

"HELPING THE DISABLED HELP THEMSELVES"



Angkor Association for the Disabled

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To make direct donations to AAD use the following
account number:

Union Commercial Bank PLC, Cambodia
Angkor Association for the Disabled
Acct. #: 102-226-000206-5

Tax deductible organization id: 062 SCHN

ANGKOR ASSOCIATION
FOR THE DISABLED



HOW YOU CAN HELP

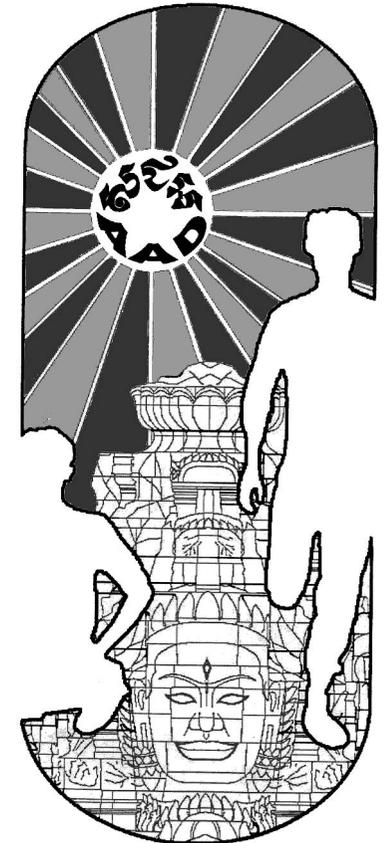
Please patronize the AAD sales carts. Attend a performance and listen to traditional Khmer music. Spread the word about the good work that AAD is doing in Siem Reap. If your guesthouse doesn't yet have an AAD poster, ask for one.

Donations are also critical to keep AAD running. The goal is self-sufficiency, but funds are needed to help new members. A single donation helps, but what AAD needs is ongoing contributors. After the tourist high-season, the tourists and their donations disappear. It becomes much harder to live in Siem Reap, and even a small ongoing donation can feed an entire family. Your donation can be targeted at helping a group of disabled learn new trades, or at helping one disabled person and his family begin a new life. AAD is a registered NGO and donations are tax deductible.

We're also looking for volunteers. Your work will impact people's lives, helping them create self-sufficient and productive futures that will ensure food on their tables. As an AAD volunteer you can create your own job description. We ask for a minimum of one month, but the hours are very flexible. It is possible to split your time between helping AAD and helping other organizations (or individuals) around Siem Reap. AAD needs English classes for the disabled and their families, help with advertising and sales, proposal writing for funding and food, and guidance in the starting of small businesses.



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EVERYWHERE YOU WALK AROUND SIEM REAP you are approached by disabled beggars asking for small change. These people are not begging because they want to. They are victims of war, victims of landmines, victims of poverty and victims of discrimination against the disabled. They face difficulties including malnutrition, starvation and disease. They often have no choice but to beg and sleep on the streets in order to survive.

SEM SOVANTHA IS A DISABLED VETERAN who lost both his legs to a landmine. His government pension of 50 cents a day was not enough to live on. He didn't have skills necessary for employment, so he was forced into begging. It was a very hard life, but he didn't lose hope. Through amazing determination, he put himself through school, and then found a job with a non-governmental organization (NGO) helping other disabled people in Cambodia. In 2002, the NGO ran out of funding and closed its doors.

Once again, Sovantha didn't lose hope. Instead, he began helping the disabled of Cambodia on his own. Sem Sovantha knows what it is like to live on the streets and how hard it is to escape from poverty and begging. It is with this in mind that he founded the Angkor Association for the Disabled (AAD). In February 2004, AAD was registered as a NGO in Cambodia.

SEM SOVANTHA IS A VERY RARE EXCEPTION. The majority of disabled beggars get trapped in a life of begging. They lose hope. Begging strips away their dignity. They fall into a state of despair. They have goals, but struggle to move

towards them without outside assistance. It is hard to think long term when all day, every day, is spent begging for daily rice. AAD works to break them out of this cycle. Its mission is to give these people the hope and the help they need so that they can change their lives.

YOU SEE VARIOUS AAD PROJECTS AROUND TOWN. The AAD logo and signs that read "I don't beg, I want to work." adorn carts carrying postcards, books, and souvenirs for sale. Each sale goes directly towards keeping the cart owner away from a life of begging. Nightly, near the old market, AAD musicians perform traditional Khmer music. Every donation goes directly towards feeding the musicians and their families.

AAD ALSO DOES A LOT OF WORK BEHIND THE SCENES. While new AAD members transition from life in the streets into homes of their own, Sovantha provides them with a place to stay. Currently, there are 7 families (31 people in total) living in his rented house.



With Sovantha at the helm, AAD also fights discrimination, working hard to get its members jobs in hotels and restaurants.

AAD IS A GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATION established with the goal of helping as many disabled people around Siem Reap as possible. In addition to the work currently going on, there are a number of projects in planning and in progress towards that goal.

- Sovantha's house is full! Permanent accommodations are needed for AAD's current members. New accommodations will enable AAD to help other disabled start new lives as well.
- AAD is looking to provide additional jobs for the disabled by building more sales carts. Disabled people with no arms or no legs can still earn a living, selling books.
- Sovantha continues to interview disabled beggars to determine their goals and how AAD can best help them achieve those goals.

● New training programs are being planned which will provide marketable skills. Crafts training in painting, weaving, and carving will lead to new products that can be sold through the carts providing income for the disabled that make the souvenirs and those who sell them. Other skills, such as television and motorbike repair will lead to real jobs and a positive future.

● AAD is working with the Siem Reap government and potential sponsors to hire the disabled to clean the streets. This joint project would simultaneously create good, stable jobs for the disabled and make Siem Reap more beautiful.