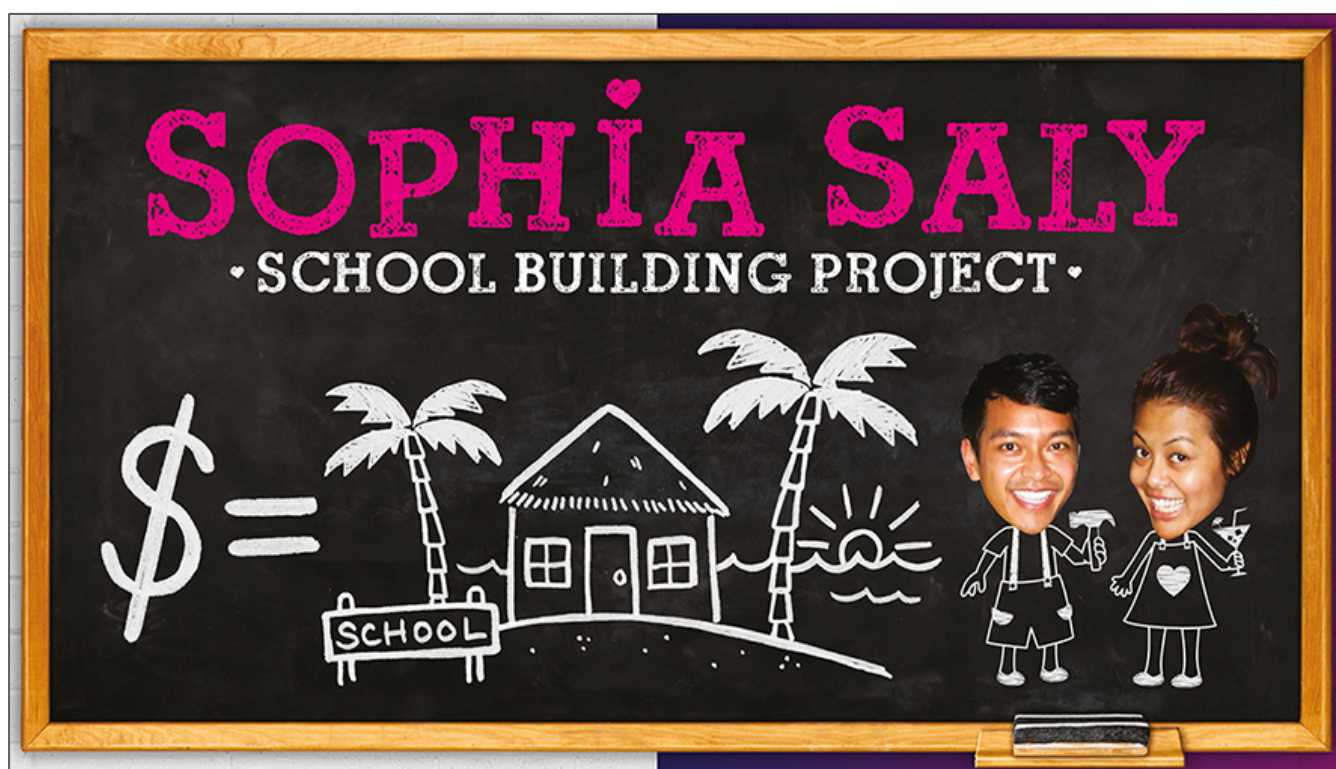


# **BabyTree Projects**

## **“The Sophia Saly School Building Project”**



**BabyTree Projects**  
**Information Kit for**  
***‘The Sophia Saly School Building Project’***

**Volunteers 2013/14**



# Table of Contents

## **1. Welcome**

### **1.1 First Point of Contact**

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 Baby Tree Projects' Vision**

### **2.2 How Baby Tree Projects was established**

## **3. Volunteer in Cambodia**

### **3.1 Current Project: Anlong Kraing/Big Hole Village 2011**

### **3.2 Key facts**

### **3.3 How does it work?**

### **3.3 What you need to do**

## **4. Fundraising ideas**

## **5. Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers**

### **5.1 Your rights as a volunteer**

### **5.2 Your responsibilities as a volunteer**

## **6. Supports from BabyTree Projects**

## **7. Frequently asked questions and answers**

# 1. Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in BabyTree Projects,

You have made the decision to join an organisation that despite its small size has been able to do great things. The key to our success is the hard work, dedication and passion of all our volunteers. Without volunteers, Baby Tree Projects would not exist. We sincerely thank you for your help.

