

Xher
FUTURE

COALITION

Annual Report
2023-24

Focus on your work
Be Kind
Respect each other
Do your best.



My Dear Friends,

22 years ago, when I was first exposed to the issue of child sex trafficking through a documentary film, I was shocked and devastated. In fact, I was so moved that I decided that very day to dedicate the rest of my life to working on this issue. I had no idea if anyone would be willing to help, if more experienced leaders would be willing to guide and partner with us, or what it would really take to help girls recover from the trauma of long term, dehumanizing sexual violence.

Something a partner told me early in my journey has guided my path since that day:

“First you take the girls into your own heart. And then the energy comes up from inside you to protect them”.

Anti-trafficking activist Anuradha Koirala (2004)

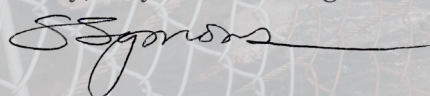
Thanks to this beautiful advice, I have always known what to do when my energy flagged: Just think of one girl: the challenges she has overcome to get to us, her dreams - perhaps being dared to be dreamed for the first time - the obstacles she still has to face. And the energy just flows and keeps flowing. Is it the same for you?


As we prepare to celebrate our 20 year anniversary, We continue to invest long term in survivors and high risk girls, believing that they have the power to change their societies from within. As girls grow into strong and successful young women, we are striving to put more power into their hands - to design and run programs, to advocate for themselves and others.

More than ever, we are leaning into our partnerships, because we believe that the world’s biggest problems can only be solved through collaboration. We continue to seek and to experiment with new ways to be of service to our partners, to help them amplify their impact and be even more successful.

I hope reading this report of the impact we have had over the past year - together with our community of supporters, partners, donors and volunteers - will renew your energy to keep walking alongside these girls on their long walk to freedom.

For their freedom and opportunity, may we be a bridge!





THE PROBLEM: SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DESTROYS GIRLS' LIVES AND FUTURES

According to the United Nations, over 5 million women and girls in India are currently living in slavery, including child marriage.

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 because girls' needs are not fully addressed. The cycle of exploitation can last their whole lives, and often continues into the next generation.

OUR MISSION IS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND EXPLOITATION BY PROVIDING EDUCATION AND HOLISTIC SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS AND VULNERABLE GIRLS

Since 2005, we have been working to ensure that survivors of trafficking and other forms of sexual and 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

Our programs give girls and women the tools to break intergenerational cycles of exploitation and extreme poverty. We give survivors the space and support they need to heal from the trauma of their past, and we work with high risk girls to prevent them from being victimized.

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

Her Future Coalition works in gender violence 'hot spots'- the poorest, most vulnerable areas of India and Nepal. Our beneficiaries are survivors of trafficking and rape, and girls growing up in red light areas, slum communities and villages with a high incidence of trafficking.

WE ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES

- ◇ The low status of women and girls in society
- ◇ The normalization of trafficking in some communities, leading to intergenerational exploitation
- ◇ Lack of job opportunities, training, and life skills
- ◇ Lack of awareness of human rights and human worth

OUR PROGRAMS:

SHELTER

Having a safe and loving space to recover is a crucial first step on the journey to freedom and independence. Her Future works with local 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*. Some girls are rescued as children and need shelter care until they reach adulthood.

In 2023, we supported 635 girls with shelter programs, supported the expansion of a rescue shelter in Kolkata, and opened a new red light area drop-in center. Through counseling, human rights education, peer support, sisterhood and love, we are able to create a healing environment where girls can move from a place of trauma and hopelessness to a place of strength and leadership.



RESOURCE CENTERS

Working closely with local partners, HFC operates five Resource Centers for children growing up in red light areas of Kolkata, and their mothers. The Resource Centers offer a safe space, and holistic services to kids. We provide counseling and vocational programs for moms, many of whom were trafficked into the area as children, and continue working in prostitution because they have no other means to take care of their children.

Children growing up in the red light area are highly vulnerable to sexual assault by their mothers' clients or by groups of men who crowd the streets of the red light area at night. 90% of girls and 75% of boys in Kolkata red light areas have been sexually abused by the age of eight. Without intervention, girls often end up trafficked alongside their mothers.

The Resource Centers help families break intergenerational cycles of exploitation and poverty, and stay together.



