

# Christian Children's Fund

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Christian Children's Fund Expands Work to Cambodia**

**Richmond, Va.** – Oct. 9, 2008 – Christian Children's Fund (CCF) has expanded its sponsorship opportunities with deprived, excluded and vulnerable children by partnering with ChildFund Australia on a new project in Cambodia.

The project, which officially launched Oct. 8, is in the Svay Yea Community Development in the Svay Chrum district of Svay Rieng province, 78 miles from Cambodia's capital.

"Our decision to join this project reflects our desire to assist the neediest children in the neediest countries," said Mike Raikovitz, CCF's director of child sponsorship

Families in Svay Rieng province suffer from high levels of household poverty, seasonal disasters and limited opportunities to access health care, education and social services as well as employment. The province also experiences high migration rates.

About 92 percent of the area's households live without toilets and more than 43 percent have to boil water before using it for drinking. More than 61,000, or nearly 40 percent, of Svay Chrum's population is under the age of 17. Less than 50 percent of pre-school aged children attend kindergarten.

To help combat this, the new program includes constructing primary schools. Kindergartens will be established at each community-based primary school. Teachers will be locally recruited, mentored and trained.

"The program is designed in collaboration with the community, parents, children and youth to ensure that the best interests of children are central to all development planning, community discussions, program design and implementation," Raikovitz said.

Svay Yea Community Development will establish child clubs to give children life skills training and opportunities to explore and develop their sporting, cultural, musical and artistic talents. Children and youth will receive leadership training to increase their voice in their community.



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*Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 32 countries and assists approximately 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance.*

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Children will also have opportunities to plan, develop and lead communities in at least four annual celebrations to expand knowledge on issues such as education, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition and environmental protection.

With the addition of Cambodia, CCF now has sponsored children in 32 countries.

CCF and ChildFund Australia are both members of the ChildFund Alliance, a group of 12 organizations that partner together to provide development and humanitarian assistance to children and family members in 56 countries.



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