

A group of children are dancing joyfully in a street in a developing area. The children are wearing colorful, patterned dresses and t-shirts. The background shows multi-story buildings with balconies. The overall atmosphere is one of happiness and community.

Xher
FUTURE

COALITION

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23

OUR MISSION IS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND EXPLOITATION BY PROVIDING EDUCATION – AND A FULL RANGE OF SUPPORTING SERVICES – TO SURVIVORS AND VULNERABLE GIRLS

Since 2005, we have been working to ensure that survivors of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence, and girls at high risk, have what they need to remain free, safe and independent.

OUR APPROACH IS TO PROVIDE LONG TERM, INTENSIVE PROGRAMS WHICH ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES AND SYSTEMIC INJUSTICE

Our programs offer women and girls the tools to break intergenerational cycles of exploitation and extreme poverty. We provide shelter, education and training leading to economic independence.

We give survivors the space and support they need to heal from the trauma of their past. We work with girls at the highest risk to prevent them from being victimized, building up their self-esteem, life skills and human rights awareness so they can protect themselves and others.

THE PROBLEM: TRAFFICKING, RAPE, CHILD MARRIAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ARE DESTROYING GIRLS' LIVES AND FUTURES

According to the United Nations, over 5 million women and girls in India are currently living in slavery. Girls who manage to escape are often blamed for the abuse and outcast from their families and villages. More than a quarter of Indian and Nepali girls are married by the age of 18, more than anywhere else in the world. Unfortunately, the rate of re-trafficking 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.

WE BELIEVE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS - ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE OVERCOME GREAT CHALLENGES - HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE SOCIETY

As more girls who joined our program as children grow into strong and successful young women, we are striving to put more power into their hands - to decide their own destiny, to design and run programs, to change their families and communities, to have a strong voice in the society. Through counseling, life skills training, peer support, 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 leadership. Survivor leadership is a strong priority for us, and we are working to bring more survivors to the forefront.

WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT COLLABORATION AS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE WORLDS BIGGEST PROBLEMS

We conduct many of our programs in close partnership with exemplary local organizations. Our team and partners have been embedded in the communities where our girls live for over 18 years, so 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.

WE WORK IN PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS THE MOST SEVERE AND WIDESPREAD

Her Future Coalition works in the poorest, most vulnerable areas of India and Nepal - gender violence 'hot spots,' where as much as 50% of girls are trafficked or forced into child marriage. Our beneficiaries are survivors of trafficking and rape, and high risk girls growing up in red light areas, slum communities and villages with an extremely high incidence of trafficking. The cycle of exploitation can last their whole lives, and often continues into the next generation.

ROOT CAUSES OF TRAFFICKING

- ◇ 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 traffickers and brothel keepers
- ◇ The normalization of trafficking in some communities, leading to intergenerational prostitution
- ◇ Corruption in law enforcement and judiciary, lack of prosecution and weak sentencing

OUR PROGRAMS

Education

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

Each year, Her Future Coalition supports the education of over 750 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, education and college sponsorships, computer, STEM and English courses, adult literacy, remedial education, virtual classes and tutoring, mobile schools, libraries, and teacher training.

KOLKATA LEARNING CENTER

Our newest education initiative is the Her Future Learning Center in Kolkata, which opened in March 2022 in the Sonagachi red light area. At the Learning Center, we offer education, vocational and mental health programs, workshops on women's rights, human rights, therapeutic arts, and support services to hundreds of survivors and vulnerable girls. Everyone who comes to the center receives training in basic computer literacy and spoken English - life changing skills which open up a world of possibilities for their careers and lives. The Learning Center is also Kolkata's first nonprofit co-working space, where 8 local organizations working on similar issues are able to come together and amplify each other's efforts.

Riya began coming to the Learning Center after experiencing years of sexual violence, having been born into a brothel. She received vocational and life skills training, literacy and math classes, and - for the first time in her life - love and respect. Today, Riya has a job and much hope for the future.



Computer Students at the HFC Learning Center



Adult Literacy Class



A photography and Dance Movement Therapy Workshop



NEPAL - FREEDOM SCHOOL

The Freedom School is a an education 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 125 kids, with more coming each month. The students are members of the Tamang indigenous community. 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, 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.**

This year, we began construction of a dormitory for girls who live too far to walk to school each day, and who are at particularly high risk for trafficking.

Budimaya was in a child marriage at the age of 11. She got out of that situation, got back in school, and recently passed the rigorous high school graduation exams and is preparing to go to college, with help from the Freedom School

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.



7th Graders at the Middle School doing a pen pals project

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 labor and trafficking are serious issues in the community. About 50% of adolescent girls are forced into early marriage, and thus unable to finish school.

At the Middle School, girls receive high quality education, a large variety of arts programming, sports, health check ups and nutritious meals. Parents are engaged in workshops and activities designed to enlist them as partners in their daughters' education and to become advocates for girls. Gradually, this community is transforming!