To make your time with us as exciting and memorable as possible we hope you will find all the information you need here in this kit. Your journey with us will be an experience that is truly indescribable. The children, the people and fellow volunteers you will meet will make this journey a magical one.

The villagers that we help tell us how amazed they are that people, who must have better things to do, take the time to think about an insignificant little village full of faceless people. It's hard to explain to them why our volunteers are so willing to help. We all have our own stories, our own reasons, and one day I would love to hear yours.

This particular project is very special to us as we are building in honour of my little sister Sophia Saly who was a founding member of BabyTree Projects. It will most likely be our last school building project before we work on making the five schools we have built the best schools possible.

Sophia once said to me on a trip to coastal Cambodia, that it would be great if we could build a school on a beach. At the time I thought that was impossible. As it turns out. It's not.

If you agree to join this project. I ask that you join with open eyes and an open heart. Make an effort to embrace your fellow volunteers and the community you will live and work in. Don't let the little things affect you but see the beauty all around you. The beach, the sunsets, the sunrise, the school, the village, the children, the enormity of the task you set yourself and most of all see the beauty inside of yourself. You're reward, should you be able to do this is life changing.

So, as you embark on this new chapter in your stories we would like to wish you the very best of luck and we send you our deepest gratitude.

Let your adventures begin!

Warmest regards,

Koky Saly

President

BabyTree Projects



Volunteers practice their brick laying skills building flower beds for the school in The Sambour Village Project 2011.





## 1.1 First point of contact

All volunteer work undertaken for, and in the name of, BabyTree Projects must be carried out under the supervision of a BabyTree Projects representative. While this kit has been designed to self-enable volunteers, all ideas and projects must be discussed with the relevant person at BabyTree Projects before commencing. The initial point of contact for all people interested in volunteering with BabyTree Projects is:

[info@babytreeprojects.org](mailto:info@babytreeprojects.org)

We will be happy to answer your questions and put you in touch with our representative in charge of your region.



Throw away your hair products people. In the village there is no time for all that jazz ;) This is Koky's natural no product hair look. He is actually collecting cow shit in garbage bags to make compost for the mango trees the volunteers will plant.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Our Vision, mission and values

#### Our Vision

*A world where children are filled with hope and can create the life they want.*

#### Our Mission

*To empower children we work with in rural Cambodia by helping them to access their rights to a quality education.*

*To give children and the community in Australia the opportunity to connect with children in rural Cambodia through BTP's work.*

#### Our Values

All our work is based on **genuine relationships and trust** and is focused on the following three principles.

1. *Accountability and Transparency.*
2. *Respect and Integrity.*
3. *Creativity and Innovation.*

For more information about us and our work please check out our website:

[www.babytreeprojects.org](http://www.babytreeprojects.org) and for a more personal insight into the BabyTree story visit Koky's blog: [www.kokysaly.blogspot.com](http://www.kokysaly.blogspot.com)

We also recommend you view these two video links on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2mhWYIPZME> This video was the first video created by Koky. He used it to generate interest and funding for BabyTree's future projects.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWmy0wndQCK> This video is the trailer for an hour-long documentary made after Koky's first project. The school completed for this project was in the village where Koky's parents were hidden from soldiers during the Khmer Rouge regime and 5minutes from Koky temple.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oRVS6-EnYc> In 2011 we conducted dance workshops in Anlong Kraing/Big Hole Village. This is the trailer for it. The actual complete video is not available online yet. The dance video is called "Life is Beautiful".

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_SjZ4iYk48](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_SjZ4iYk48) This video shows some of the behind the scenes footage for the "Life is Beautiful" dance video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OdfMWHZtYI> This is another teaser for the "Life is Beautiful" dance video.



## 2.2 How we started – a short history

In the late 1970s an Australian charity helped the Saly family and their 9 children to escape the desperate situation in Cambodia and to start a new life in Australia. The gravity of the situation was not lost on one of the family's youngest members, Koky Saly, who was inspired to help others in needs, just as he and his family has been helped.

