



# Le Don du Chœur

Chœur d'Enfants des Écoles Privées Genevoises



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Geneva private schools

- Yoga, cakes and Christmas markets to support our projects

### Kenya – North Teso

- Handicapped children at St. Luke's soon to have own dormitory
- St. Luke's to open a 3<sup>rd</sup> class
- Renovation at the three schools almost completed

### Cambodia – Ta Pen

- The secondary school is open!
- Open wide! – Geneva team provide basic dental care at Ta Pen
- More sporting successes for our girls and boys
- English lessons at primary level – a first for Cambodia

## Don du Chœur Committee

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## Cambodia: Ta Pen exceeds all expectations 400 children registered for the 5<sup>th</sup> school year

The number of Ta Pen children going to school every day has now reached 400. In four years, the infants and primary sections of the school have grown considerably, with now almost twice the number of pupils than when it opened in 2010.

The school's reputation is founded essentially on the professionalism of its teaching staff and the children's success rate (96% in 2014). However, the excellent results are also due to the determination of the families, who forego their

children's help to allow them to go to school every day.

### Importance of education

Making all parents aware of the importance of education is not simple and involves everyone, including the children themselves. Twice a year, accompanied by their teachers, the youngsters visit the villages around Ta Pen, staging little sketches to promote their school. The result: this year, with the opportunities offered by the

new secondary school, the number of enrolments has gone up 30 per cent, from 305 to 400.



Secondary school will change their lives

This massive increase has had an impact on costs, which have also been affected by the steep rise in staff salaries awarded in 2014 by the Ministry of Education. This is no doubt good news for the teachers but it adds to the challenges faced by Don du Chœur in running the school.



Ta Pen school's 400 children on a school outing



80 new bikes for kids living far away

## Dental care at Ta Pen – the “Geneva Connection”

Dr. Danilo di Donna, a Geneva dentist, and Sophie Mathis-Holz, a dental hygienist from Veyrier, have opened a new line in health care for the children of Ta Pen – basic dental care. In November they closed their practice and headed off to Cambodia with a mobile dental trunk, a de-scaling kit and the other necessary equipment.

The mission called for months of preparation, from planning how to ensure instrument sterilisation to buying head lamps, from creating a computerized data bank to the local purchase of basic chairs and stools. In Ta Pen they were helped by two young Swiss volunteers and a Khmer translator.

In 11 days, 128 children were examined, diagnosed and treated. The children's mouths were a terrible sight, their rotten or missing teeth a sad indicator of historical nutritional deficiency and lack of dental hygiene. Returning home considerably moved by their experience, Danilo and Sophie have decided to encourage other professionals to carry on the work, aiming to help all the children at the school.



Dental care is a real emergency for the children of Ta Pen



### “Sixties evening” with a group of swinging Geneva dentists...

Save the date – 24 March 2015 – to come and sing and dance at La Broche restaurant and to hear more about this new challenge, illustrated by a film and photos. Did someone say: “La Dent du Chœur...”?

[www.don-du-choeur.ch/en](http://www.don-du-choeur.ch/en)

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# THE KENYA PROJECT

Renovation of the three schools almost completed

## Administrative block for St. Luke's

A year ago, St. Luke's special needs school opened its doors to 80 handicapped children. There were so many that the local Education Department quickly appointed two additional teachers and the room originally planned for admin purposes gradually became a third classroom.

Don du Choeur decided in 2014 to finance the building of a proper

admin block, which will be built by our local partners, Community Outreach Centre.

## Dormitory on the way...

St. Luke's will soon have its own dormitory, to make life easier for the handicapped children and their families. The project will be financed by the Teso North Constituency – an important local investment in special needs care.



The admin block will open in March 2015



An office for each teacher



## The next step: three clean water points

Protecting the three existing water points will prevent messy puddles forming, breeding grounds for mosquitos and thus a source of malaria. The work, planned for

March, will radically change living conditions and will help improve local health – an eagerly-awaited transformation.

# THE CAMBODIA PROJECT

## Four medals for Ta Pen!

Well done – again! For the third year running, Ta Pen kids have mounted the podium at the Siem Reap Provincial Inter-school Competitions. They really are champions, taking three medals for basketball and one for volleyball.

- For basketball, Ta Pen boys took two gold medals (primary and secondary sections) and the girls, a silver (primary section). (Captains: Vorb Puk, Soheng Nou, Borey Angkor)

- For volleyball, the girls' secondary section picked up a bronze medal. (Captain: Chanda Sok)

Going on from here, this year – for the first time – Ta Pen will take part in the national competitions, taking

place at the end of March in Svay Rieng province, bordering Vietnam on the other side of the country! They'll be supported by Tum Chheng, their tireless trainer and sports teacher.

We'll be thinking of them!



Well done for the basketball gold medal at Siem Reap (primary section) – and good luck for the national competition!

*Your donation will help us help these communities*

## Don du Choeur

Swiss non-profit association, tax-deductible since 2008

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## Mission accomplished at Kakemer and Ataba Oburi

The renovation of classrooms and WCs is finished.

The fitting of reed ceilings has considerably improved the sound and thermal insulation in the classrooms, with a positive im-

pact on the comfort and hygiene in the two schools. All that remains to be done are some finishing touches and the kitchen furnishings at Kakemer, for which schoolchildren in Geneva have been busy raising funds!

 [www.don-du-choeur.ch/en](http://www.don-du-choeur.ch/en)



All classrooms in Kakemer School have been renovated



A new roof on one of the buildings at Ataba Oburi

## A thousand books and a librarian!

Following a request from Don du Choeur, the Siem Reap Provincial Education Department agreed to appoint a librarian at Ta Pen. We then got in touch with SIPAR, an NGO specialising in this field, asking them to train one of the primary teachers for this role and to take charge of equipping a library with 1,000 books for all school levels.

Now, five months after it opened, the buzz of varied voices can be heard coming from the library – the younger children's high-pitched chatter, the breaking voices of the teenagers. Inside, sitting on mats around low tables, the

children read out their fairy tales, adventure stories and books on general knowledge and the environment. It's a treasure trove of awareness for these 400 children of the forest, made possible by generous donors in Geneva.



Two hours of reading each week



No. 3 at the Angkor Marathon

## Well done you!

THY Ry, a Ta Pen farmer's son, ran 3km at the 19<sup>th</sup> Angkor Marathon in December 2014. Motivated by all that he does, whether at school or on the sports field, he puts his heart and soul into his efforts, for himself and his friends. He came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 8,000 participants – nice reflection on Ta Pen!

Well done, Mister Thy!

## PARTENAIRES

ConnectSwiss, Community Outreach Centre, Seva Foundation, Sipar, Fondation Coromandel, Fondation Covalence, Fondation Lombard Odier.