Hip Hop Class for Middle School and younger students at Ektara



Science Workshop at the Resource Center

OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Red Light Resource Centers

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

Nabadisha Centers

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

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

Mustard Seeds

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

Apple of God's Eyes

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

Shiksamitra

A teacher training and curriculum design organization

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 Resource Centers in red light areas 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.

2022 SHELTER PROGRAMS

Red Light Resource Centers, Kolkata

Three drop in centers providing safe space for 300 children in two red light areas. In partnership with South Kolkata Hamari Muskan

Jalpaiguri Shelter, West Bengal

Located in a heavily trafficked area of West Bengal, HFC built the shelter in 2015 at the request of our operating partner, Women's Interlink Foundation

Rescue Foundation Shelter, Delhi

Rescue Foundation conducts more rescues than any other organization in India - over 500 girls a year. We support aftercare at their Delhi shelter

Jeevan Adhar Shelter, Mumbai

Our newest shelter partnership focuses on young adult survivors who wish to pursue higher education



Alisha (not pictured) was trafficked at age 13. She worked as a maid in a private home and was later sold into a brothel. Alisha was rescued at age 15 and is now receiving shelter, intensive counseling and education at our shelter in Jalpaiguri. Despite many years out of school, Alisha is now excelling in 7th grade

Financial Independence

2022 FINANCIALS



Life Skills Training - a critical part of all our vocational courses



Block Printing - a skill traditionally practiced only by men



80% of graduates of the Bakery/Cafe Training found jobs in the field!

Vocational Training, combined with life skills and financial literacy training, give women a pathway to become financially independent and less vulnerable to being exploited. They gain the power and agency to **make choices for their own lives - often for the first time in their lives.** Economic independence enables them to overcome stigma, move out of shelters, and support themselves and their children, breaking the cycle of poverty and intergenerational trafficking.

2022 VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Computers and Spoken English - 150 women

Proficiency in computers and spoken English are increasingly essential for getting a professional job in India. We partner with local experts Uddami India Foundation, to provide an intensive 6 months computer course - with job placement - to 150 women and youth.

Bakery & Cafe Management - 16 women

The women in this course had particularly high trauma and low educational backgrounds, so the course included remedial literacy and math. 80% of the trainees found employment in the field after graduation.

Nilu and her family was struggling when she joined the computer training. Her father, the only earner, makes only \$45 a month as a rickshaw puller. She considered leaving school to help the family, but joined our computer training instead, and is now employed at an IT firm, and attending university!

Beautician Training - 45 women

Textile Printing, Sewing -75 women

These skills remain a popular choice for women with little education, for mothers needing immediate income to support their kids, and survivors moving out of shelters. Training is offered at rescue shelters and in the community in partnership with Calcutta Foundation and Women's Interlink Foundation.

Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design - 16 women

This program is a longtime favorite for our beneficiaries. It is evolving into a self-sustaining business managed by the artisans themselves.

2022 INCOME*

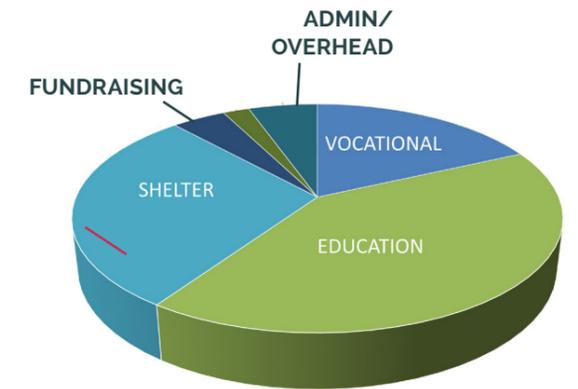
Individual Donations	\$
Grants	\$
Sale of Products Made by Survivors	\$35,959
Total	\$977,076

2022 EXPENSES

Education	\$391,399
Shelter	\$373,555
Financial Independence (Vocational)	\$262,635
Fundraising Expenses	\$22,074
Admin/Overhead	\$44,649
Total	\$1,094,312

2020 Income	\$638,788
2021 Income	\$630,764
2023 Budget	\$1,501,500

* 2022 Audit in Progress



Education sponsorship	\$63,850
College Fees	\$15,750
Learning Center	\$125,030
EkTara- Middle School	\$62,800
Freedom School	\$72,450
Other Education Programs	\$52,519

Residential Shelter Care	\$168,025
Red Light Resource Centers	\$125,028
Shelter Expansion/Construction	\$80,502

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Yoga Medicine SEVA Foundation
 Meldrum Family Foundation
 Ashmore Foundation
 Rally Hong Kong
 Miss Amara

i-change
 Rotary International
 Guru Krupa Foundation
 Henry Niles Foundation
 Moneygram Foundation

We are proud members and collaborators of Michelle Obama's Girls Opportunity Alliance

