



A LOVE THAT ONLY GROWS





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They Call Her “Mom”

In gratitude, the Lippman family helps children in Cambodia. All they ask of the children is to think about how they can give back.

The day in September was rainy, but the heavy downpours did not keep the people away. Dressed in their finest clothing, they came to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a new center for 20 children near Phnom Penh, Cambodia—and to spend time with the woman who traveled more than 8,800 miles to be with them that day. They call her Mom.



Mom is Marie Lippman, wife of Harley Lippman, Founder and CEO of Genesis10. Marie likes that the children call her Mom. She and Harley, and their three children—Nina, Juliet and Adam—consider all the Cambodian children they’ve come to care for since 2004 as their second family.

A Love Story

During the Lippman family's first trip to Cambodia they learned from friends in Marie's French community that there were children at a center in Siem Reap who needed their help. Marie and Nina visited the center and decided to hire a teacher to teach the children English, the language that would eventually help them to get good jobs in the growing hotel and hospitality industry. Tourism is a big part of Cambodia's economy. Travelers from all over the world—China, Japan, South Korea, Europe, the U.S.—come to Siem Reap to see its beautiful temples which date back to the 9th-11th centuries.



Since that first trip, the Lippman family's involvement with the children of Cambodia has grown. Eventually, they assumed financial responsibility for the center when the people who were funding it were no longer able to do so.

Marie and Harley's interest in Cambodia and love for the children go back to their youth. Growing up in France in the 1970s, Marie recalls the strong political and cultural ties between her homeland and the old Indochina [Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos]. She fondly remembers the head of her high school adopting a young girl from Vietnam. Coming of age during the Vietnam War, Harley, who is Jewish, finds parallels between the Holocaust in Europe and the genocide in Cambodia, when more than two million lives were lost. Their hearts go out to the children of Cambodia.



There's a Hebrew word that describes charitable contributions—*tzedakah*, which both Harley and Marie take seriously. The Lippman family, considering themselves global citizens, saw children in need and responded. "We fell in love with the children," says Marie, who has visited Cambodia many times since 2004. "It's really a love story."

Marie and Harley share that love with their own children. When daughters Nina and Juliet and son Adam visit

Cambodia, they speak English with the children who are eager to learn. Nina was instrumental in initiating and maintaining regular communication at the center near Siem Reap.

Adam, who has visited the region four times, shows his love for the children by providing them with basic healthcare. When he visits with his first aid kit, he stays at the center for three weeks at a time, sleeping on a traditional mat and eating traditional meals of rice [for breakfast, lunch and dinner]. Adam has documented his experiences in a video for a school project.

Juliet's involvement extends to helping two sisters who grew up in the center. The women, with the older sister's husband, started their own English-language classroom near Siem Reap. Juliet, who has an MBA and marketing experience, assists the three with business development and communications. Nina Lippman donated the gifts from her recent wedding to help buy materials to build and furnish the classroom, like a toilet and some computers. Harley and Marie are contributing the salaries of two teachers.

For more information about this English language classroom, the Association of Cambodia Child First: cambodiachildfirst.org

A New Center

Marie and Harley created an NGO, or nongovernmental organization, The Children First Center, to build their own center near Phnom Penh. An NGO is a nonprofit organization that operates independently of any government. Its purpose typically is to address a social issue.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony which included local officials, Marie expressed her gratitude to Arun Sothea for his help building the center, calling him “an angel.” Arun provided the land for the Children First Center, which is home for 20 children, 10 boys and 10 girls, who range in age from five years-old to 18 years-old. There are two dorms, a kitchen and a library/computer room. Outside is a garden and a river where they fish.



The Cambodian children leave a lasting impression on the Lippman family. Marie tells the story of a five-year-old boy whose mother left him and his older sister on the steps of a nearby temple. The monks who took the children in approached the center and asked if there was room for them. “The little boy is a joy,” Marie says. “I shared stories with him about my family. I asked him if he was a good student and he looked at me seriously, answering: ‘I am number-one.’ Now, we call him number-one. The girls in the center all care for him. He’s a cutie.”



View pictures of the ribbon-cutting ceremony:
genesis10.com/lippman-children-first-center

Think about how to give back

The Lippman family will be involved in the lives of the children of Cambodia for many years to come. They are committed to getting the language center in Siem Reap established and paying salaries of two teachers. They are fully funding their own center, the Children First Center, near Phnom Penh. They are helping the children at their center with their education through college. They are helping the children at their center with their education through college, and they have paid the tuition for many who contribute for their own lodging and food by working part-time.



And the Lippmans are staying in touch with the children—through email, social media, Skype—and regular visits. Marie pledges that someone from her family will be visiting their “second family” as often as they can. Marie and Harley hope to be there again soon.



In exchange, as Marie mentioned in her ribbon-cutting speech, all she asks of the children is “to think about how they can give back to the community, and to write to her, each one, about it.”

When they do, they can call her Mom.

2004

The Lippman Family begins to make a real difference in the lives of children in Cambodia

10

times the Lippman family has traveled to Cambodia

2018

was the opening of The Children First Center, built & supported by the Lippman Family

300+

children have been helped by the Lippman family

11

children the Lippman family has put through University

▼ See them featured on next page

176,780

miles traveled from NY to Phnom Penh

Over the Years, the Lippman Family Has Helped 11 Children, Now Grown Up, Attend University



Phirom Chhub
Accountant



Chhunmy Chum
Architect



Sreytouch Doung
Tourism & Hospitality Management



Sreytoch Houn
Nurse



Seley Loeurm
Information Technology



Bunterm Phouer
Electronic Engineering



Savin Sopha
Tourism & Hospitality Management



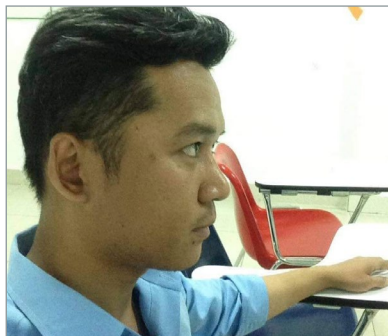
Yubous Tang
Information Technology



Chanthou Thy
English TESOL
(Teaching English to Speakers
of Other Languages)



Sambath Yan
Khmer Literacy



Sambo Yan
Information Technology