



2ND ANNUAL TABITHA SILK FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

On Friday, June 24th, Tabitha Foundation Canada held its 2nd annual Silk Fair at the Canadian Museum of Nature. The event was a huge success, drawing in close to 300 people, even with typhoon-like weather raging outside, to purchase silk and silk products and to check out our first fashion show!

To demonstrate the versatility and beauty of Cambodian silk, clothing by local fashion designers Jana Hanzel Fashion Design, Emilia Torabi Fashion Design and Farah Studio were showcased, modeled by friends and family of the Tabitha Foundation. All our models looked like pros, working the catwalk in their beautiful silk clothing.

In addition to partnering with the Museum, the Tabitha Foundation welcomed Pearls for Girls, and Help Lesotho resulting in a win-win-win scenario.

Also on hand was Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, corporate sponsors for the 2011 and 2012 Rockin4Tabitha housebuilding teams.



Rockin4Tabitha 6 is only 2 weeks away!

Since its inception in 2007, Ottawa-based Rockin4Tabitha has built 75 houses in poor, rural Cambodian villages, providing safe, dry homes for ~400 deserving Khmers. 2011-2012 marks the 6th anniversary of Rockin4Tabitha and our goal is bigger than ever!! The team plans to build 40 houses in the Koh Kong region with a team of approximately 25 builders. The team is off to a great fundraising start with a very generous donation of 25 houses from Lush Handmade Cosmetics, who are partnering with R4T for the 2nd year.

Come on out on September 22nd for an evening of classic 60's hits, R&B and rock n' roll. Check out Texas Flood, headed up by Rockin4Tabitha's own Bob Carver, Chameleon, and many other special musical guests!

Tickets are \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door) and are available at :

1. Metro Music (695 Bank Street)
2. N-1 Thai Boxing (401 Preston Street)
3. Rockin4Tabitha members (contact info@rockin4tabitha.ca)



Above: Lush Owner, Karen Wolverton
Below: members of the 2011 R4T team



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To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send an email to Newsletter Editor at paula@rockin4tabitha.ca



Tee off for Tabitha – Fundraising with balls! Golf balls that is!

Yolanda Henry, with help from Carole Matheson and Kathy Heit, organized the fourth annual Tee off For Tabitha at the historic Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course. We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who came out to support the event along with our many sponsors and prize donors. The tournament raised \$4000 which will go towards building homes for families desperately in need of shelter. Yolanda, Carole, and Kathy along with fellow golfers and other volunteers will be travelling to Cambodia in November to help build the homes. Each home costs \$1000 to construct, and our goal is to build at least 12 houses.

Our building team is called *Hammers for Homes II*. Team members have been fundraising for the past few months. Robin in Vancouver has been very successful tapping her Facebook friends and providing a link to our Giving Page on Canada Helps. Sunny is holding an exhibition of her art this month. We're all very excited about the adventure and seeing dreams come true for the families we'll be building for in Kep.



Organizing committee: Carole Matheson, Yolanda Henry (standing) and Kathy Heit.



Feeling somewhat unfulfilled with traditional gift-giving? Please consider a very unique gift-giving opportunity on the next special occasion ... a **Gift of Dreams**.

A personalized card sent to a friend or family member recognizes that person for having donated a very real gift that will sustain the lives of Cambodian villagers ... a Water Well, a Bicycle, a Pair of Piglets!

Set of Dishes	\$25
Mosquito Net	\$25
Bag of Rice Seed	\$25
Bicycle	\$30
Battery	\$30
Pair of Piglets	\$40
Safe Delivery of a Baby	\$40
Well for Clean Water	\$120
Pond (irrigation/fish)	\$300

In 2011, consider a gift that keeps on giving, a gift that helps build a dream.

Check it out at
<http://www.tabitha.ca/donate.html#dream>

The Tabitha Times wants your input!

Is there something that you would like to see in our newsletter?
Do you have ideas for stories or articles?
Do you know of someone who is making a difference for Tabitha and deserves recognition?

Email us and help us make Tabitha Times what you want it to be!
Coming soon – Cambodian book reviews by Nathan Weiss! Stay tuned!



Stepping Stones Art Gallery to host Tabitha Fundraiser in Ottawa

Stepping Stones Art Gallery in collaboration with Camellia Teas of Ottawa, 849 Nicholson Avenue, Ottawa, will hold an exhibition of Cambodian silk scarves and sumi-e and calligraphy brush works (October 14 – Nov. 2) as a fundraiser for the Tabitha Foundation Canada. Gallery Co-owner, Rebecca Cragg, is excited about the prospects of connecting these art forms in a vibrant new show. Cambodian silk scarves will be hung on the walls as scrolls, featuring sumi-e paintings, as well as sho-do, the ancient art of ink calligraphy. A private showing for members of the Tabitha Board and friends has been arranged for Friday evening, Oct. 14, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Art works will be available for sale \$30.00 - \$45.00.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact:
Terry Ann Carter tacarter@rogers.com

Japanese Brush Painting is known in English as: **sumi-e = ink-picture
or sui-boku-ga = water-black-art;
Japanese Calligraphy is known as: sho-do (the path of writing)



The Tabitha Foundation Canada Board needs your help!

Have you ever wanted to become more involved with Tabitha Foundation Canada?
Have you ever wondered what you could do to help, beyond your regular donations?
Do you have expertise or an interest in office management? fundraising? communications?
public relations?

Then we want to hear from YOU!!

The Tabitha Foundation Canada Board of Directors is a volunteer group from all walks of life who are all dedicated to furthering Tabitha's mission and vision and providing support to Tabitha Cambodia.

