



HELPING
PEOPLE MOVE ON

**THIS GIVING SEASON, SUPPORT THE GIFT OF LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES TO
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN LAOS**



27 year-old Mai grew up in a small rural community in the heart of Xieng Khouang Province, one of Laos' most heavily-bombed areas during the Secret War. In 2015, Mai was happy to have secured a job as a road construction technician to supplement the income generated from his work at the farm. And then it happened: one day, as Mai was digging the road side, a UXO exploded, injuring Mai severely.

"I lost my right arm in the explosion. I had to sell most of the livestock I had raised to cover the hospital fees", remembers Mai. "I didn't know about prosthetic devices until the CMR-COPE Connect Mobile Clinic team came to my village in June 2016. One year after the accident, they provided me with a prosthetic arm for free. I'm hopeful I will be able to raise some goats and other animals now and support my two children's education".

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and they said in a few weeks I can receive my first prosthetic arm.

Please click on the video to see how Mr. Mai got fitted with a prosthetic arm.

3-day training on Upper limb prostheses and functional tools

In August, with USAID funding, COPE supported training of 21 Prosthetists/Orthotists and Bench Technicians from the Government of Lao Ministry. Many patients interviewed during Quality Clinical Audits as well as during CMR-COPE Mobile Clinics explained that they no longer use their upper-limb prostheses when the device does not respond to their particular functional needs. The aim of the training was to improve the clinical reasoning and listening skills of prosthetists/orthotists and bench technicians as well as to introduce them to new technical skills to produce upper-limb prostheses and tools for people to be able to carry out everyday tasks that are important to them .



Functional tools produced during the training, following active conversations between patients and rehabilitation staff. Notice the tool on the left hand side: this was made to enable one patient to continue to train to throw the ball through the basketball hoop !

Vientiane Girl Scouts raise funds for COPE

"A big part of the Girl Scout program this year has focused on our community service objective. We chose to spend time at the COPE Visitors Center where we learned about the impact of war on the local Lao people. This was incredibly shocking for most of us! The effects of the war are still very much felt by the village people who struggle daily on many levels.

COPE is an inspiration! They do such an amazing job at helping rehabilitate people hurt by the unexploded 'bombies' that detonate randomly under foot of mother, father or child!".



"The Girl Scouts motto is: to do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout. As Girl Scouts, we felt very moved to help COPE as much as we could.

So each Girl Scout created 5 Christmas cards. We sold them at the WIG Bazaar. We raised over USD \$400. COPE told us this will cover the medical services, transportation and food costs necessary for two people to receive the prosthetic or orthotic device they need. Everyone enjoyed the process immensely

and each girl was filled with a great sense of pride in our contribution to a very worthy cause”.

Contact us if, you want to organize a fundraiser for COPE to help people move on....Like Vientiane Girl Scouts!

Thank you very much to all our main donors and individual supporters throughout 2016.

We wish all a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

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