2022 SPONSORS - Learning Center, Middle School & Freedom School

Todd & Yadira Patkin - the spark
 SEVA Yoga Foundation
 Preethi Vaidyanathan
 Guru Krupa Foundation
 Rotary Interact, District 5170
 Susie & Arch Carey
 Stan & Patty Stokes
 Sandy Edwards
 Janet Harper - Felix Fellowship English Language Program

Hartley Family
 Thukral Family
 Clawson Family
 Diane Beale
 Kara Penn & Family
 Bill Cook Foundation
 Amy Bedi
 Michelle Dudley
 Kuziak Family

Rally Hong Kong
 Miss Amara, Inc.
 Suzanne Viehmann
 Leslie Vensel & Bill Mayo-Smith
 Dawn Moran
 Mei-Hsia Tan and Ray Lin
 Erik Emmett
 Debra & James Rouse
 Anonymous - We hold your names in our hearts!

It takes teamwork...

To make the dream work



The Learning Center makeover team: Rimjhim, Nafiza, Amanda, Danielle, Suchismita



Sonali, Tutor and Youth Mentor (right)



Soma S., Social Worker & Kimberly, ESL Teacher



Sarah, Sumaiya, Mitali, Soma H. & Monalisa with Women's Interlink Fdn. team



Maura, Education Program Director



Medha Paul, second from left and the Uddami Computer Training Team



Anjali Tamang (left), Founder & Principal of the Freedom School



Sarah with Rohini from South Kolkata Hamari Muskan



Kelly and Sulagna (right) Bakery & Cafe Management Program Leaders



Freedom School Teachers

These pictures represent just a few of the hundreds of people - staff, partners, survivor-leaders, Board members and volunteers - who have made it possible for us to meaningfully impact the lives of 1200 women and children this year.

STAFF

- Sarah Symons - Executive Director
- Amanda Cunningham - Chief Operating Officer
- Soma Seal - Program Director
- Sumaiya Khatoon - Asst. to the Country Director
- Katie Groetzinger - Development Manager
- Tish Roy - Mental Health & Wellness Program Advisor
- Kelly Dwyer - Bakery Program Director
- Soma Halder & Monalisa Das - Jewelry Program Managers

- Nafiza Khatun - Country Director
- Mitali Bose - Partnerships, Monitoring & Evaluation Director
- Maura Hurley - Education Program Director
- Sonali Biswas - Teacher and Youth Mentor
- Suchismita Ghoshpal - Accountant & Finance/Legal Advisor
- Moumita Halder - Computer Program Manager
- Biswajit Chitrakar - Education Specialist

PART-TIME, ADVISORY & VOLUNTEER

- Kimberly Brown & Marisa Watts - ESL Teachers & Felix Fellows
- Robin Singer - Tutoring Program Coordinator, Nepal
- Andy Rosen, Carol Newberry, Bev Fogg, Rosemary Royer
- Preethi Vaidyanathan & Tyler Singer-Clark - Zoom Teachers
- Melissa Steifel - Photography Teacher
- Shivani Dave & Shathviki Krishnaraj - Presidents, Our Future of Change Youth Advocacy Group Presidents
- Paul Chelmis - Photography
- Nancy Edwards - Jewelry Trainer & Designer
- Geeta Chaudry - Special Advisor - Equality Students & Staff of Ashley Hall, Charleston

OPERATING PARTNERS

- South Kolkata Hamari Muskan
- Ek Tara
- Rescue Foundation
- Shiksamitra
- The Light Space

- Women's Interlink Foundation
- Uddami India Foundation
- Calcutta Foundation
- Mustard Seeds
- Jeevan Adhar Transformational Aftercare Services

- Sunaayy
- Apple of God's Eye
- Freedom & Hope Nepal
- Suchana

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kara Penn, Board Chair, Principal and Owner, Mission Spark
- Diane Dávalos Beale - President, Expanded Learning
- Sarah Symons - Founder and Executive Director
- John Berger - Co-founder of HFC; Managing Director at Toniic
- Shira Weinert Cornfeld - Board Secretary; Artist & Educator
- Jeanette Pavini - Consumer Reporter, Author and Film Producer
- Danielle Hartley - Realtor and Interior Designer
- Lauren Clawson - Owner, Charleston Dog Walking Co.
- Anila Narayana - Student, University of Denver
- Mohini Tadakonda - Chief Advancement Officer, Movement Strategy Center
- Jenny Hansell - Board Treasurer; President, Berkshire Natural Resources Council



Gita and Ray come every day after school to our project for street and slum dwelling children. Without this project, they would not be in school and would likely be engaged in dangerous or degrading forms of child labor, trafficked, or forced into early marriage. Instead, they are in high school and pursuing their dreams to become a police officer and chemist. Your support enables the dreams of over 1200 survivors and high risk girls like these. Thank you!



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Photography by Paul Chelmis

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