



# 3 Violets news

The Marist Solidarity Cambodia Newsletter  
March 2011 Issue number 3

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Hair Dressing Training



IT Training Class

## Our Name

Marist Solidarity Cambodia, (LAVALLA SCHOOL and YODIFEE) founded on the principles and beliefs of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Marist Brothers, hold as our vision the hope for an inclusive community where concern for individual human development makes education a high priority.

## Director's Greetings

Welcome to our Third Marist Solidarity Cambodia Newsletter.

Time is so quickly slipping past! What have we wish showing for this swift passage of time? Lots! Especially as on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March the Inaugural Meeting of the Board was held at LaValla School which officially authenticated the amalgamation of the two Marist projects into one. April is coming which is the month of the our KHMER New Year when everything and everybody ages by one year. The children have already gone home to enjoy their holidays with their families and friends. Keeping close attachment to family is an important aspect of our project.

The highlight of the first semester at LaValla School was a visit to the Zoo. Few of the children had been to the zoo before as it is 40Kms from Phnom Penh. Everyone enjoyed the outing, first traveling by bus and then the monkeys, tigers, bears and many elephants delighted everyone. So much so that there followed a quiet rest in the heat of the midday sun before everyone laughed and clapped as the elephant danced for us all. What a day! We arrived home delighted with our novel experience of an exciting visit to the zoo.

The Inaugural Board Meeting commenced with a meeting and introduction between the Board and the whole staff of MSC before the Board quickly got down to business by acknowledging their appointment by Br Jeffrey Crowe, President of Australian Marist Solidarity, with a personal letter. As the Executive Director, first I brought the Board up to date with the developments of the LAVALLA SCHOOL and YODIFEE. They then considered the Draft of the Constitution of MSC which had been carefully prepared by Dr

David Buckley, Sr Luise Ahrens and Mrs Tith Davy. The Board approved the Constitutions and passed them onto Marist Solidarity Australia for their final approbation. The Board next considered and approved the Financial Report and the 2011 Budget. Finally a draft Personnel Manual was studied and some amendments suggested before giving it partial approval pending its completion. We were pleased to have Br Luis Sobrado' presence and thank him for his observations. Much remains to be done to set MSC on a firm footing but the initial steps have now been taken. The next meeting will be towards the end of the year in October.

LaValla School was delighted to welcome Bishop Olivier and the Apostolic Delegate Bishop Giovanni on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. After an inspection of the school our guests were entertained with songs and music before presenting each student and staff member with a small gift. Both Bishops encouraged all to approach the upcoming second semester with energy and dedication.

Preparation of Personal Development training for our grade 12 and university students is another exciting project. The training will be aimed to ensure the human development of their talents in order to gain inner-sources, personal experience, pathways to well behavior management, self esteem and motivation, morality and personal leadership.

Thanks to our donors, supporters, and friends who always makes our project possible to meet the needs of our beneficiaries. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter for your update information.

Mr. Nimul Ouch Executive Director  
*Marist Solidarity Cambodia*

## Thanks from School Principal

On behalf of children with disabilities, and members of staff at LaValla School, and myself, we are greatly grateful towards the generosity of Mr. Peter Dougherty and a family who granted the 4 wheel drive vehicle for the needs of our program. We respectfully admire your charitable gift to support us. We all have you and your family in our prayers and wish you good health, success and happiness.



Ms. Sek Maroum,





# Yodicraft

## Recycled Rice Bags

How do you do your part to save the planet and help workers with disabilities in Cambodia?

You buy some of these eye-catching products, ethically produced from recycled rice bags.

**ORDER NOW**



On the website: [www.yodicraft.com](http://www.yodicraft.com)  
You can:  
Browse our Catalogue  
Pay by PayPal or credit card  
Have your own Account and See status of your order

## BEAUTIFUL HANDICRAFTS

Yodicraft is the social business enterprise established in 2009 aiming to provide training and employment opportunities for youth with disabilities to become more self-sufficient, to showcase the talents of these youths and to provide an income for ensuring the sustainability of our work.

