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MATH INSTRUCTOR WILL TEACH ENGLISH DURING MONTH IN CAMBODIAN ORPHANGE

JAMESTOWN – Susan Barbitta of Summerfield, a developmental math instructor at Guilford Technical Community College, will spend a month this summer in a remote Cambodian village trying to help orphans.

“I am so fortunate to be able to do this,” she said. Barbitta will be a volunteer June 11 through July 6 in a village near Angkor Wat, Siem Reap. She will pay her own expenses for this mission, approximately \$3,000, but is trying to raise money for the Cambodia Kids Project.

Money donated to the project will support children and people living in poverty, she said. “If you want to help provide an education, a water filtration system, or help in some other way, you can make donations through me until May 29,” she said.

She said that “one in seven children in Cambodia dies before they turn five from preventable diseases, one of which is unsafe drinking water.” About 45 percent of the Cambodian children are moderately to severely underweight, she said. “One third of the population lives on the equivalent of \$1 a day.”

The country doesn’t have a mandatory education system, and a large percentage of the children do not receive formal education because their parents can’t afford to send them to school, she said. It costs \$10 per year to educate a child, Barbitta said.

“My mornings will be spent in an orphanage and during the afternoons I will be teaching English to children. I will be staying approximately 10km from the orphanage and I will be riding a bike back and forth each day. Summers in Siem Reap are about 105 degrees, 90 percent humidity, and it will be the monsoon season,” she said.

“My family is excited for me but a little nervous about me going,” Barbitta said. She and husband Tom have two sons and a daughter.

She is volunteering under the auspices of Globalteer, a non-profit agency in the United Kingdom that has a project to help Cambodians in poverty.

Barbitta said donations can be made to Globalteer through its website or to her. Checks made to Barbitta should be sent to her attention at JWH17, Guilford Technical Community College, 601 High Point Road, Jamestown, NC 27282. “All of the money will be deposited into an account that Globalteer has setup with HSBC,” she said.

Donations directly to Globalteer can be made on the website www.globalteer.org/donation. (Click on donation/gift aid, not volunteer placement. At the bottom of the form is a place for the name of the volunteer, and Susan Barbitta’s name should be inserted.)
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