

## **STITCHES OF HOPE INC AGM - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

### **Chairman's Report**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to a board of faithful and committed people who have gone above and beyond in all they do for the people of Cambodia, who rely on the support, finances and love from the Stitches of Hope supporters. Thankyou Alex, Wendy, Greg and Kay, you make my job as Chairman and Kay's role a much easier one, because of your skills. The treasurers records are kept in perfect shape and the complicated paperwork has been ably assisted by Alex and Wendy. Thank you so much.

God has blessed this charity and the people who are supported because we can not out give God and He continues to bless our work.

Improvement have been made at the education centre in Chrey Vien in Cambodia by the connection of the power which has enabled lighting and fans to improve the conditions for the teachers and students.

Two of our senior girls from the Children's Home are enjoying the privilege of a university education and a bright and positive future.

Punnreay and all the staff have worked well together and have empowered the young people with a love of God and His word. We still face the challenge of one of our precious young boys serving time for a crime he committed. The children appreciate the schooling and provisions supplied by SOH and each one of them are achieving good results at school even though there have been challenges.

Good reports came from Punnreay when Peter Stedman a teacher and a preacher from New Zealand gave two days of his time in Cambodia to work with the teachers and students at Chrey Vien.

We have provided financially for the medical expenses of Mony a widow near Vealsbov, who suffers from a serious case of psoriasis and arthritis. This has made a massive difference to her life and the lives of her two daughters.

In March this year we had an amazing group of volunteers who gave time and energy to work voluntarily at the Wagin Woolorama to raise a

considerable amount of money to help in the huge financial commitment we send to Cambodia every month.

We have reaped the generosity of the Swan Districts Rotary Club and have now connected with the Perth Rotary Club to raise the necessary funds to enable the Cambodian Sewing team to produce another 500 sleeping bags for the West Australian Homeless people.

Stitches of Hope are the successful charity of the year for the Inner Wheel District A40 which has welcomed several invitations to speak and share at different clubs with still more to come. Several of their members supported the recent film evening fund raising night. The film evening at the cygnet theatre was a success and a great opportunity to promote the work of Stitches of Hope.

Financial support came from several different sources due to the advertising from the sleeping bag project. South East Metropolitan Emergency Relief Group and the Gosnells Seniors gave generously.

Several Patchwork groups are now regular supporters including the Sandy Patches and a High Tea invitation from the Parkerville Baptist Craft Group.

The country supporters continue to sponsor which is so encouraging and appreciated. Our finances come from Albany, Wagin, Merredin, Wickelpin, Geraldton, Kendenup, South Australia and probably more I have forgotten.

The sale of our merchandise and Cambodian products has been a very worthwhile addition to our funds. Again thank you to our helpers who have stepped in and given hours and miles to make this happen.

The plans are in place for the team trip leaving on the 7<sup>th</sup> October which has an amazing mix of members. Wendy and Kay will lead the team. Two Perth Rotarians Adrian Tan and Alta Terblanche who are planning to film and record the progress of the sleeping bags. Wendy, Tanya and Michaela who are planning some teaching and guidance with "Rights of the Child" program. Kevin and Debbie Tengvall from Merredin who are regular sponsors of a young girl in the Children's Home. Doctor Dawn Lithgow from Mundaring Medical Centre has joined the team. We look forward to hearing more about the trip. As you can see, we have had a great year.      John Eva Chairman.