






**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**



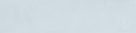

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A Message from our Founder

HFC served over 1500 women and children in 2021, with shelter, education and employment programs.

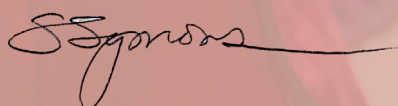
What truly defines HFC is our culture of kinship, respect, and love. I believe that this - more than any specific service or resource we provide - is what makes it possible for girls to heal from horrific trauma or from years of exclusion and degrading treatment. We provide consistent, devoted, individualized care, for as long as it takes for a person to stand on her own feet, free from any form of exploitation.

I am deeply thankful to our supporters, staff and partners that made it possible to provide ongoing programming, emergency food relief through the pandemic, and also to launch some exciting new projects, including our new Learning Center in Kolkata. Because of these services, no girls in HFC programs were trafficked or re-trafficked. Everyone survived the crisis and now has the chance to thrive.

Our part is to keep showing up, offering women and girls the tools to break down barriers and design their own gorgeous and unique futures. They do all the rest. **They are the ones who will change their world.**

My personal vision and goal has never been more clear: to live this culture of love, respect and kinship, and to teach and pass it on to others. I have been unbelievably blessed over the past 17 years to see many survivors recover from the worst traumas, move forward, and even launch their own projects! I know it's possible. Having a community of love - a chosen family - to walk beside you is the foundation to this healing.

Thank you for holding the sorrows and the joy with us.





HOW WE WORK

OUR MISSION IS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF EXPLOITATION, POVERTY, AND GENDER VIOLENCE, BY PROVIDING EDUCATION - AND A FULL CIRCLE OF SUPPORT SERVICES - TO SURVIVORS AND VULNERABLE GIRLS

Since 2005, our focus has been on rebuilding lives and ensuring that survivors and vulnerable girls have what they need to remain safe and independent. As girls who joined our program as children grow into empowered, successful young women, it is our greatest joy to see them becoming leaders who rescue, mentor, and support others. They are changing their society from within.

LONG TERM COMMITMENT AND HOLISTIC SUPPORT

Our model is designed around long-term and intensive support. This is what it takes to get girls out of situations where they are powerless and vulnerable. With holistic services addressing the whole person's needs - emotional, intellectual, vocational and physical - we help people to heal from the trauma of their past. In our programs, they gain resources and skills to overcome the root causes of exploitation: poverty, discrimination and lack of education.

Unfortunately, the rate of retrafficking or falling into another form of exploitation is very high for girls who have been trafficked or raped. Often, this is because only one part of the girls' needs are addressed. She may be removed from a bad situation but given no options for creating a different kind of life.

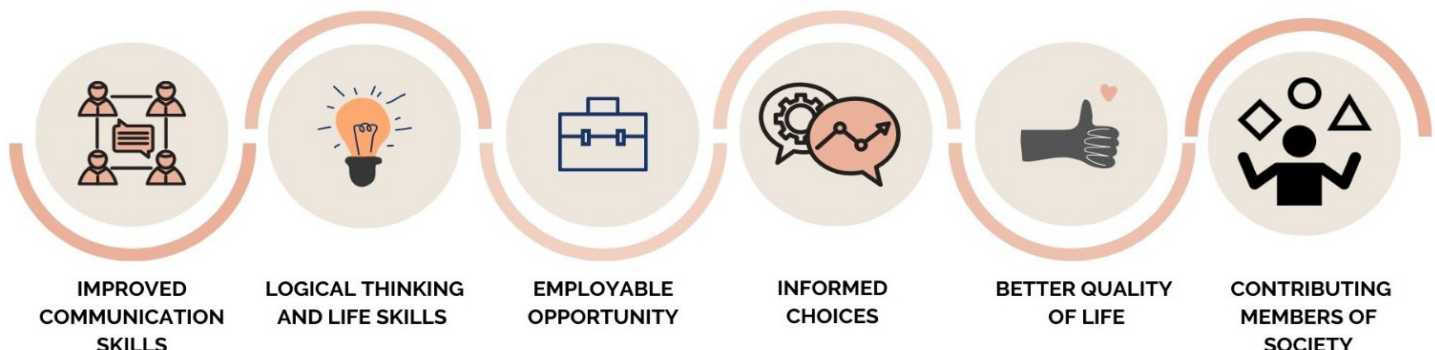
Through mental health counseling, team-building, therapeutic arts, and consistently showing up, we are able to create a healing environment where girls can move from a place of utter hopelessness, disassociation, and PTSD, to a place of resilience and promise. Our team has been embedded in the communities where our girls live for over 17 years. We have a deep understanding of the challenges they face. **We are a listening organization, frequently adapting our approach to better meet the needs of the girls as they express them.** Each year, we see more women and girls working to advance themselves and their families, and to advocate for others.

