

SIGN Field Reports take you with us as we walk the world!

Cambodia: SIGN Programs in Phnom Penh & Takeo

Kiwanis Members Travel to SIGN Programs

Earlier this year, a group of Kiwanis members who support SIGN traveled to Cambodia to deliver implants and see firsthand how their donations are being used. Gary Schroeder is from Dayton, WA, and Paul Chheu, Brandi Gore, and Ann and Barry Penner are from Abbotsford, Canada. This was Paul's first trip back to Cambodia since his family left as refugees in 1975.

Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital

Kiwanis clubs have sponsored 28 SIGN Pediatric Sets in hospitals around the world. Barry and Ann Penner delivered the SIGN Instruments and Implants to start the latest pediatric program at Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital, in Phnom Penh. The Penners dedicated the program with a plaque in honor of their son, who passed away last year.

"It felt like Christmas and we were Santa," Ann said. "The doctors were eager to receive the set and very grateful. We toured the hospital and saw patients post-op."

Gary Schroeder echoed the sentiment, saying,



Ann and Barry Penner sponsored a SIGN Pediatric Program at Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital in memory of their son.

CAMBODIA SIGN PROGRAMS



- Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital
- Kossamak Hospital
- Takeo Provincial Referral Hospital
- Current SIGN Programs

"The surgeons were very excited about the possibilities and things they would be able to do."

Phnom Penh

Cambodia's capital city is growing at a dizzying rate. Gary had traveled to Phnom Penh and delivered a shipment of SIGN Implants to Dr. Duong Bunn at Kossamak Hospital five years ago, and he marveled at the changes in the city — and the traffic — since then.

"This year there were building cranes all over town, with high rises and apartments and shopping centers being built," Gary said. "You don't sit in a tuktuk with your arm out. You have to keep it in the vehicle or a motorcycle would clip you. When you hear a beep from behind you, a motorcycle is going to pass you closely."

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Kossamak Hospital

All that traffic, and the accidents from it, keep Kossamak Hospital, one of the oldest and busiest in Cambodia, filled with patients. "Virtually every patient we met said that their injury was from a motorcycle accident — either on a motorcycle hit by a car or a motorcycle hit a pedestrian," Gary noted.

"There were many patients in the hallway, both recovering and waiting for surgery," Ann recalled. "All the wards were full of patients and their families, who were looking after them." A new hospital building is being constructed, and should help ease crowding when it is completed next year.

The Kiwanians sat in on a meeting where the doctors developed a plan to care for the patients who had arrived the previous day. Then they went on rounds with Dr. Bunn, as he talked with patients under his care.

"Seeing all the open wounds and the number of patients was eye-opening," Ann said. "We had a



This young husband and wife were injured in a motorcycle accident, but both have recovered with SIGN Surgery.

chance to see the x-rays before and after the operation, and the great work SIGN is doing in Cambodia. Many of these patients would be crippled for life if it was not for SIGN."

They also were able to meet patients who returned to the hospital for follow-up appointments after SIGN Surgery, to ensure that they were healing. "One that stood out for me was a young couple that had recently been married," Ann said. "They were involved in a motorbike accident and had both sustained fractures. The young man received three nails. One arm and both legs. His wife also received a nail for her femur. They were very grateful for the SIGN Nails."

Takeo Provincial Referral Hospital

Traveling four hours south of Phnom Penh, the group visited Takeo Provincial Referral Hospital, where fellow Kiwanian Jack McElroy sponsored a SIGN Program in honor of his wife. Because Paul could translate, the team was able to speak with the surgeons and encourage them.



(L-R) Gary Schroeder, Ann Penner, Barry Penner, Dr. Bunn, Paul Chheu, Brandi Gore