

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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EDUCATE • EMPOWER • INSPIRE

# CHAIRPERSON'S SPEECH

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I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2023. CRST was founded in 2011 by the Palti family and is now in its twelfth year successfully sponsoring education for bright students from poor rural families. This education provides a support system and hands on learning experience that improves their lives as well as help their families, community, and country. Education is what CRST believes is the key to breaking the poverty cycle for our students and in return contribute back to society.

We have had another successful year with total donations of \$422,770 received during the year. Donations to CRST for the year were \$362,049 and the total Comprehensive Profit for the year was \$15,307.

The contributions ensured the success of CRST and a special thank you goes to Aviv and Jess for their roles as Board members of CRST and as mentors to the students.

**Jan Evans**

CHAIRPERSON

# MAIN ACTIVITIES OF CRST FOR THE YEAR WERE:

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- Sponsoring 107 CRST students in High School & University – We currently have 26 master degree students, 22 Bachelor Degree Graduates, 54 Bachelor degree students, and 5 High School students in Grade 10, 11 and 12.
- CRST saw 10 students graduate from High School, 13 Students graduate with their bachelor's degrees and 7 Students graduate with their master's degrees.
- 100% of CRST Graduates enter the workforce within 3 months of graduating.
- Supporting 21 rural families with monthly food & essential living supplies.
- There were 5 new homes built and 1 school painted.
- Project G saw 7,000 Days for Girls kits distributed and over 7,500 students educated. Since the project started in 2018, Project G has sewn and distributed 16,006 kits to girls all over Cambodia with just over 20,000 students educated. In 2024 Project G aims to sew another 6,000 kits and educate over 7,000 students.
- Educating 17,000 students on the effects of single use plastic & providing them sustainable solutions with Project R.
- Project B repaired 413 bicycles & donated 153 bicycles to rural students.
- Project W installed 7 BioSand clean water filtration systems, 4 toilets and 7 incinerators.
- Project L provided 1,110 SolarBuddy lights to rural community students.
- We saw 135 trees planted with Project T.

# WE ALSO ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

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- 48 new donors came on board.
- 6 new corporate partnerships were achieved.
- Salesforce and Google NFP implemented with the support of Blaze your Trail to manage our donor base. Thank you to Jessica Palti and Narelle Devereux for championing this program.
- We had 7 Ambassador trips to Australia and Thailand.
- CRST had a stand at the International Rotary Conference held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre in May. Our Student Ambassadors attended and represented CRST with 300 leads generated which have been entered into Salesforce.
- Given the success of the Rotary Conference, Aviv has reserved a room for the Rotary Convention in Singapore in Late May 2024 with 4-6 Students planned to attend. To be confirmed.
- 9 Rotary Clubs have sponsored students with 3 partially sponsoring students.
- The Board gathered for a fundraising strategy workshop in early 2023 with Balanced Effect with the aim to expand our donor base to gain more engagement outside of our current donors. Our focus moving forward will be with Rotary, School Groups and current connections.
- Various options were explored to assist in identifying trust, foundations and philanthropists to target our funding and we continue to explore these avenues.
- A business school was completed in March 2023 with 69 CRST Students participating with Students from the National University of Management.

# WE ALSO ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:

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- The Canadian Ambassador for Cambodia visited Project G in the field to learn more about this endeavour after funding 6,000 kits to be sewn.
- A Rotary Foundation Global Grant Application has been approved. The amount of US\$100,000 has been fully pledged for Project W and this will impact 4,000 Students and 6,000 Villagers. We have US\$50,000 pledged for the second US\$100,000 global grant now being developed.
- Parliament member David Southwick acknowledged CRST in his Parliament speech on 30th May.
- A third Grant for C\$25,000 was confirmed from the Embassy of Canada in Bangkok.
- Following a successful submission to The Funding Network (TFN), Aviv and 2 other presenters pitched live to a group of invited guests at Intrepid Travel on 24th August raising \$49,000 towards Project W. We continue to maintain contact with TFN and are currently listed on their holiday gift giving guide.
- Aviv and Jess visited 6 Rotary clubs in New Zealand.
- CRST has over 10,000 followers on Facebook for the CRST page.
- Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) registration underway.
- The Intrepid Foundation extended an invitation which we have accepted listing CRST on their Cambodia Website, they have pledged \$5,000.00 to start us off. There is only one other organisation in Cambodia listed with them.

# CONCLUSION

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On behalf of The Board, I extend my appreciation to Daniel Allison and Associates for their audit of the accounts and Abdul Buksh and Diana Klat from Lifestyle Brands for their assistance in preparing the annual accounts and the quarterly accounts during the year.

The audit for the 2023 year has been completed and the Audit Report is scheduled to be signed on Wednesday 6th December 2023.

My appreciation and thanks go out to all Directors for your time and the many contributions you give to the Foundation during the year and the ongoing support of the Palti family and Lifestyle Brands.

With the year finishing on a positive note, I am really excited with the many opportunities we currently have at hand and our plans for the upcoming year, these will ensure we continue to build upon our achievements and successes.

Jan E Evans  
Chairperson

Date 4th December 2023