



TABITHA FOUNDATION (Canada)

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D. Governor General of Canada

Newsletter: No. 2 - February 2008

Tabitha Canada House-Building



Hammers in their suitcases, the Bob Carver team from Ottawa traveled to Cambodia in late January. Bob and wife Wendy Cummings, with their enthusiasm and creative fundraising, brought together a mixed group of second time builders and newcomers, including two young people, Robert and Miriam, 9 and 13 years old respectively, with their parents Hajrija and Mark Conrad.

At Tabitha Cambodia in Phnom Penh, Janne Ritskes gave an orientation – obligatory for all building teams – also involving a visit to the Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields. The purpose of the orientation is to describe duties and responsibilities of team

members and to present a very stark and unsettling introduction to recent Cambodian history, including the personal stories of some of Tabitha's senior staff.

For Janne, the purpose of the orientation is also to try to make visitors understand how Tabitha, and participation in house building, *is not about us* who give, but about those who receive. Not easy really to appreciate this notion, until perhaps you notice - that once the build is completed - there is no trace of our passing through the community. No banners, no labels, no media ops to mark Tabitha's contribution. There are indeed ten new homes - and the hole for a well to be soon constructed with funds raised by Miriam and Robert.



New homes for ten families who had enrolled in Tabitha's Savings Program, having nothing to begin with, yet had found a way to save. People working hard to provide a better quality of life and hope for their children, but for whom the cost of a house remained prohibitive. Families identified by Tabitha and the community as worthy of extra help. That extra help, represented by the building team's contribution and presence, acknowledges and celebrates their courage.

For *us*, there are of course unforgettable memories of communities and fellow human beings whose lives we briefly witnessed. One comes away with the sense that our modest contribution has a huge impact on people's livelihoods and that so much more can be done with just a little more effort on our side. And so Bob and Wendy are already planning for the 2009 build, aiming to raise enough for 20 houses! Consider joining them, or other Canadian teams, or offering a tax deductible donation. A house average life span is between 20 and 30 years!

- Contributed by Lucia Dolcetti, a member of the house-building team and of the Board Tabitha Canada.
- For information about Tabitha house building, please visit: www.tabitha.ca and housebuilding.tabitha.ca.

Thanks to Peter Ng of Montreal we now have a French version of our brochure. With the beginnings of an active group of Tabitha supporters in Montreal, we will undoubtedly need this new tool for spreading the word. Bravo!

Condolences are extended to the donors of the memorial donations which we have received. We mention in particular, **the late Amelia 'Cheech' Hoffman of Nanaimo, BC and Rennie Kermath of Ottawa**, who both asked for memorial donations to be sent to Tabitha Foundation (Canada).

The help that we give will last a lifetime, rather than a moment.

Tabitha Foundation (Canada), Merivale Postal Outlet, Box 65057, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2G 5Y3
Please visit our website for news updates and cottage industry products: www.tabitha.ca

TABITHA FOUNDATION (CANADA)'S 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Friday, May 2, 2008

A Charity Showing of the Movie "To Speak"

The Moving Story of a Cambodian Family that Premiered at the 2007 Montreal Film Festival

To be shown at **St. Paul's High School**, Draper Avenue, Ottawa

6:30 PM Wine & Cheese/7:30 PM Movie - Tickets: \$30.00 per person - Cottage Industry items available

Contact Mollie Stokes at 613-224-2709 or mstokesott@sympatico.ca to purchase tickets

In early December the volunteers who have helped Tabitha over the past year gathered for a celebratory wine and cheese party at the home of Board Member Lucia Dolcetti and her husband Michael Koros. A wonderful time was had by all getting to know one another and sharing stories of involvement. Over 40 volunteers, including Board Members, cottage industry helpers and house building teams met in animated fellowship in the warm confines of the Dolcetti/Koros home. Some photos from the event below.



2007: A Banner Year for Tabitha Foundation Canada

Many thanks go out to our wonderful donors for their sustained fund-raising efforts in 2007. Over the year we received almost \$160,000 – an increase of 45% over the total for 2006, which was itself, an increase of 85% over the previous year. A large portion of the increase can be credited directly to the efforts of Janne on her Canadian trip as she visited communities across Canada in April. We also had great response to our First Annual Dinner event while Janne was here as she electrified the large audience talking about her work and future visions for Tabitha.

There has been a truly remarkable growth of interest amongst our Canadian friends and supporters in raising funds for wells, family support and house-building trips to Cambodia. Collecting for village wells commenced only some three years ago and this year exceeded our expectations as we received over \$37,000 – enough for more than 350 units. Likewise for house-building visits to Cambodia, Canadian sponsored teams raised more than \$34,000 and constructed some 40 village homes for Tabitha Cambodian families. Funds for 39 sets of piglets and 32 bicycles were also donated. Truly an exceptional year and one that we hope can even be bettered in 2008.

- Jim Kirch, Treasurer

DONATION RECEIPTS! Just a reminder, that if you make donations to Tabitha electronically using Canada Helps, you will receive a receipt electronically from Canada Helps! Please save the email response as that is your tax receipt. The foundation is pleased to send out income tax receipts to people who donate to a specific project, e.g. a house building team, provided that we are given the name of the donor, their mailing address and the amount of the donation. As ever, we thank you all for your continued generosity to the people of Cambodia!

CANADIAN TABITHA HOUSE-BUILDING TEAMS:

March 23-24: Singapore American School led by David Rops supported by and with builders from S.W. Ontario.

April 28 - May 10: Queens University "Commerce Cares" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulNEJ50564I>).

Contact: Chris 5cdh@qmlink.queensu.ca

May 2-10: Sok Sabay Project (<http://soksabayproject.wetpaint.com/>) - Still Accepting Volunteers. Contact: Andrea landriault_andrea@mail.com

July 4-19: "Hammers for Homes" (<http://housebuilding.tabitha.ca/itineraryset.html>). Contact: Yolanda tabitha.housebuilding@yahoo.ca

November 10-14: H.O.P.E. CREW (Having Only Positive Expectations). Contact: Theresa graceyp@ciaccess.com

January 23, 2009: Rockin4Tabitha (<http://rockin4tabitha2008.blogspot.com/>) Now looking for volunteers for 2009! Contact: Bob carverb@on.aibn.com

The help that we give will last a lifetime, rather than a moment.

Tabitha Foundation (Canada), Merivale Postal Outlet, Box 65057, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2G 5Y3

Please visit our website for news updates and cottage industry products: www.tabitha.ca