### Stock Yodicraft Goods

Should you wish to stock Yodicraft carving or sewing products, or should you wish Yodicraft to produce specific items for your shop or organization, please contact us on [yodicraft@yodifee.org](mailto:yodicraft@yodifee.org).

# YODIBIKE 1



A TEAM at YODIBIKE 1 AT TAKHMAO

The dream of every young person is to have their own set of wheels...a bright new motorbike (moto). So why not own and run a motorbike shop! This is a new MSCYODIFEE Vision for our youth with disability.

The first step to realize this dream has been taken by Pho who has rented a small shop in Takhmao after completing his moto-mechanics course at the Jesuit Vocational Training Centre (JVTC) at Banteay Prieb lat year. First he has prepared a YODIFEE business plan before buying his tools and replacement parts to open his moto repair shop called **YodiBike 1**. After all this preparation Pho is now earning a living using his skills that will develop with experience. Funding for this project has been provided by **Ride Aid Australia** based in Perth, Western Australia.

The MSCYODIFEE goal is to set up such moto shops run by disabled youth in the main cities of Cambodia and so provide regular paid employment for disadvantaged youth with mechanical skills. MSCYODIFEE will support the students during his/her apprenticeship; draw up a suitable business plan for the site chosen; help buy the necessary tools and spares; assist in finding a suitable place for the shop; encourage the parents to support the young person and provide ongoing guidance and oversight in running the moto-shop. The project for this year 2011 has been providing apprenticeship to four young men in moto mechanics and employment another two handicapped staff.

MSCYODIFEE dreams that one day this initial development will spread into providing apprenticeships and full employment for many other disadvantaged youth to follow their dream of running their own moto shop that will be **Ride Aid Cambodia!**

*Thanks to Ride Aid Australia*



## Computer for Life

Young people with disabilities need all the help they can get to find employment.

Our specific purpose for this project is to provide a teaching facility to educate young people with physical disabilities in the skills of Information Technology (IT), and to demonstrate ability in the application of the computing skill such as competency to use this program as well as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint etc.

There have been 25 young people with disabilities attend the courses each day at Villa Maria. This is the great opportunity for them to learn computing- data entry and typing particularly, at no cost, to give them skills and experiences that may improve their chances of future employment. The more competent of them will be expected to tutor other young handicapped.

**THANKS TO STEPSAFE FOR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT**



IT training class

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

—Our Thanks to Tony Marwick ( CEO of ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL) and Jannie who spent their time to visit YODIFEE and provided gift to our staff and boarding children. Thanks Tony and Jannie.



Gift giving

—Our thanks to Hamish and Gilly who came to provide training in hair-dressing for our boarding students, and support the Yodicraft project. Thanks Hamish and Gilly.



Hair Dressing Class



### Hope for New Successes

*Name: Roun Rom, Sex Male,  
Year of Birth 1985,  
Disability: Polio on left leg*

I am Roun Rom, was born in December, 1985 in Cheur Kach village, Cheur Kach commune, Baphnom district and Prey Veng Province in Cambodia. I had seven siblings in the family, five brothers and two sisters and I'm the second oldest son. My parents are farmer. In the recent time, my brothers and sister decided to drop out of school because of poverty in the family. I had with the physical impairment (polio at left leg) since 1990. I still remembered when I was five years old; I got a bad health (strong fever). I graduated at secondary school in 1999 and high school in 2005. Eventhough I'm a person with disability I never think of my disability I always tried to study from day to day and help my parent work if possible. Living in Phnom Pen, I studied for a bachelor degree at Human Resources University in the field of English literature, professional communication supported by YODIFEE. YODIFEE is the best place for me and other persons with disabilities. I still remembered good things when I stayed with YODIFEE for four years because it provided me a good accommodation and good food in every day. I really learnt more about socialization and keep going a very good collaboration with other friends with disabilities during my stay. I am now working for Handicap International Belgium in the position of outreach worker. The major duties and responsibilities are facilitating the training courses and supervision to health support groups in all health centers in Takeo province. I get more experience on health care of the children in communities in particular, I know clearly about early detection and early intervention of disability for child under 5 years. I got married in March this year. I have now started my journey of being the family leader. In conclusion, I would like to thank you so much for Support YODIFEE to support me.