OUR VALUES:

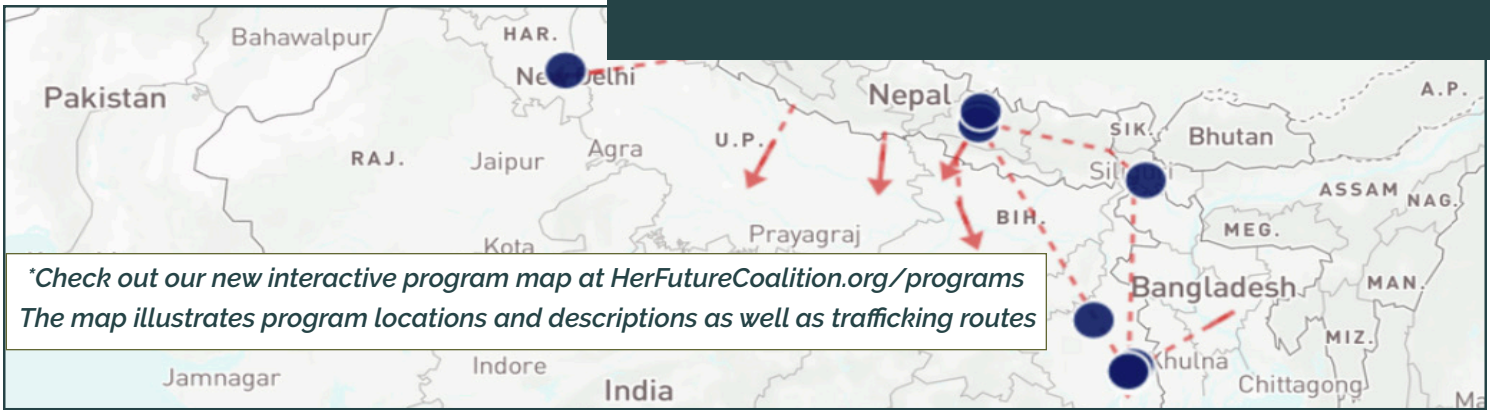
This year we met as a team to define the values that will guide our work at our new Learning Center in Kolkata. The team decided that we are:

Compassionate, Egalitarian, Collaborative, Respectful, Eco-friendly, Secular, and have a Growth Mindset. Above all, we aim to meet all who come to us with a spirit of kinship, respect and love.

HOW OUR INTERVENTIONS *CHANGE LIVES*



WHY & WHERE WE WORK



Her Future Coalition works in the poorest, most vulnerable areas of India and Nepal. Many of our beneficiaries are survivors of trafficking and rape, or the children of trafficked women growing up in red light areas or villages with an extremely high incidence of trafficking. Many are indigenous people or ethnic minorities who were already marginalized. The cycle of exploitation can last their whole lives, and often continues into the next generation. Gender-based violence is an especially severe problem in India and Nepal where our work is focused.

