

Wild Hearts Social Enterprise Project



Our level 3 kids do not just study English together we have implemented a new curriculum for them that includes social, environmental, and business studies. Recently the kids were challenged to develop and present a business concept which since evolved into much more. They had become very concerned with the rapid decline of the natural environment in Cambodia and wanted to create a business model that makes a difference in improving environmental sustainability and makes a positive contribution to the social development of their community. The kids ultimately combined their ideas and interests and asked for a chance to prototype their idea for the 'Wild Hearts' social enterprise.

Their concept is to get approval to rescue endangered species that can be bred and released to the wild. They hope to develop a unique restaurant and café experience that provides up close encounters with the animals to fund the project and help spread awareness of threatened species to people visiting Cambodia. For their prototype they asked permission to put on a 'dining experience' and invited some close friends of Little Hearts to visit for an evening. Everyone who attended was in awe of what the kids delivered.

The guests arrived to a presentation by the older kids on the state of the environment in Cambodia and the rapid deforestation of what was one of Southeast Asia's last havens of biodiversity. The kids presented a well thought out business proposal explaining how tourists to Cambodia almost always visit only the temples and beaches and there are few opportunities for them to learn about and experience Cambodia's wildlife, especially in Phnom Penh.

They then showcased the dining experience they would offer food prepared from all locally sourced organic Cambodian produce which they explained can help support local communities and businesses. The dining area they prepared with character and charm, decorated with plants the kids had grown, recycled glass bottles and unique artwork made by the kids. They even had live music and performances to entertain the guests.

With our college kids studying agronomy, accounting, design, marketing, and tourism they certainly showed what they can achieve together. We are looking forward to finding support to turn their prototype event into a viable social enterprise project.

If you would like to be involved in the Wild Hearts project please contact our General Manager Jordan at jordan@lho.ngo



Random Acts of Kindness

With many of our kids recently getting their vaccines at the local Pagoda they returned to Little Hearts concerned at the state of this public area which was covered in garbage, burnt piles of medical waste and conditions that where not safe for the community. They wondered if maybe we do something here to help the community. This very quickly evolved into our new Random Acts of Kindness campaign.

Realizing they can achieve a lot together they decided to organise a clean-up, promote to others and invite them to join in community projects in future.

That Saturday we arrived with the family and the cleaning and maintenance equipment from Little Hearts. We collected and removed over 5 trailer loads of garbage. We cut the grass and removed the rocks and broken glass from areas that community kids play. We even planted out the gardens with flowers the kids had grown.

The kids didn't want to stop their and had been thinking about how many people in Phnom Penh have been doing it really hard with Covid Lockdowns impacting their livelihood. By Sunday they had organized support from some sponsors to buy 20 blankets and scarves for the local cyclo drivers.

These are mostly very elderly and poor men who have to sleep on their cyclo. They had almost no customers as there is no longer any tourists and it was coming into raining season. Sunday morning, they spent cooking healthy food bundles wrapped in lotus leave and by the afternoon they were able to deliver food, masks and blankets to over sixty of the cities most needy people and families.

They are hoping that showcasing what a few kids can do together to make a difference will inspire others in the community to join Little Hearts in our Random Acts of Kindness campaign. Working together as a community we can do bigger projects in future.



A Message from the Belgium Ambassador



The Little Hearts Organization has been driven since its beginning by the dedication, the generosity and the hard work of Belgians and Cambodians willing to make a difference. At the helm of this multitude of projects, are the Belgian citizens, Tony and Jimmy Geeraerts, Dimitri Segers, Jo Officiers and a dynamic multicultural team.

Providing not only a safe and loving home for children in Cambodia who are not fortunate enough to have one, but also educational support. Little Hearts give children the chance of a brighter future. The center offers also educational activities, such as extra-curricular courses, art classes, sport training as well as the opportunity to take care of a vegetable garden – ensuring healthy food and eating habits. Most importantly, the Little Hearts Organization supports the children until they graduate and find a job. The activities of the organization are not limited to the orphanage, as they also provide help to neighboring villages.

Unfortunately the pandemic has prevented charity events from taking place. With the heavy impact of the crisis on poverty, Little Hearts need however sponsors and donors more than ever. I therefore encourage you to support them to sustain the care and education that Little hearts is providing to children in need.