Roun Rom

## OUR DONORS



John Tesoriero and His Wife



## Rehab House and Clinic Project

Monthly clinics involving the two major rehabilitation centres represented on the LaValla School site continue to be a most effective way of attending to individuals. LaValla School and YODIFEE continue to work with other agencies for people with disabilities. A major development has been the provision of a monthly clinic at which the two major rehabilitation centres, Cambodia Trust and Veterans International are represented. There has been a steady stream of cases, attending the clinic for appraisal, subsequently attending the centres or hospitals. Some very pleasing referral work has been done and improvements suggest that surgery and casting have been generally very helpful to students. This particular objective has to remain current given the needs of students at LaValla and YODIFEE. There continues to be great scope for more effective intervention. The plan to get a volunteer physiotherapist to help trained our staff is in place. Hopefully the project will get the volunteer to work for the project in September 2011. There were 15 girls and 27 boys received prosthesis service from Cambodia Trust and Veteran International in year 2010. There were 10 girls and 11 boys got limbs surgeries from national hospitals in Phnom Penh. There were 93 children got teeth checked and fixed from World Health Family Organization. The LaValla School extended rehab house was built to use for rehab project and therapy activities.



Extended Rehab house

Thanks to Maree and Dave..... who assisted us to build this.

## Our Current Needs

Currently we are in need of:

+ Wheelchairs for our children at LaValla school, and YODIFEE project

+ A Volunteer Physiotherapist to work for the project for six months.

All donations and help are appreciated, however because of practical reasons, such as security and postal problems many times we find it better to receive money rather than actual items.

## ABOUT US

Marist Solidarity Cambodia—(LAVALLA SCHOOL and YODIFEE FOUNDATION), a humanitarian organisation founded on the principles and beliefs of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, the Founder of the Marist Brothers, hold as our **vision** the hope for an inclusive community where concern for individual human development makes education a high priority.

In fulfilment of this vision, we see as our **mission** a need to be in solidarity with young, especially the most disadvantaged, providing them with the means of achieving their full potential through the delivery of education and life-building support.

The **Values** we hold in our approach to aid and development therefore encompass the promotion of equality, dignity and social justice for all members God's family.

The logo of Marist Solidarity Cambodia is represented by three violets. The Founder of the Marist Brothers, Saint Marcellin Champagnat, used these violets to teach of the importance of behaviour characterised by *courtesy, compassion, friendliness, joy, patience* and other values – sometimes called "*little virtues*". It is these "*little virtues*" that we aspire towards in our care for the young people we serve.

## Recent Visits

Thanks for the visits to our centers of our friends recently:  
Bishop Olivier and the Apostolic Delegate Bishop Giovanni Rita Millichamp ( UWCSEA)  
Philip Gamasilva  
Alice and Bridget  
Bob and Ann Finlay  
Hamish and Gilly  
Tony and Jannie ( EP)  
Dr. Ulrich Dornberg and Rebecca Misereor  
Frank Surgener-RideAid Australia  
Clelia and Francesco ( AIB)  
Malaysian delegates  
Japanese Delegates  
Burmese delegates  
Michael Morgan and His Wife  
Maree and Dave  
David Buckley

## Contact us

**3Violetsnews** is a three– monthly newsletter published by Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC)

Should you have any comments, or feedback, about this newsletter, or our organization, here are some ways you could contact us:



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