In 2006, Koky, in partnership with Orphfund, and with the assistance of many of his friends, family and associates raised money and built a school in Sophy village. Sophy village is in the Siem Reap province where 80 percent of children do not finish primary school. The new school enabled many children to attend school as the overcrowded school was extended. Ongoing support for the school was provided including purchase of land for a school garden, a breakfast program and establishment of a library.

In 2007 Baby Tree Projects was officially established as a charity with two branches one in Australia and one in Japan. The dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to raise money to fund a new school in Peam village, also in the Siem Reap province. BTP volunteers travelled to Cambodia in December 2007 and work on the project was completed in February, with the schools official opening ceremony in April 2008. This was a great achievement for Baby Tree Projects, with its first stand-alone project completed. BTP facilitates visits from English teachers to live in the village and teach at the school and is providing ongoing support for many of the schools activities.

In each of these school building projects, volunteers travelled to Cambodia to live in the village, assist local builders in construction of the school house and interact with the children and other village members. The volunteers are encouraged to run classes for the school children, play games and attend village events. It is an amazing experience where they learn about Cambodian village life and culture and even pick up some Khmer along the way.

Throughout each of these projects, in intervening trips to Cambodia and with our contacts on the ground, we scout for new villages that need and want assistance in establishing or extending a school. We consistently have several potential projects in our sights and visit our established projects regularly.



The Saly children circa 1980.

### 3. Volunteer in Cambodia: The 'Sophia Saly School' Project



The location of the Sophia Saly School Project is a secret. But we can say it's beautiful...

BabyTree Projects offers volunteers the unique opportunity to live and work in a rural Cambodian village. While living and learning amongst the villagers and the children, volunteers also help build the school, toilets, mend fences and anything else that needs to be done. Volunteers also conduct classes with the children, their parents, builders and other members of the community. Classes in the past have included, English, Japanese, dance, art, mosaics, sports, AFL, and more. Your input is greatly valued and we encourage volunteers to express ideas and contribute to the decision making process. Throughout this entire time you are supported by each other, a volunteer team leader (with the ability to speak Khmer), the builders and of course the villagers and the children.

In this section you will find all the information you need about our current project as well as the role and responsibilities of a BabyTree Projects Volunteer.

#### 3.1 The Current Project: The Sophia Saly School Building Project

Village: Village on a secret beach (We call the village Secret Beach village)

Where: Kep Province, Cambodia

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

The estimated cost of the school building project is provided below:

School Building: \$70,000USD

Well: \$4,000USD



Toilets: \$3,000USD

Desk and Chairs: \$6,000USD



Our scouting volunteer who came on the beach hunt with us sits in a classroom with some of the children.

### 3.2 Key facts

The information provided below has been gathered by volunteers from our last project in 2008, 2010 and 2011. Volunteers have the opportunity to scout and visit possible future projects and are part of the decision making process when deciding when and where the next project will be.

It is extremely important that, as a BabyTree Projects volunteer, you make the effort to understand and know the people you are trying to help. Once you arrive, you will learn about the people through simple interaction. But we have discovered that volunteers, who

make an effort to meet, interact and share stories with the people are the ones who come away with the best experience and an intimate understanding of Cambodian and village culture. Ultimately, the greater effort you make, the greater reward you will have. You will come away a richer person for it.

We cannot hope to give you a complete and true understanding of Big Hole village here, however, we can offer you a start. Below are some key facts about Big Hole village, which will hopefully help you answer future questions you may be asked.

Name: Secret Beach Village

Location: The village is located in Kep province in southern Cambodia along the coast. It is approximately a 2.5hour drive from Phnom Penh city depending on road conditions. The actual school location within the village is not actually on the beach. It is about 2km inland. Volunteers will live on the beach (huts or tents not yet organised), each volunteer will receive a bike which they will use to ride to the building site. Bikes may also be used to ride around the village and explore surrounding areas. There may also be a second construction site where a library may be built. This site is at the foot of a small mountain and is also accessible by bike ride.

Student population: Potentially 200 kids will benefit directly from our help!

How many teachers (for the primary school): 9 including the principal. 1<sup>st</sup> year teachers receive no salary. 2<sup>nd</sup> year teachers receive \$20 per month. The Principal usually receives \$30 a month. Sometimes they do not receive their salary from the government or it is paid months late. In partnership with the provincial minister we will recruit new teachers for the secondary school.