ROOT CAUSES OF TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH ASIA

- ◇ The low status of women and girls in society
- ◇ Traditional cultural practices such as the caste and dowry systems, and bonded labor
- ◇ Forced early marriage
- ◇ A large and sophisticated network of sex traffickers, brothel keepers, and slave-owners
- ◇ The normalization of trafficking in some communities leading to intergenerational prostitution
- ◇ Corruption in law enforcement and judiciary, lack of prosecution and weak sentencing for offenders

According to the United Nations, over 5 million women and girls in India are currently living in slavery. More than a quarter of Indian and Nepali girls are married by the age of 18, more than anywhere else in the world. Girls who manage to escape are often blamed for the abuse and outcast from their families and villages. With nowhere to go, low education and no job skills, they are an easy target for re-trafficking, or they drift back into exploitative situations because they simply have no other options. **HFC exists to change this equation.**





OUR PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

Each year, Her Future Coalition supports the education of over 700 students in India and Nepal. We believe that education is the most powerful and long-lasting tool for preventing trafficking and other forms of gender violence.

Our education programs include:

- ◇ Working with local partner organizations to build and operate entire schools. Teacher Training
- ◇ Education and College sponsorships
- ◇ Adult literacy
- ◇ Zoom classes and tutoring for students in remote areas
- ◇ Computer, STEM and English courses
- ◇ Remedial education
- ◇ Mobile schools, Libraries, Software

Many survivors and high risk girls have never been to school before, or had their education interrupted. HFC education programs get girls back in school and take them from preschool to college, and even grad school.

KOLKATA LEARNING CENTER

Our newest education initiative is the Her Future Learning Center in Kolkata. In 2021 we rented and refurbished three floors of a derelict but beautiful 100 year old building right in the Sonagachi red light area. The Learning Center opened in March 2022, offering a variety of training programs, classes, and support services to hundreds of survivors and vulnerable youth. The purpose of the center is to bridge the gap between poverty and exploitation and a successful life in mainstream society. We aim to give girls the tools to succeed in higher education and careers.

Everyone who comes to the center will receive training in basic computer literacy and spoken English - life changing skills. Beneficiaries are able to choose between a variety of other programming according to their interests, such as adult literacy, mental health workshops, arts, higher level computer training, vocational training, financial literacy, human rights workshops and trauma-informed yoga and meditation.

In February, 2022, schools in India and Nepal finally reopened and our girls joyfully returned to school. Losing two years of schooling was a huge setback. We are working hard with education specialists to provide the remedial help our girls now need in order to catch up.



LEARNING CENTER GOALS

- ◇ Preventing Intergenerational Trafficking
- ◇ Helping rescued survivors gain independence and rejoin society
- ◇ Providing pathways out of extreme poverty
- ◇ Creating safe spaces for endangered girls, and uplifting marginalized women



FREEDOM SCHOOL

The Freedom School is a school and anti-trafficking project in a remote, indigenous community of Nepal with an extremely high rate of trafficking and child marriage. This project is the fulfilment of a long time dream for its leader, survivor-activist Anjali Tamang. Anjali was an HFC beneficiary for many years and co-wrote a book - Standing in the Way - with HFC founder Sarah Symons.

The school opened in Oct. 2021, and is now educating over 75 kids, with more coming each month. The students are members of the Tamang indigenous community. Experts estimate that 7 out of 10 Nepali sex trafficking victims are from poor, indigenous communities such as this. Over the past two decades, trafficking of Tamang girls has become normalized and very common, to the point where virtually every family has daughters or wives in the brothels of India.

Anjali is determined to change the mindset of her people, and change the story for the next generation of girls, and we are proud to support her dream.



OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAM SITES

Apple of God's Eye

A school and 5 homes in Kathmandu, Nepal, serving survivors and girls from highly trafficked border areas.

Red Light Resource Centers

Education programs for 275 children growing up in red light areas of Kolkata, India.

Nijoloy and Jalpaiguri Shelter Homes

Education and sponsorship programs for survivors and high risk girls at two shelters In West Bengal, India.

Suchana

A mobile school and remedial education project serving very poor tribal kids in rural West Bengal, India,

Mustard Seeds

Classes, workshops, arts and library programming for children in a slum community of Kolkata

Nabadisha Centers

After school support and mentorship for 250 slum and street children in Kolkata.



