



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends Without A Border Opens the Friends Center at Angkor Hospital for Children

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (August 1, 2008) – Friends Without A Border (Friends) announces the opening of the Center for Friends Without A Border (Friends Center) in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Friends Center, located next to the Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC), symbolizes a nexus of caring for the community and ecological sustainability. The new building serves as a center for Friends, receiving and educating the many visitors to the campus. Visitors will have a unique opportunity to learn more about the impact of Cambodia's recent history and the dramatic progress being made today through the medical care, education and outreach programs provided by Friends.

The Friends Center also includes a gallery of rotating exhibits from celebrated photographers worldwide. The Center aims to inspire and encourage all visitors to become a friend and help secure a healthy future for Cambodia's children. Honoring the example of renowned photographer and founder Kenro Izu, and inspired by a deep commitment to the well-being of Cambodia's children, the Friends Center represents a gesture of openness that invites visitors to connect with the mission and learn about the projects of Friends .

Friends Without A Border is a remarkable force for good; to date, over 560,000 children have received quality medical care at AHC and the staff has grown to 210, including 25 doctors and 89 nurses, 98% of whom are Cambodians. A leading pediatrics hospital in Cambodia, AHC is also the largest pediatric HIV treatment facility outside Phnom Penh. Formally recognized by the Ministry of Health as an official teaching hospital, AHC's Medical Education Center has trained approximately 2,500 healthcare workers throughout the country. The Capacity Building and Health Education Program works directly with Cambodian communities teaching about basic healthcare and best family practices to reduce the incidence of preventable diseases.

“Our challenge has always been about how to sustain and support efforts while balancing two things: 1) the need to maintain the patients' dignity and right to privacy; and 2) the visitors' natural desire to see things for themselves. The Friends Center is a brilliant solution, the best of both worlds. It is an essential place to visit beyond the ancient temples of Angkor,” stated Izu.

Guided by a belief in the inherent link between the health of Cambodia's people and its environment, the Friends Center seeks to demonstrate an ethic of cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. Functionally and symbolically, water lies at the heart of the building, where an inverted roof channels rainwater to an open-air reservoir, capturing this resource for reuse while honoring the Khmer legacy of wise stewardship. To shade the building from the intense tropical sun, sustainably-harvested bamboo louvers and a deep roof overhang are tuned to the path of the sun. In addition, the roof is engineered to allow future use of 20 kW of renewable solar photovoltaic (PV) power. Further strategies for sustainable design include energy-efficient equipment, locally-crafted fixtures and materials, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. The Friends

Center will also serve as a pilot project for a partnership between AHC and Biodiesel Cambodia, which will supply the building with clean, renewable biofuel derived from jatropha, an oil seed that grows well in soils unsuited to food production.

The Center was designed pro-bono by Rick Cook and his colleagues at Cook+Fox Architects in New York. From the Friends Center in Siem Reap, the first green project of its kind in Cambodia, to the Bank of America Tower in New York City, the first LEED Platinum skyscraper in the U.S., Cook+Fox is dedicated to a vision of integrated, environmentally responsive design. In May 2008, the Friends Center received an Honor Award from the Boston Society of Architects/American Institute of Architects. The Center was made possible by the generosity of Sterling Stamos Capital Management, a private investment firm committed to reinvesting in the world through corporate philanthropy.

The Grand Opening of the Friends Center is scheduled for late November, 2008.

###

Updated Contact Information (as of 6/22/09)

Ms. Liem Sokunthea / mfc@angkorhospital.org / tel. (855) 92 533 052 / www.fwab.org