



# THE POWER OF PLAY:

TRANSFORMING A COMMUNITY THROUGH SWINGS & SLIDES

Remember playgrounds as a kid? Chasing neighborhood kids down the slide, the thrill of who could “go highest” on the swings, practicing the monkey bars while your mom or dad visited with other parents nearby. Though there is nothing profound about playgrounds, there is something powerful about the idea of play.

A common denominator found among nations trapped in cycles of poverty is the inability of children to be children. Forced to grow up long before they are ready, many children never experience an opportunity to play safely and freely. Parents are too engrossed in simply surviving, leaving no room for the luxury of playing with their children.

Several years ago, In His Steps International’s Foundation Center installed a playground for the Saang community of Cambodia. With the various children’s programs offered, the Center wanted to have a safe space for children to play. The even bigger vision? Parents bringing their children for some good old-fashioned bonding through play. Youth having a place to hang out with their friends away from the volleyball games that so often lead to gambling and violence.

And that is exactly what has happened. It is beautiful to see a young mother proudly watching her son master the slide or a father lift his daughter up on the monkey bars. We love that groups of teens spend time on the swings, eating snacks while laughing and talking.



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## In Need of an Upgrade...

The Foundation Center's playground has seen hundreds of children since its installation. The equipment available in Cambodia is metal and through the sweat of many little hands as well as several rainy seasons, many of the pieces are starting to rust. To keep the play area safe and growing, it's clear we are in need of a new, more durable system.

Our goal is to raise enough funds to purchase a heavy duty, interactive, weather-tested playground system. The system ideally will be large enough to accommodate 75+ children at one time and interactive for ages 0-12.

### **Budget\***

Playground Equipment: \$15,000 - \$20,000

Shipping: \$3,000 - \$7,000

Installation: \$2,500 est.

**Total Cost: \$20,500 - \$29,500**

### **How to Get Involved**

Would you like to help make safe play a part of a child's life? Consider these ways to give:

1. Donate to the Saang Playground Project at [www.ihsionline.org/partner](http://www.ihsionline.org/partner)
2. Make the Saang Playground Project your small group, office or church fundraiser for this fall/Christmas season. Contact [playground@ihsionline.org](mailto:playground@ihsionline.org) for fundraiser ideas.

For more information or if you have questions, contact [playground@ihsionline.org](mailto:playground@ihsionline.org).