HER FUTURE COALITION MIDDLE SCHOOL by EKTARA

This new project, in collaboration with our long time local partners at Ek Tara, offers 275 girls from Kolkata's largest slum the means to break out of a vicious cycle of extreme poverty and high risk of exploitation.

Without intervention, girls in India's urban slums face a grim future. Less than 30% graduate from primary school, and less than 5% finish high school. 98% of women face severe domestic violence. Child marriage, child labor and trafficking are also serious issues in the community. About 50 % of adolescent girls are forced into early marriage, and thus unable to finish school. **We envision so much more for them.**

THE APPROACH



High quality education
taught in English
including STEAM & SEL



Comprehensive
development including
life skills
extracurricular activities



Enabling parents as
partners in child's
academic journey



Community
Engagement and
Transformation



Aligned with UN SDG's,
Sustainable
Development Goals



21st Century Digital
Technology & Learning



SHELTER

Her Future works with local operating partners to build, expand and maintain shelters for rescued girls, and to support the ongoing needs of girls in shelter care: food, clothing, medical care and counseling. **Having a safe and loving place to recover - guarded from traffickers - is a crucial first step in a girl's journey to recovery.**

Many girls are rescued as children and need a safe, loving home until they reach adulthood. In the residential shelters that we have built and that we support, hundreds of girls receive loving care, and are free to grow up in safety and dignity.

Our red light Resource Centers provide a safe haven from early in the morning to late at night, breaking the cycle of second generation exploitation. Children who are born into brothel communities are at extreme risk for being trafficked alongside their mothers. 90% of girls and 75% of boys growing up in red light areas are sexually abused by the age of eight. Their mothers, who are themselves trafficking victims, are powerless to prevent it.



2021 SHELTER PROGRAMS

Jalpaiguri Shelter

Located in a heavily trafficked area of West Bengal, HFC built the home in 2015 at the request of our local partner, Women's Interlink Foundation. In 2017, we added a third floor, making room for 150 girls.

Rescue Foundation Shelter

Rescue Foundation conducts more brothel rescues than any other organization in India - saving over 500 girls a year. We are proud to support care for 100 survivors at the Rescue Foundation shelter in Delhi.

Red Light Resource Centers, Kolkata

Three drop in centers providing safe space for **300 children** born into brothels, open from early morning to late at night while mothers are seeing clients. In partnership with South Kolkata Hamari Muskan

COVID EMERGENCY RELIEF

Again in 2022, India and Nepal were in lockdown for many months, putting girls at increased risk for exploitation. To help them remain safe and fed, we provided food relief packets to 1500 families with supplies for 2 months, data cards and tablets for remote education, salaries for teachers to provide education by mobile phone, mental health care, and safe spaces for girls in danger at home.

VOCATIONAL

Training and employment give women a way to become financially independent and less vulnerable to being exploited, and **to make choices for their own lives - often for the first time in their lives**. Jobs enable them to overcome stigma, gain decision-making power in their families and communities, move out of shelters, and support themselves and their children.

Economic independence breaks the cycles of poverty and violence, preventing intergenerational slavery. In 2021 and 2022, in alignment with our Strategic Plan, we began exploring many new vocational tracks. We are transitioning our metalsmithing course from being a program of HFC to becoming a social purpose business managed by the artisans themselves. Some chose to remain in the jewelry unit in its new form; others pursued training in other professions, with HFC paying for their re-training.



2021 VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Computers and English, Kolkata

Proficiency in computers and spoken English are increasingly essential for getting a professional job in India. We have begun partnering with local experts Uddami India Foundation, to provide computer training to hundreds of girls.

Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design, India and Nepal

Our jewelry programs provided a steady income, professional development and job placement support to 25 women in 2021. Now the program is evolving into a self-sustaining business managed by the artisans.

