuk Tuk Village Primary School back in 2008? This school is now also receiving more government funding and is now one of the best government schools on the island. It was pleasing to hear that the soccer uniforms Humanitus supplied back in 2008 are still being well looked after and the pride of the students who wear them for important football matches.

Garoga Primary School

Angus and Celine had heard of the Garoga Village Primary School some time ago. It is a 20-minute ride from Tuk Tuk Village, and it will be much easier to oversee any work that is carried out there. The school has been the recipient of very minimal government funding, and although it is in a much better state than Lontung was originally, the students would definitely benefit from some additional assistance. Angus and Celine are arranging to visit the school soon to meet with the headmaster and to ascertain just what is needed to make the school a better learning environment for the students. During our visit we noted the following areas in which we could possibly assist:

☹ The playground/assembly area is a dust bowl with little shade, no trees and nowhere nice for the children to play or have outdoor lessons.

☹ In comparison to many Indonesian schools the classrooms were quite well fitted out with electricity, windows and tiling but they were very dusty, dirty and dreary rooms. Not an ideal learning environment. There appeared to be limited resources and they could definitely benefit from some new blackboards.

☹ It is possible the toilets could be in need of tiling and a decent clean.

☹ The numbers have been dropping at this school and they now only have 84 students compared to 120 last year. Many of the students have moved to a school in a village approximately 10 kilometres away which is far better resourced. This means a long walk for many while those lucky enough to have bikes have to negotiate the main road which is the most dangerous on the island.

Funding has been put aside for Garoga and we look forward to keeping you up-to-date on our new school.

Jeffrey Richards



GAROGA VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL





Although it seems like yesterday for the Humanitus Team, our annual fundraiser at Bhopa Devi, Melbourne, was over six months ago.

For the first time we were assisted by volunteer events-management student Mea Cordner, who did a fantastic job to ensure that the night maintained a casual feel, even though we were still wanting to promote an important message. Furthermore, 100% of the funds raised on the evening would be going towards Humanitus projects.

This is the second time Cambodian restaurant Bhopa Devi has come to the party, and their food was amazing, easily feeding the 65 people who were in attendance. After a short welcome by Sally and Jeff, the evening hit its stride, with most of the attendees having a dabble at the raffle prizes. The quality of the raffles was outstanding, and we wish to thank all those people who donated prizes to the fundraiser.

The night ended with our major event: valuable items auctioned off by professional auctioneer Andrew Simms. The team at Humanitus was a little nervous that our prizes would go for next to nothing, but everyone dug deep and the auctions were a huge success...indeed, for many, this was the highlight of the evening. The weekend to Point Lonsdale, for example, sold - after a tense bidding war - for \$700, and I am pleased to advise that the party of seven had a wonderful weekend away.

We wish to thank all our supporters for their contribution to such a successful event. Our final 'take' for the evening was a fantastic \$3300+ - as said before, heading, in its entirety, to our projects overseas.

We have determined the date of our fundraising dinner for 2015 as **FRIDAY, JULY 24**, so put this in your diaries NOW (further details closer to the date) - and if you have any goods for donation for the evening please contact a member of the Humanitus team.

Many thanks,

**Simon Cowell, Humanitus
Education & Learning Director**



Simon Cowell and friends at the Bhopa Devi fundraiser dinner: (L-R) Mark Sweeney [from the Co-op which donated a large box of goodies on the night], Melissa Delaland, Jane Ryan, Simon, and Claire Ryan



Events coordinator Mea Cordner, and Hannah Skehill



Christine Gilliland, and Humanitus Projects Director Sally Cordner



Catherine Caldwell, Jo Thompson, Andrew and Lynette Simms



Gail Lee (Managing Director Leethal Fashion, and Humanitus donor), Poramy Chhit, and Jade Ouk



Jove Kensen (photographic artist, and Humanitus donor), Jacqui Warman, and Ryan Rodrigues

Supporters, donors, and members of the Humanitus team at the Fundraising Dinner in June 2014 at Bhopa Devi Restaurant

① PICHEY RANGSAY SCHOOL



Caulfield Grammar School's Malvern Campus (above) has continued its involvement with the Pichey Rangsay School at Phnom Penh by raising funds in excess of \$9000 during 2014. Along with Ms Fiorella Soci, the Social Committee has again worked extremely hard - ably assisted by the student body, teachers and families - to raise funds that will enable the Health Program to continue and for bicycles to be supplied.

The Health Program provided by CGS has been running now for four years, and the benefits are evident in the improved general well-being of the children at the school and their increased motivation and eagerness to learn. Furthermore, the ongoing result of the program is that students will have increased chances to reach the Upper Primary years (due to their improved academic achievements), and to continue on to Secondary School.