Graduation rate (for the primary school): The existing school is only five years old. The teachers estimates that of the 50 grade 5 students only 50% will continue onto grade 6.

School facilities (for primary school): The school has no well, water supply is via rainwater tanks. Quite often villagers run out of water. Because of the salt rich soil not many things can be grown and bringing in fresh water is very expensive.

No toilets. No library. No other facilities.

Brief history of beach and surrounding island: The beach is located 45min to the east of the Vietnamese border (7km away). It was once the swimming beach for the Cambodian and French elite in the 1960s. The trip there might be long, but it is worth every minute. The beach is around 2km long, is clean with white sand and totally deserted except for some fishermen. Now there are 6 deck chairs and parasols and a small shop selling cold drinks for the few tourists going there. The water is shallow but clean. A nearby island is a 20 minute boat trip from the secret beach (around US\$8-10 return if part of a tour; alternatively, get a boat from the pier before 09:00 and share a \$20 boat ride with others). Bungalows on the island are quaint and cheap (from US\$5 a night). The island is generally pretty quiet and is a gem of coastal Cambodia. Development is slow, though there is now a massage shack directly on the beach. Tourists are drawn to the two beautiful white sand beaches, and the sea is shallow excellent for swimming. At the sea bottom are a variety of corals, sea animals and plants which attract researchers and ecologists.

Wider picture: Not all households have easy access to water. Not all households have toilets. Most villagers when asked claim to have an income of somewhere between 50cents



to 75cents a day. This puts them under the poverty line and by the United Nations definition they are considered in the 'very poor' category. 48% of Cambodia's budget is spent on the military and defense. Only 2% is spent on education. Local government is organized as such: the village chief is answerable to the commune chief, then the district chief and so forth.

Kep Province: Kep Province is the smallest province of Cambodia with a population of 40,280 persons and the place where the Kep National Park is located. It is also one of the newest Cambodian provinces.



### **3.3 How does it work?**

The process is quite simple, volunteers make a commitment to come and live in a Cambodian Village to help build a school for the local community. Although, BabyTree projects does not charge a fee, we do expect volunteers to fundraise towards the cost of building the school. Once enough money is raised, volunteers fly to Cambodia meeting in Phnom Penh city. (Please note, getting to Phnom Penh is at the expense of the volunteer.

Volunteers may **not** fundraise for their flights.) Volunteers are then met by our amazing Cambodian volunteer Mr Cha! Who will take them to our volunteer's accommodation in Phnom Penh city. From here, volunteers are transported to and from Secret Beach Village. Volunteers spend Monday to Friday living in the village and weekends back in Phnom Penh and other locations around Cambodia.

A volunteer's life with BabyTree Projects goes something like this: Monday to Friday you live in the village (usually on site in an old school building) on weekends you return to Siem Reap city to recover. Trust us, volunteers need the recovery time! This is also free time to experience Cambodia! Sometime we will organise some interesting trips for the volunteers that no other tourist would ever be able to do. Always fun and always legal!

Village life schedule is discussed between volunteers, here's a rough idea for you:

6.30am wake up (people on breakfast cook breakfast)

7am breakfast

7.30am - 11am work on the building site with the local builders!

11am-1pm lunch

1-4pm work on building site

4-6pm we run classes (i.e, english, tshirt painting, sports etc etc)

6pm dinner then free time to explore interact with villagers, enjoy village parties festivals, farm life list goes on and on.) Volunteers live exactly as the villagers do. Not easy.

Accommodation in Phnom Penh is paid for by BabyTree Projects. Accommodation in the village is free.

Once the school has been built, a traditional school blessing is organized and the children can finally attend a beautiful, well equipped school, which we have personally laboured to build. Photos and video clips will be shared amongst volunteers and posted on our website. You can stand proud, because even though it might not sink in immediately, you will come to realize eventually, what an extraordinary achievement you have accomplished. You built a school in a Cambodian jungle and brought hope and opportunity to countless children!

### **3.4 What you need to do now.**

BabyTree Projects does not charge a fee to volunteers to participate. What we ask instead is for volunteers contribute to the school building cost by engaging in the challenging but rewarding and fun task of fundraising. As a guide volunteers should aim to raise \$2,000USD or more.