Sibille de Cartier (Mrs.) Ambassador Embassy of Belgium

New Sponsor - 7ftd



Little Hearts Organization welcomes our newest sponsor 7FTD CO., Ltd. which is the first company in the Kingdom of Cambodia specialized in manufacturing electrical poles and foundation piles to European standards. Their generous support includes much needed donations of food, education supplies and financial support which helps us to get through these very challenging times.

The company sets a benchmark for manufacturers in Cambodia by implementing Corporate Social Responsibility. Their financial support also helps us to continue our community outreach programs for people in Phnom Penh suffering extreme hardship due to the impact of Covid.

If your company doesn't have Corporate Social Responsibility program in place and would like to partner with Little Hearts Organization to help build a brighter future for Cambodia please contact Tony Geeraerts at tony@lho.ngo

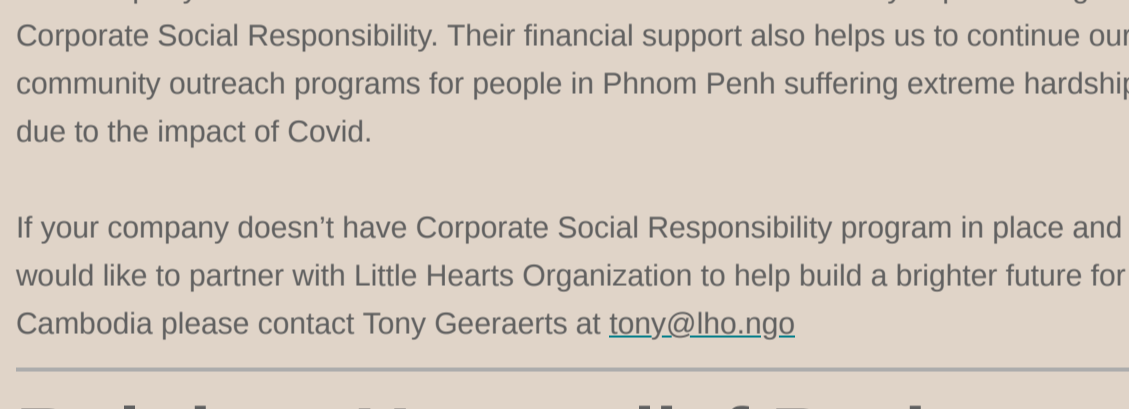
Belgium Hartendief Project

Our annual Big Little Hearts Garden Party in Belgium that has traditionally raised a significant amount of the funding Little Hearts Organization depends on each year, had to be cancelled again due to Covid. However, this didn't stop our team in Belgium designing innovative new fundraisers to support Little Hearts Organization.

They came up with the idea for people to organize their own party safely at home with a unique party box for 10 people. Little Hearts supporters were treated to our specially brewed Little Hearts Beer 'Hartendief', and other unique party box treats including Little Hearts card games, tapenades, breadsticks and homemade hummus. All the proceeds went to the Little Hearts Orphanage.

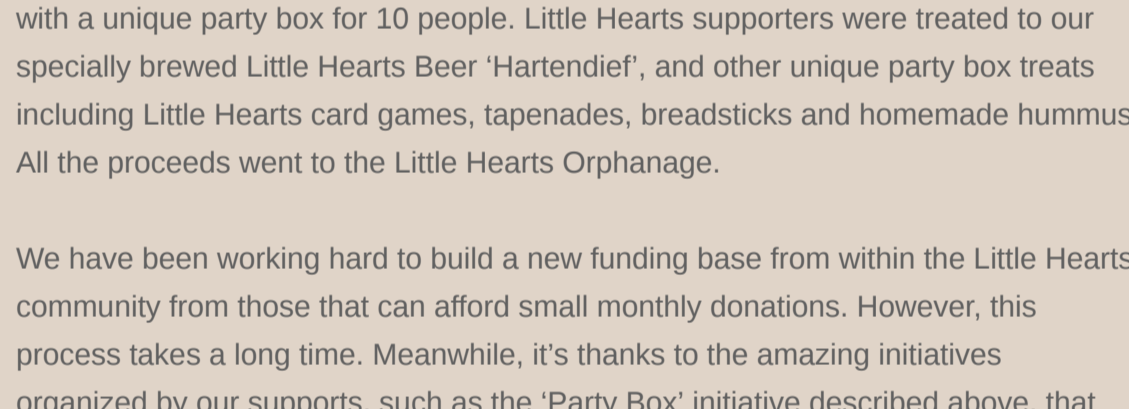
We have been working hard to build a new funding base from within the Little Hearts community from those that can afford small monthly donations. However, this process takes a long time. Meanwhile, it's thanks to the amazing initiatives organized by our supports, such as the 'Party Box' initiative described above, that keeps food on the table, kids in school and the lights on at Little Hearts while we make our way through this crisis.