We are currently seeking a "few good men and women" to fill key positions and in support of the Board:

1. Donations: taking the lead in processing regular donations and in mailing out all gift cards for items such as pigs, wells and ponds (Time required: 0.5-1 day/week)
2. Communications and public relations: A key role on the Board, this person would take the lead in developing a communications strategy, writing press releases, liaising with media, and promoting Tabitha and all associated events, milestones and awards. Media experience preferred. (Time required: 0.5-1 day/week).

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in any of these positions, please contact Colin Eades (Email: cceades@rogers.com).



Did You Know?

From September 2010 until August 2011, Tabitha Cambodia endeavoured to build 12 schools complete with facilities which would provide education for 7,988 students – at a cost of \$780,211.50.

Results

We were able to build 14 schools this year complete with facilities which are providing education for 9,090 students at a cost of \$753,942.20. In addition we enabled an additional 120,878 students to attend schools already built.

The acute shortage of schools

As communities reach a certain level of development, education of the children becomes a priority. However, in many areas, there are no local schools nor plans for schools to be built. Any existing schools usually have no spare places for extra children. At this point, communities often ask Tabitha Cambodia for help to build a school for their children.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS—MRS. LISBETH MOUSSEAU

Born in Bern, Switzerland Lisbeth graduated from the University of Zurich with Masters in Social Work and Special Education. Before taking a "serious job", Lisbeth decided to go on a world tour, starting with Canada. Since she had little money, she had to work along the way. She got a job at the University of Ottawa with the Child Study Centre. Lisbeth met her husband Tom at a party – this put an end to her world tour! Her involvement with Tabitha started in 1997 after reading an article in The Citizen. Art Wagenfeld was looking for volunteers to help with the sale of Cottage Industry. Soon she became a member of the Board. In 1998, she proposed that Tabitha should have a web site. The Board approved and her son Marc set it up and taught her all there was to know how to run it. In 1999, the Wagenfelds moved to western Ontario and she inherited the stock of the Cottage Industry. Lisbeth's involvement with Tabitha has taught her so much about the fortune of living in Canada and the generosity of its people. Knowing Janne Ritskes personally and being part of the way Tabitha developed was a privilege.



Year-end report from Janne Ritskes

Dear friends and partners,

August 30, 2011

Today is the last day of our program year and what a year it has been. We had so many goals – so much we wanted to do. We had so many dreams we wanted to achieve – dreams that each of you made happen. Let me share some of our highlights.

This year our goal was to work with and reach out to 42, 45 families with 340,228 dependents – we ended the year with 43,546 families with 348,368 dependents –we worked with another 358 families in cottage industry. It is a remarkable achievement. Our goal for our New Year starting this week is to reach out to 59,140 families with 473,120 dependents. Together we can do it.

The core of our program is savings: 90% of acute poverty is attitudinal – a mindset created by any number of factors – for our families it has been 40 years of war and genocide. It results in despair – an inability to think ahead – to plan for the future – what is the use – I will lose all anyway. It results in an often heard slogan from our families – we are bad – a statement that reflects their inability to grasp the loss of so much in their lives. Savings breaks down the attitude for savings involves people starting dreams – achievable dreams – it involves saying they are worth something – no matter how insignificant we think that something is. It involves action, for the people must give of their own money – it involves people standing with them, cheering them on – it involves achieving those dreams and making new ones.

Their initial savings isn't much – usually .25 cents a week – but those little bits of money grow into big money – our families saved \$2,037,313.90 this year but what is the miracle is the purchase and life changes brought about – they purchased \$10,919,450.00 worth of goods and services. Savings works – for families pull together all their resources to make a positive change in their lives – we as Tabitha staff are cheerleaders, encouraging and celebrating each achievement. The families say to us – you helped us to think again. The attitude has changed. It is so very good.

We talked about our impacts on families – we always start with basic necessities of which eating better food is a key marker – in our newest expansion areas people eat only once a day – rice and whatever insect's people can scavenge from the fields. This year – 27,907 families were able to achieve better food. I asked the managers what that meant – it means people are eating two to three meals a day which are balanced with vegetables and fruit daily and meat and fish at least twice a week. As we were talking, I asked how much do you think that costs a day say for a family of 8 – the universal answer was \$5.00 a day – we started multiplying the numbers – families times days times cost in a year and the end figure boggled our minds – over \$50 million worth – it is teaching all of us about the micro economics of food.

13,129 families are moving towards food security with their ability to purchase 3 months supply of rice. All of our families were able to purchase basics such as clothing, sleeping mats, beds, tables and chairs, pots and pans, mosquito nets and much more.

Water and its life giving strength – we were enabled to install 2015 sources of water – with over 1000 hectares of land put under year round cultivation – earning our families and average of \$500.00 Us per month – or \$6,000.00 per year – up from the low of \$300.00 per year.

In Income generation, especially in agriculture and fishing – 18,728 families were able to raise animals such as pigs, chickens, ducks, cows, etc. Another 18,893 families were able to grow crops such as rice and vegetables year round – it is so very good.

We talked about the number of school aged children in our program- in the communes where we work – and how many got to attend school this year. We had a dream to build 7 schools and we ended up building 14 schools. We talked about the impact it has on the children in our program. In our new areas – an average of one child per family is able to go to school – in areas where we are in mid – program – the average is 3 out of the five – in the areas where we built our schools – it is 4 out of the 5 children. This year we enabled 120,878 children to attend school for the first time.

Our dream this past year was to have 55 teams come and build 950 houses – we had 97 teams come with 2,425 volunteers come and help build 1,182 houses for our families. It is so very good – The volunteers become friends and supporters – people who have a deeper understanding of poverty and its impact on people.

It has been an amazing year – a year of being blessed and giving blessings. I thank my God for this privilege. I thank my God for the staff and for each of you who have made so much happen this year. I pray that our dreams for the next year will bear much fruit for those whom we serve.

Janne

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