Remember these are targets only so try to raise as much as you can. Aim big ;)

Please contact us for fundraising ideas and support material that includes, flyers, posters, t-shirts and DVDs.





Some of the volunteers catch a cow cart ride to the school grounds.

#### **4. Fundraising Ideas**



Organising a fundraiser can be great fun! You can make it as simple or involved as you like - from a Healthy Snack Food Drive, to a Trivia Night, to a big party with a door charge inviting everyone you know. Fundraisers can be an effective way to raise money and give a little something back to those supporting you.

Let people involved know exactly what you are doing, how much of a challenge it is, and why you are supporting BTP. They will feel more involved in what you are doing and who you are raising money for. Be creative, exploit your talents (or those of others) and use your skills.

### A few ideas

- **Wine Drive:** Most people love their wine raising money through selling wine can be easy (just don't forget to pass the wine on). Contact us to find out more about selling Wine as a fundraiser.
- **Swear Box** Set up a swear box in your work, pub or at home, fine \$1-2 for every \$%\*! uttered. You can adapt this idea to fining people for other things, like \$2 for anyone who's late to a meeting at work.
- **Shave Your Hair Off:** You might be surprised by how many people who will be willing to give you money just for shaving your hair off!
- **Casual Day:** Talk your employer into letting you run casual days at work. If you have an office of 200 people and everyone pays \$2 to wear casual clothes, you can make \$400 with little effort.
- **Guessing Competition:** An oldie but a goodie. Fill a jar with lollies, coins, rubber bands or thumb tacks and charge per guess.
- **Party Time!** Invite everyone you know! Raise money through a door charge, raffles, entertainment or party games. Put on a top night and have yourself a good time while you fundraise.
- **Trash & Treasure:** You'll be surprised by how much unwanted items your team may have when all four of you throw it together. A garage sale or market stall could prove rather profitable.
- **Hosts With The Most:** Hold a dinner for friends and play waiters for the night. Show off your cooking skills.
- **Auction:** Put yourself under the hammer! Secure gifts through local sports stars, artists, performers to auction off. Put yourself or your friends up for auction.
- **You've Got It, Flaunt It!** Put on a talent quest or concert and sell tickets. Are any of your friends in a band? Can they act up a storm? Can they tell a joke or two? Ask them if they would lend their time.
- **Movie Night:** Organise a group of friends to see a movie and fundraise through charging a premium on the tickets! Choose a good movie that everyone will enjoy.
- **Trivia Night:** Still the most popular type of fundraising event. Have lots of fun with your friends and raise anywhere between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Get some great prizes donated and hold an auction and a raffle on the night to help raise more money. Make up your own trivia questions – have some fun!
- **Other Ideas** karaoke competition, pub crawl, golf day, band night, mini golf, go-cart racing, lawn bowls, treasure hunt, greeting cards, raffle.

Please contact us for more ideas and support.





Skye and Ilan during the 2009 walkathon in Tokyo and Melbourne.





Volunteers and participants take a stroll along the picturesque Tama river as part of our walkathon in Tokyo. Volunteers were able to raise \$10,000USD! Well done everyone. Here, Angela leads the pack on their 10km journey.

## **5. Rights and Responsibilities of Volunteers**

### **5.1 Your rights as a volunteer**

As a volunteer you are entitled to:

- \* Information about the nature of BabyTree Projects' work and where your role fits into the broader aims and objectives.
- \* The opportunity to express your values, needs and ideas.
- \* Be consulted about activities that may impact upon your work.

### **5.2 Your responsibilities as a volunteer**

As a volunteer your responsibility are to:

- \* Increase your knowledge about the nature of BabyTree Projects' work and how your role fits into the broader aims and objectives.
- \* To abide by BabyTree Projects' policies
- \* Treat members of the public with whom you come into contact whilst support BabyTree Projects with respect and courtesy, promoting BabyTree Projects reputation at all times.
- \* Inform BabyTree Projects representatives of all proposed activities.
- \* Make an effort to interact and share your experience with the villagers, children and fellow volunteers. This may involve workshops, games, songs and dance etc.
- \* Assist in the construction of the school building, cooking and cleaning after yourselves and fellow volunteers, respecting the village and its customs.
- \* Make an effort to learn Khmer.
- \* Enjoy yourself!