On behalf of Denzil Sprague, the founder of the Pichey Rangsay School, and the students there, Humanitus extends a heartfelt thank you to the Caulfield Grammar Malvern Campus community for their continuing support. We are now working towards consolidating connections between the schools, as well as initiating travel to Cambodia (and the Pichey Rangsay School) for Caulfield Grammar Malvern Campus teachers, students and their families.

Sally Cordner (Projects Director)

② MKAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Construction of the new classrooms at Mkak Primary School are progressing quickly. The next major task will be supplying and fitting a roof for the building. All of this progress has been made possible through donations from World Challenge teams, The Humanitus Foundation and various private donations to the Bright Children Organisation.



Even though the Humanitus Foundation has committed to completing the Centre for Learning and Development Building at the organic farm, and implementing a health-care program as soon as possible, we were pleased to be able to donate money to cover the costs of doors, windows, shutters and miscellaneous supplies for the new classrooms.



At present the school grounds need a great deal of attention and there is a lot of tidying up to be done. Once the classrooms have been finished, Humanitus will assist with landscaping the school grounds and painting all of the buildings and fences.





The children and teachers at Mkak Primary School have started planting mango trees at the organic farm.

When Piseth Luon visits in January he will arrange for more vegetables and fruit to be planted, including: long beans, bananas, tomatoes and eggplants.

Along with the health-care project that is planned for this year, we are also all very excited about developing the organic farm for the benefit of the entire community.

During 2014 the Government of Cambodia has been improving the road to, and through, Mkak village. As you can see in the pictures, the road passes directly by Mkak Primary School and the organic farm where health programs will be started this year.

The new road now cuts the travel time from Siem Reap to well under two hours, making it easier for villagers to commute to Siem Reap and other provincial towns for work. It is hoped that through easier access there will be better opportunities for trading and selling produce and that the local economy will eventually start to grow accordingly.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

✪ The Victorian PYP network has continued its financial support for the Mkak Village School, and we would like to thank them most sincerely for their ongoing commitment over a number of years. Their support has enabled Humanitus to continue a range of projects which have directly benefitted the health and education of the students. We look forward to our continuing alliance with the Victorian PYP network.

✪ We would also like to make particular mention of the Mornington Primary School students and staff who have recently raised a generous amount of money. These funds will also be put toward the well-being and learning opportunities of the students at Mkak.

③ SFODA ORPHANAGE

Humanitus visits to SFODA Care Centre/
Orphanage: December 2013, January 2014,
March 2014





After a visit to SFODA in early 2014 Jeffrey Richards (Humanitus) and Yves Andre Baraldi, (SFODA Volunteer) could not help but notice the dreadful state of the children's lockers.

You can see from the before and after shots of SFODA Orphanage/Care Centre children's lockers that an enormous improvement has been made through the building of new lockers for the children to safely store their belongings and treasures. Thank you to Humanitus Foundation donors and friends and to the family and friends of Yves Andre Baraldi for supporting this project.

SFODA Orphanage and Care Centre executive staff and management have worked hard over the years to attract donors. While they are now in a reasonably good position to provide for the children, Humanitus continues to maintain a close working relationship with them and is pleased to be able to help where needed.



BEFORE



AFTER



In January 2014, Humanitus Executive Director, Jeffrey Richards and SFODA Care Centre Manager, Sothy Prak went on one of their regular shopping expeditions, purchasing 3½ months' worth of hygiene and dental care supplies for the children. 60kg bags of rice were also collected on the return trip.





VCDO and Humanitus volunteers contribute vital assistance to the lives of children in a number of care centres in and around Phnom Penh. Cooking, cleaning, teaching, and providing links to the 'outside world' via communications are just some of the ways the volunteers make a real difference to the lives of these children.





New Team Member

"Hi, I'd just like to introduce myself... I'm Julie Cordner, the newest member of the fantastic Humanitus team. You might guess by the name that I'm related to one of the board members, Sally - and indeed she is my cousin. It was through her involvement with Humanitus that I became interested and curious about how one single person could make significant changes to the lives of children in one of the poorest countries in Asia - if not the world...

My aim is to help the team in Melbourne, initially, and then to live full-time in Cambodia helping the Humanitus centres at ground level in whatever way possible...be it day-to-day admin, researching suppliers of clothing or school equipment, looking around for other schools which could use our - and your - support...basically whatever comes up.

Looking forward to meeting you in the future..."

Julie



SUPPORTER INFO: BHOPA DEVI

Along with providing delicious Cambodian fare, the two Melbourne-based Bhopa Devi restaurants support a number of community programs. They are currently building a children's library in Cambodia, and also raising funds to provide three arts scholarships for underprivileged children.

They are at Docklands (27 Rakaia Way; ph 9600 1887) and Yarraville (27 Ballarat Street; ph 9362 0941); email docklands@bhopadevi.com

The name "Humanitus" is derived from the Latin word "humanus" meaning "pertaining to man, humane, cultured..."

Contact us

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