Sewing, Cooking & Catering, Kolkata

These skills remain a popular choice for women with low literacy and little education and for mothers who need immediate income to support their kids.

NEW VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS STARTING IN 2022

Bakery & Cafe Management

Beautician Training

Textile Printing, Sewing & Papercraft at Jalpaiguri Shelter

Home Health Care/Practical Nursing

OUR TEAM & PARTNERS



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Obama Foundation/Girls Opportunity Alliance
SEVA Foundation
Once Upon a Time Foundation
University of Texas Philanthropies
Catherine Bertini Trust for Girls' Education
Bill Cook Foundation


MoneyGram Foundation
Meldrum Family Foundation
i=change
Guru Krupa Foundation
Rotary International
Henry Niles Foundation

OPERATING PARTNERS

South Kolkata Hamari Muskan
Ek Tara
Rescue Foundation
Shiksamitra

Women's Interlink Foundation
Uddami India Foundation
Calcutta Foundation
Mustard Seeds

Sunaayy
Apple of God's Eye
Freedom & Hope Nepal
Pipal Tree

SARAH SYMONS	NAFIZA KHATUN	AMANDA BONFIGLIO CUNNINGHAM	SOMA SEAL	MAURA HURLEY	MITALI BOSE
					
Founder & Executive Director	Country Director, India	Chief Operations Officer	Social Work Program Director	Education Program Director	Director, Strategic Partnerships
SONALI BISWAS	TISH ROY	TOBY BANKS	SUMAIYA KHATUN	KELLY DWYER	SUCHISMITA GHOSHPAL
					
Assistant Program Manager	Mental Health Program Director	Director of Institutional Giving	Assistant Country Director	Bakery/Cafe Program Director	Consultant CFO & Advisor

MonaLisa Das and Soma Halder: Jewelry Program Managers

PART-TIME, ADVISORY & VOLUNTEER

Annette BonGiorno - Accountant

Robin Singer - Tutoring Program Coordinator

Sarah Annay - Visual Storytelling & GIS Mapping

Danielle Hartley - Learning Center Interior Design

Pamela Robertson, PsyD, LCSW & Dana Weiss, PhD, LMFT - Mental Health Program Advisors

Abigail Jones & Lauren Bridgewater - Our Future of Change Founders, Youth Advocates

Nancy Edwards - Jewelry Trainer & Designer

Dianna Badalament - Jewelry Program Advisor

Felicity Denby - Jewelry Trainer & Designer

Stacia Sleight - Social Media

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kara Penn, Board Chair, 2021 - Principal and Owner, Mission Spark

Diane Dávalos Beale - President, Expanded Learning

Sarah Symons - Founder and Executive Director

John Berger - Co-founder of Her Future; Chief Operating Officer at Women of the World Endowment

Shira Weinert Cornfeld - Arts Educator

Jeanette Pavini - Consumer Reporter, Author and Film Producer, Reel Deal Productions

Jenny Hansell - President, Berkshire Natural Resources Council

Farah Khan - Partner, L. Catterton Capital Partners

Danielle Hartley - Realtor and Interior Designer

Mohini Tadakonda - Chief Advancement Officer, Movement Strategy Center

Lauren Clawson - Owner, Charleston Dog Walking Co.

Anila Narayana - Graduate Student, University of Denver

AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES

Through our ongoing partnership with the Girls' Opportunity Alliance, Sonali (pictured below right), a participant in HFC's Education Programs in Kolkata, had the incredible opportunity to participate in a panel discussion with Mrs. Michelle Obama for the Girl Talk broadcast on International Women's Day!

We will never tire of witnessing how a little love and encouragement can create BIG change. Sonali pushed through the tough COVID restrictions, and heightened pressures on young women in India, and is thriving! She now works at a cafe and is getting more confident by the day. She speaks English well, and with great gusto, since sharing the stage with the former first lady.