Shelter Programs

Jalpaiguri Shelter, West Bengal

HFC built the shelter in 2015 with Women's Interlink Foundation, and we continue to support the care of girls in the shelter

Red Light Resource Centers, Kolkata

Nijoloy Shelter, Kolkata

Shelter for survivors rescued from trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence

Rescue Foundation Shelter, Delhi

Shelter for girls rescued from sex trafficking and domestic labor trafficking

Jeevan Aadhar, Mumbai

Providing shelter for survivors who wish to pursue higher education



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.

Her Future Coalition supported education for over 800 students this year. 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, and mobile schools, libraries, and teacher training.



Education Programs

Nabadisha Centers

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

Middle School, Kolkata

Freedom School, Nuwakot, Nepal

Suchana

A mobile school and remedial education project serving marginalized tribal kids in rural West Bengal

Mustard Seeds

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

School & College Sponsorship

Support for high risk kids and youth at multiple locations. Sponsorship includes school fees, books, uniforms, food, tutoring, arts and sports

HER FUTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL by EKTARA

The Middle School, operated in collaboration with our long time local partners at Ek Tara, offers 250 girls a year from Kolkata's largest slum the means to break free from 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 labor and trafficking are serious issues in the community.

At the Middle School, girls receive high quality education, exceptional arts programming, STEM club, sports, health check ups and nutritious meals. Parents are given support to become partners in their daughters' education and advocates for girls' education. The transformation of this community over the past 13 years has been remarkable.



FREEDOM SCHOOL

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

The school opened in 2021, and is now educating over 150 kids. In 2023, we completed 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. 26 girls are now living in the dormitory.

Over the past two decades, trafficking of girls in this area has become normalized, to the point where virtually every family has daughters or wives in the red light areas 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 walk alongside her.



ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE



Computer training continues to be in high demand

Vocational training - combined with life skills, job placement support, and financial literacy training - give women a pathway to become financially independent and much 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.

Before joining our training courses, many of the women rarely left their homes in the slums, or stepped out of the red light area. Now they are out in the world, making money, starting businesses, driving positive change in their communities, and serving as a beacon of hope to others. This year, we offered vocational training to 295 women!

87% successfully completed their courses
79% increased their income
The average income increase was **460%**

We also saw a marked improvement in life skills, financial literacy, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

Vocational Programs

Computers and Spoken English

Proficiency in computers is a key to a professional careers. We partner with Uddami India Foundation to provide an intensive 6 month computer course

Bakery & Cafe Management

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

Beautician and Henna Arts

Many of the graduates of this course started their own businesses and are contributing to their family income

Textile Printing & Sewing

A popular choice for women needing immediate income to support their kids, and survivors moving out of shelters

Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design -

A perennial favorite, this program has evolved into a self-sustaining business managed by the artisans themselves



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

FINANCIALS & PARTNERSHIP

2023 INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Donations & Grants | \$1,887,815 |
| Investment Income | \$44,000 |
| Sale of Products Made by Survivors | \$47,284 |
| Total Income | \$1,979,099 |

2023 EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Education | \$520,555 |
| Shelter | \$679,240 |
| Economic Independence | \$255,600 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$74,897 |
| Admin/Overhead | \$55,364 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,585,656 |

845 girls supported in **Education**

635 served with safe & loving **Shelter**

295 women received vocational training for **Economic Independence**

8% of expenses used for fundraising & overhead

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 2021 Income | \$630,764 |
| 2022 Income | \$1,238,812 |
| 2024 Budget | \$1,580,000 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Education & College sponsorship | \$63,545 |
| Learning Center | \$68,847 |
| Middle School | \$63,000 |
| Freedom School | \$125,685 |
| Street Child Project | \$35,000 |
| Computer/STEM Education | \$25,000 |
| Other Education Programs/Staff | \$139,478 |

OPERATING PARTNERS

South Kolkata Hamari Muskan
Ek Tara
Rescue Foundation
Shikshamitra

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

Apple of God's Eyes
Freedom & Hope Nepal
Suchana
Jeevan Aadhar

We couldn't do it without them!

FOUNDATION & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Yoga Medicine SEVA Foundation
Meldrum Family Foundation
Ashmore Foundation
Henry Niles Foundation
Miss Amara

i=change
Rotary International
Guru Krupa Foundation
Impact Assets
Gupta Family Foundation

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

NEW AND UPCOMING

KIDDERPORE

We recently opened a resource center in the Kidderpore red light area. It includes a thrift store employing community women, holistic education programs for kids, and social work support for mothers and children. HFC has been working in Kidderpore since 2007. It was the first area where we worked in India, and it remains close to our hearts. The Kidderpore Center offers a remedial education program led by Sonali (former HFC beneficiary) for non-school going children in the area, and education/arts programs for our sponsorship kids in the area.