BabyTree Projects volunteers, Skye and Shizuko conduct a 'Helping Hands' workshop in a Japanese elementary school in Tokyo.

## 6. Support from BabyTree Projects

BabyTree Projects strives to meet the needs of our volunteers by making every endeavor to respond to your queries within the shortest possible timeframe.

The BabyTree Projects website and Koky's blog are useful resources: [www.babytreeprojects.org](http://www.babytreeprojects.org) and [www.kokysaly.b;ogspot.com](http://www.kokysaly.b;ogspot.com). However, should you need to make further queries, please contact our first point of contact: [info@babytreeprojects.org](mailto:info@babytreeprojects.org).

## 7. Frequently asked questions and answers

### How much money do I need to raise?

Volunteers are expected to raise at least \$2,000USD and help BabyTree Projects branches with their fundraising activities.

This is just a target only so aim higher! Every little bit helps!

## U

### **What happens if I don't raise enough?**

We're not going to say you can't come because you fell short. As long as you tried your best! Hopefully, other volunteers will be extremely successful, which means we help each other out.

You must however, keep us informed about your progress. If you think you won't reach your target you must contact us immediately.

### **Will I have to pay for food?**

You will be in the village working on the school from Monday to Friday. During this time food will be paid for and we will take turns cooking meals. On weekends we return to town. During this time you will pay for your own meals. Meals are very cheap in Cambodia; excellent main meals can be bought for about \$2USD.

### **Will I have to pay for accommodation?**

No. Accommodation will be paid for in the village and when you are in town, while you are working on the project.

### **How much spending money will I need?**

Cambodia is cheap. Budget for \$10USD a day. This is plenty, particularly if you don't have to pay for accommodation. Of course more is better so feel free to bring extra to buy other things, lots of cheap goods can be found especially clothing.

UPDATE: Feedback from volunteers indicate that \$10USD a day may not be enough. The last trip Koky went on he comfortably survived on \$40USD a day and that included paying for accommodation. To be safe always budget with more. We also travel to different parts of Cambodia on the weekends so please included a stash of extra cash to do this.



**Can I fundraise for my flight to and from Cambodia?**

No. Baby Tree Projects has a strict policy. 100% of our donations reaches the cause. Therefore, getting to and from Cambodia is at the expense of the volunteer.

**Do I need travel insurance?**

Yes, every volunteer must have travel insurance. This is also at the expense of the volunteer.

**What can BTP do to support my fundraising event?**

If you are hosting a fundraising event, whether it's a Party, Trivia Night, Shopping Tour, Concert, House Dinner, Ten Pin Bowling or anything else, we are here to support you wherever we can. We can supply you with posters, collection tins, DVDs and information sheets. We can offer you lots of advice on how to make the most of your fundraising event. Just send us an email.

**I have reached my fundraising target, what should I do?**

Fantastic! If you are a fundraising superstar, we need your skills. Why don't you challenge yourself and increase your fundraising goal, or organize another fundraising event?

**Whats the best method for making donations?**

Please make online recurring monthly donations via credit card at our community account:

<http://goo.gl/9IUCz>

Please make online donations in different currencies via paypal here:

[www.babytreeprojects.org/donate](http://www.babytreeprojects.org/donate)

In Australia:

Bank: Westpac Banking Corporation

Bank Holder: BabyTreeprojects Inc

Branch Number: 033 077

Account Number: 240 337

Receipts will be issued on request only.

**I can't come to Cambodia, can I still make a donation?**

Yes and thank you very much! Every little bit helps. Please see the previous question for payment options.