"We need to say YES to girls. People tell us 'no' our whole lives. Girls are kind of magic. We use our heads as well as our hearts. We can heal the planet" Sonali Pathak

GIRLS MOVING FORWARD

"In the brothel, we lived in tiny rooms just large enough for a small mattress. The rooms didn't have doors, just separated by curtains. The girls slept for much of the day. When we woke up, we were given our one meal for the day. Once a week we were allowed to shower. In the afternoon, we dressed and put on make-up in preparation for customers. Some girls were sent out on the streets to draw men in. Others, including the smaller ones like me, lined up in a hall so customers could choose. Girls were forced to service ten or more customers a night. I cannot explain how horrible it was there. I survived by separating my mind from my body".



Ankita (name changed) was the youngest of seven children, and the fifth girl. She was just another mouth to feed, another dowry to pay. She was trafficked by a relative, from her village to a brothel in Delhi when she was 13 years old.

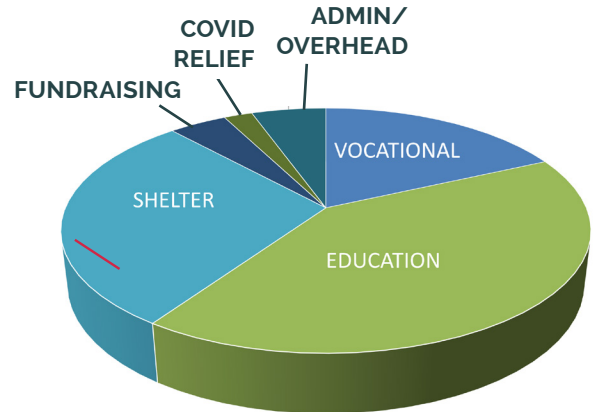
Ankita was rescued in a raid, and sent to a shelter supported by HFC. She received intensive counseling and education. Gradually, she is recovering from the worst of her trauma and beginning to identify goals and dreams. She loves drawing, and dance. She hopes to graduate high school and get a job in which she can use a computer.

2021 FINANCIALS

INCOME*

Individual General Purpose Donations	\$495,324
Learning Center Donations & Sponsorships	\$165,000
Grants	\$205,000
School Sponsorship Donations	\$44,800
Sale of Products Made by Survivors	\$36,200
Total	\$946,324

In Kind (non cash) donations \$57,000



EXPENSES

Education	\$366,399
Shelter	\$254,529
Vocational Training/Employment	\$160,901
COVID Emergency Relief	\$37,292
Fundraising Expenses	\$18,275
Admin/Overhead	\$48,265
Total	\$885,661

2019 Income \$415,779
2020 Income \$622,477

Education sponsorship	\$57,432
College Fees	\$22,082
Learning Center	\$76,918
EkTara- Middle School	\$63,554
Freedom School	\$94,413
Other Education Programs	\$52,000

Residential Shelter Care	\$142,715
Shelter Construction/Expansion	\$26,082
Red Light Resource Centers	\$54,323
Other Shelter Programs	\$31,500

* 2021 Audit in Progress

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2021 LEARNING CENTER SPONSORS

Todd & Yadira Patkin - the spark that inspired the entire project!

SEVA Yoga Foundation - The SEVA workshop space
Katie Brennan - Brennan Mental Health room
Tish & Dan Roy - Counseling Room
Susie & Arch Carey - Library/Lounge
Jen Hansen - Bakery/Cafe Training
Girl's Opportunity Alliance - Computer Center
Erik Emmett - Houston (Nafiza's Office)
Rally Hong Kong - Computer Training Room
Janet Harper - Felix Fellowship English Program

Asset India Foundation - 3 Computer workstations
Hartley Family - Reception Area
Alka Thukral - Education Room
Clawson Family - Classroom
Diane and Bob Beale - HFC Office
Kara Penn & Family - Education Room
Pavini/Musci Family - Mental Health Library
Kim Sheerin - Portable Arts Space
Geeta Chaudry - Counseling Room

Anonymous - The hallways, ringing with laughter and hope, healing arts, training kitchen, water & sanitation



CONTACT US

PO Box 3403
St. Augustine, FL 32085

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