

## School for Kids in Laos Inc. 245 Thomas Berry Street Winnipeg, MB R2H 0R2

January 1, 2021

Dear donors and supporters:

Over 10 years ago, School for Kids in Laos had a vision: to help school children obtain an education that would enable them to succeed.

Since 2008, SKL has built 9 schools. By working closely with local villages and their respective authorities, SKL has ensured the success of projects. Furthermore, the collaboration and expertise of a local builder has helped the communities understand the importance of preserving their new schools. We therefore share with the community the importance of ongoing maintenance through maintenance workshops, and by encouraging community members to establish their own maintenance committees.

We strive to respect local sensitivities, culture and tradition, and continue to draw lessons from previous projects to improve our approach. We value local participation and encourage, as much as possible, the promotion of women in the decision-making process.

Over the past several projects, a change has been noticed by SKL. Communities were always appreciative of their new schools, but now they choose to be actively involved in all aspects of building the school. This is opening up some exciting possibilities for us.

Previously, we shared with you our latest project, Khonevat wherein SKL has now committed to build this school, and the agreement is now to be signed. We are delighted to announce that the communities are stepping up their contribution of the cost of this school.

This Cost-Sharing Approach will allow us to embark on two projects, and we are excited to share with you information on these 2 potential schools:

Project 10: Khonevat Primary School (Details are currently on website)

Project 11: Phoxaykhoun Seconday School (7-10-classroom project)

Phoxaykhoun Secondary School is located in the poorest region in the country. This project is a collaboration between, 9 villages with a combined population of 7,000 inhabitants; and a small group of local businessmen. This collaborative team approach

speaks volumes about the commitment of the local community. Our expertise will guide them to build the school.

SKL has worked hard over the last 10 years to include and involve the local villages in the building of their school. We have encouraged them to participate in the building by using local materials supplied by the villages, local capacity, and showing them how to fundraise. It is notably because of this collaboration with the local peoples and the promise of the businessmen to fundraise for the project that we can enter into this project.

We are not quite at the point where we can fully fund the two projects, but because of the cost-sharing agreement, we are optimistic that 2021 will allow us to raise the necessary funds. Covid-19 may have interrupted many of our lives, but the work continues. We, at SKL, hope that you are coping well during these trying times.

Thank you again for your support. We look forward to continuing our work in Laos and to including you in this very special collaboration. To learn more about our activities, please visit our website www.sklinc.org where updates and progress are posted as it happens.

We wish you and your loved ones all the best for the holiday season, and for a healthy and safe 2021!

Warm regards,

Francois Tremblay

President

Thongsay Phanlouvong

Vice-President & Founder