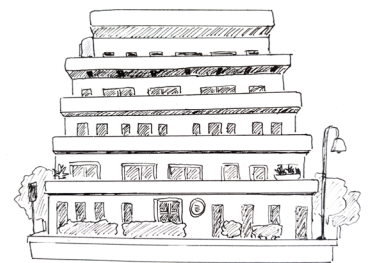


KENYA

After 2 years of research, needs assessment, and network-building, we made the decision to expand our work into Eastern Africa, beginning in Kenya. In summer of 2023, founders Sarah and John met with potential partners in Kenya, and in the winter, our Board voted to approve the expansion. We are launching new programs and partnerships in 2024, and will be offering an **immersion trip in summer 2025**.

NEW PROGRAMS AT OUR LEARNING CENTER

At the Learning Center in Kolkata's Sonagachi red light area, we offer education, vocational and mental health programs, workshops on womens' rights, human rights, therapeutic arts, and support services to hundreds of survivors and vulnerable girls. It is also Kolkata's first nonprofit co-working space. This year we offered new programs in wedding and event photography, graduated 4 cohorts of trainees in the computer and bakery programs, and opened our doors to new partners Calcutta Rescue, Joyya and Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre.



PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

20 Years of Wonder
HER FUTURE COALITION 2025 GALA

APRIL 24, 2025

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WONDER!

In 2025, we will be celebrating our 20 year anniversary with a shindig in Charleston on April 24. Please join us! Event details on our website

OUR TEAM

Nafiza Khatun
Chief Operations Officer



Amanda Cunningham
Managing Director



Sonali Biswas
Teacher & Mentor



Suchismita Ghosh Pal
Consultant CFO



Maura Hurley
Education Program
Director



Soma Seal
Program Director



John Das
Learning
Center Program

*We chose to depict
our team in a circular
form to illustrate our
commitment to equality.
Each person is valued
and essential to getting
the job done!*



Anjali Tamang
Senior Advisor, Nepal



Sarah Symons
Founder &
Executive Director

Tish Roy
Mental Health
& HR Director



Toby Banks
Institutional Giving

Sumaiya Khatun
Leadership Programs

Catherine Wanjohi
Senior Advisor, Kenya



John Berger
Co-Founder &
Senior Advisor

ADVISORY & VOLUNTEER

Tanya Kumar, Marisa Watts, Maya Berger, Elizabeth

Luttrell & Maxanne Most - ESL Teachers/Felix Fellows

Robin Singer - Tutoring Program Manager, Nepal

Sarah Annay & Paul Chelmis - Photography

Elizabeth Perkins - Office Intern

Andy Rosen, Carol Newberry, Bev Fogg, Rosemary Royer, Preethi Vaidyanathan, Tyler Singer-Clark - Virtual Teachers

Morgan Matous & Noemi Ira - Student liaisons, Univ. of Colorado Public Health Club

Dawn Moran, Susan Baer, Joani Brown, Tami Cirigliano and Jeanette Pavini - Jewelry Events

Nancy Edwards - Jewelry Trainer & Designer

Geeta Chaudry - Special Advisor - Equality

Wanjiru Wahome - Senior Advisor, Kenya

Lauren Bridgewater - Youth Liaison & Head of UCLA
Nepal Farmhouse Project

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kara Penn, Chair. Principal and Owner, Mission Spark

Shira Weinert Cornfeld - Secretary. Artist & Educator

Jenny Hansell - Treasurer. President, Berkshire Natural
Resources Council

Jeanette Pavini - Consumer Reporter, Film Producer

Mohini Tadakonda - Chief Advancement Officer,
Movement Strategy Center

Danielle Hartley - Realtor and Interior Designer

Lauren Clawson - Owner, Charleston Dog Walking Co.

Anila Narayana - Student, Harvard Medical School



her
FUTURE

COALITION



Photography by Paul Chelmis, HFC Staff & Partners

CONTACT US

PO Box 3403
St. Augustine, FL 32085
www.herfuturecoalition.org

 [Facebook.com/herfuture](https://www.facebook.com/herfuture)

 [/herfuturecoalition](https://www.instagram.com/herfuturecoalition)

 [@herfutureco](https://twitter.com/herfutureco)