We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to our team and supporters in Belgium, who do so much to keep our kids here in Cambodia safe, healthy, and hopeful for the future.

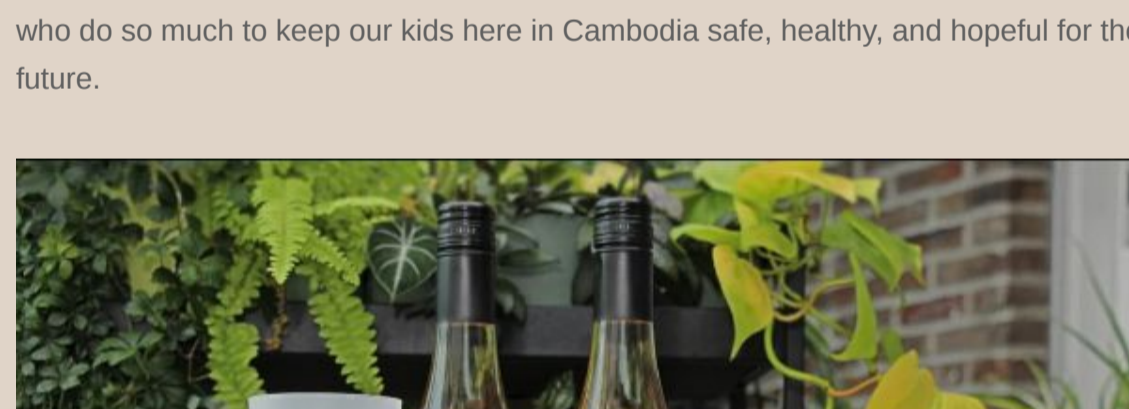


Projects

After the Wild Hearts event the kids have been busy this month with new projects all with a focus around sustainability and learning more about the environment.



Level 1: has been building birdfeeders with some building scraps and recycled glass bottles so we can learn more about the local native bird species.



Level 2: has been exploring sprouting seedlings combining a science project with art. They've got creative and each made different characters with morning glory sprout hair. The sprout will soon be added to our vegetable garden.



Level 3: got support from a local sponsor to plant a 'food forest' out the front so we will soon have oranges, passionfruit, avocado and others fruits we cant normally afford in a food budget.

Staff Member In Picture



We recently welcomed Jordan as the new General Manager of Little Hearts Organization. Jordan, who is originally from Australia, joins the Little Hearts family with over 20 years' experience in management, education and community development across three continents.

Jordan's background includes working for the Australia's government on social enterprise, community development and youth entrepreneurship projects, working with local and international organizations on youth policy, managing college programs in China, working on community and environmental projects in Africa as well as primary school programs in Cambodia.

He holds degrees in Social Change, and Development & Management as well as diplomas in Education, Training and Community Service Coordination. He is looking forward to bringing his skills and experience to develop new programs, projects and curricula for LHO.

"I think ultimately, we all want to look back at life and hope the world is a little better from what we are able to contribute. There is no greater aspiration we can have than giving education and opportunity to the next generation in the hope they will go on to contribute to and raise up the communities they come from".

"Over my career, I have worked many NGOs in different roles, yet Little Hearts Organization is unique to any I've seen. It not only gives a home and a better future to some of the least advantaged kids in the world. It gives them a family, an education, and a place to heal and grow. Little Hearts carry's on supporting the children as adults allowing them to progress into university and vocational education. This in turn, ensures they're better able to make a difference by contributing to society as professional young adults.

It's a very humbling experience to join a team that has achieved so much for these kids and very exciting to explore what we can accomplish together in the future, not just giving hope to kids that had little, but developing a new generation of leaders for a brighter future for Cambodia"