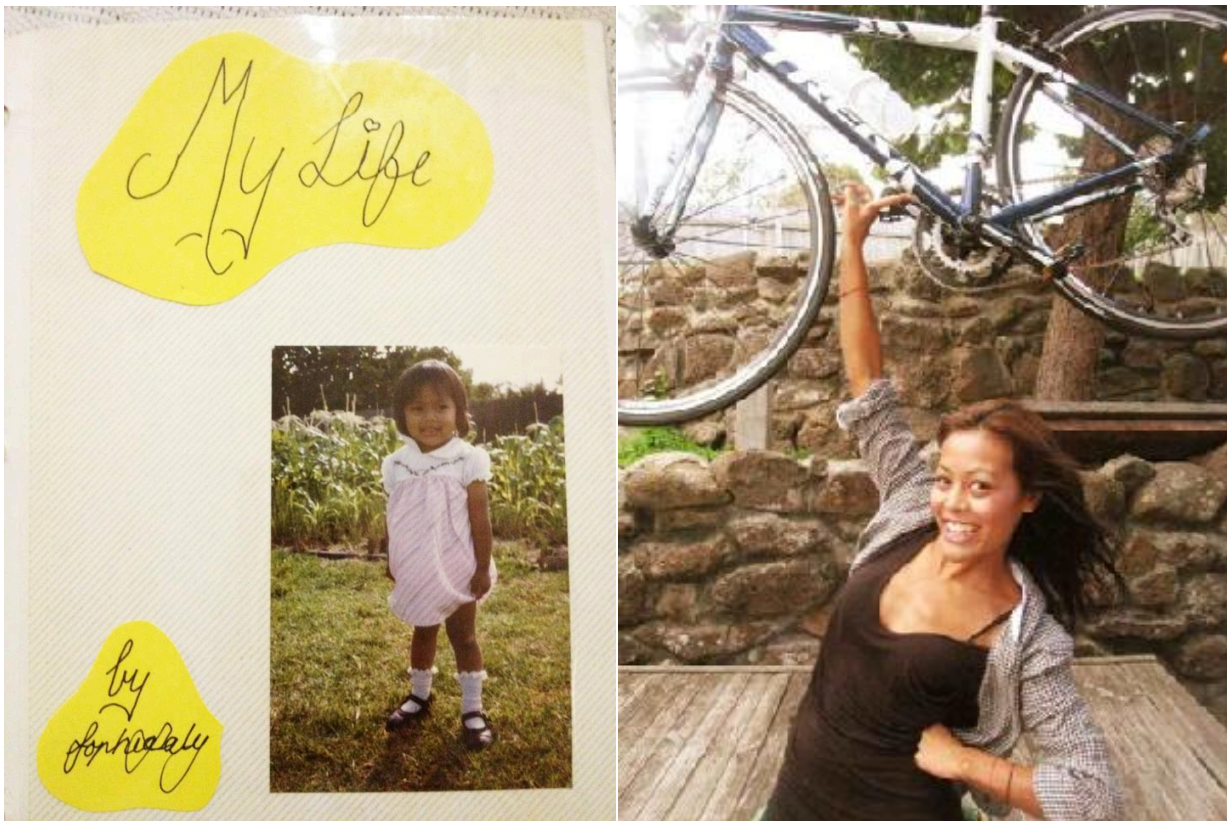
**Are donations to Baby Tree Projects tax deductible?**

At present only businesses and companies in Japan may claim their donation as a Tax Deduction.

We are in the process of obtaining Tax Deductible status in other countries.

**Can I ask questions or offer ideas?**

Yes. Email us at [info@babytreeprojects.org](mailto:info@babytreeprojects.org) and we will respond as soon as we can.



## In Loving Memory of Sophia Saly 1983 – 2012.

Koky's tribute for Sophia on his blog:

*In this life or the next, I will never experience a person as beautiful as you. It breaks my heart to write this now, but, I know you would want me to. This morning I held you in my arms for the last time, and before you flew away, I am glad that I got the chance to whisper in your ear the story of the hunter, the wolf and the sparrow. I love you so much and I never imagined I would have to live my life without you in it. I told you I would never leave you because despite your strength I knew you were scared. The best decision I made was to drop everything for you and be by your side no matter how much it hurt to see you in pain. As I was crying by your bedside you reached out to me and told me that you would do it for me too. My pain was nothing compared to yours and to see you handle it with such strength and beauty to the very end made me realize that if I couldn't be there for you in your darkest hour than I didn't deserve you in the full bloom of your beautiful life. We stick together us two. Always did, always will. Know that our little projects we worked on together in the last few months when you couldn't leave the hospital will happen. You said I was the person that can make things happen. And I never believed you until now. You are my little sister, my best friend, my hunter, my guide, my inspiration, my hero. Death can hide you, but it will never divide you from me. I will meet you in that special place you told me about. Until we meet again, I love you, I love you, I love you.*

*August 15<sup>th</sup> 2012*



