

The Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund

The Douglas Mendel Cambodian Relief Fund ♦ 1311 River Rock Dr. Montrose, CO 81401 ♦ PN: (970) 240-6120 ♦ Email: wndrlst49@hotmail.com June 2008

CAMBODIA

February 2008 Trip

This trip marked the 11th adventure to Cambodia in 5 years. Cumulatively, over 3 tons of supplies, gear and other stuff (over 98 % of it being donated) has been delivered to various places in Cambodia. The 6 fire stations that have benefited are in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, Kampot, Battambang, Siem Reap and Ban Lung, Ratanakiri Province. Two national parks have been recipients of good will; Bokor National Park and Angkor Protected Landscape. Also, 2 organizations that help disadvantaged street children and disabled Cambodians have received hundreds of pounds of clothing, stuffed animals, vitamins and supplements, dental supplies, latex gloves, school supplies and manikins for CPR training for the staff at M'lop Tapang (www.mloptapang.org). The other organization is The Starfish Project (www.starfishcambodia.org).



More >>

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The highlight of this trip, as with all trips, is seeing friends, both Khmer and ex-pats that live in Cambodia. I was able to bring over 900 lbs of stuff (bunker gear, vitamins and supplements, dental supplies, clothing, stuffed animals, manikins, and latex gloves), with no problems getting through security in USA or Cambodia.

While in Sihanoukville, chance afforded me an opportunity to see the firefighters put out a very small fire on a thatched roof of a dwelling that had been started by fireworks on the beach. It was very professional, the sparks were put out in no time, and once the firefighters recognized me, they were beaming with pride and were all smiles. I told them good job for their efforts at containing the smoldering hazard.

The big project for 2008 is having a fire station built in Ratanakiri Province. It will be a structure that will have covered bays for 3 fire trucks and 3 rooms for office space, shift quarters and room for storage of supplies and gear. It will have a concrete foundation, concrete walls and floors and a metal roof. Total cost will be about \$17,200.00. If people would like to help contribute for the funding of the station, you can donate on the PayPal link on my site, www.dougmendel.com or can call (970) 240-6120 for other contact details.

The 7-9 firefighters share space with the police in Ratanakiri, so having a station to call their own will be a great milestone. At the moment, the fire truck that was built in Cambodia in 2007 that was donated to Ratanakiri Province is parked at the engineer's house. A fire station is critical for the firefighters. Please help. Thanks!

