



COALITION

2024 Impact Report

20 YEARS OF
Wonder



Dear Friends,

2025 is our 20 year anniversary. It has been a wild and wonderful journey, full of joys and challenges. Girls have come out of desperate, and degrading, situations to create lives as varied and as beautiful as they are. They are doctors and nurses, teachers and IT professionals, social workers, lawyers, and police officers, engineers and entrepreneurs, bakers, artisans and accountants. They run their own charitable projects and small businesses. They are mothers - raising educated and empowered children.

In the village in Nepal where we have our Freedom School, there used to be a 70% rate of trafficking and child marriage. As girls turned 11, they began to live in fear, that they would be sent to work in the brothels of India, or forced into marriage. In the area of Northern Kenya where we work, girls are often cut and married off in the summer break, before the start of a new school year. Every year, when the semester ended, girls would wonder if they would return to school, or if they would have to marry an older man, to start having babies and managing a household. In the red light areas of Kolkata, girls were raised to join their mothers in prostitution, beginning in their early teens. Families share one room in the brothel, and children see their mother exploited every night from infancy, so the abuse became normalized for them.

As a whole team, we commit to continue doing this work with all our energy and heart, so that girls never again have to live in such fear and uncertainty, wondering what their futures will look like.

As we celebrate this 20 year milestone, we continue to invest long term in survivors and high risk girls, believing that they will change their societies from within. We are striving to put more power into their hands - to advocate for themselves and inspire others. Each one brings unique gifts and skills to the table. It's the greatest joy and privilege to serve them, envelope them in love, and to do whatever it takes to help them move forward. We're going into our third decade stronger than ever, with new ideas, new programs and partners, and tons of energy to walk with girls from oppression to freedom, from despair to joy. Please walk with us. There is more joyful and hard work to do!

HFC Founder & Executive Director Sarah Symons



OUR MISSION TO PREVENT SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, GIVING SURVIVORS AND VULNERABLE GIRLS THE TOOLS TO BECOME AND REMAIN FREE FOREVER

WE WORK IN THE PLACES WHERE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS THE MOST SEVERE - the poorest, most vulnerable areas of India, Nepal, and Kenya. We serve survivors of gender violence, and girls growing up in red light areas, slum communities, nomadic and indigenous communities, and villages with a high incidence of trafficking and child marriage.

APPROACH: LONG TERM, INTENSIVE, COMMUNITY CENTERED PROGRAMS WHICH ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES

PROGRAM PILLARS: SHELTER, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, HEALTH & WELLBEING

A CULTURE OF KINSHIP, RESPECT & LOVE

Shelter

Rescue Shelters

When a girl is rescued from trafficking, child marriage, or any harmful situation, she needs a safe place to heal and build a future. Some girls are able to return to their families within a few months of rescue. Others may need shelter care for many years, if their families do not accept them back, were involved in the abuse, or cannot be found. Some girls are rescued as children and need shelter care until they reach adulthood.

Her Future works with local partners to build, expand and maintain shelters for rescued girls, and to support food, clothing, medical care and counseling - long term. HFC Shelter programs are designed to provide more than safety and basic needs. A holistic, strength-based and individualized approach gives girls the chance to heal from their trauma, to learn to trust again, to build resilience and leadership skills, and to identify and move towards their unique goals and dreams.



2024-25 Shelter Programs

Jalpaiguri Shelter, West Bengal

HFC built the shelter in 2015 with Women's Interlink Foundation. Jalpaiguri is a highly trafficked rural area near the borders of Nepal & Bangladesh. Tea growing is a major industry and many girls are trafficked on tea farms

Samburu Girls Foundation, Kenya

Providing shelter for survivors of child marriage, FGM, trafficking & rape. This new partnership launched in 2023 and has a strong focus on survivor leadership and community advocacy

Nijoloy Shelter, Kolkata

One of our first shelter projects, since 2010, a safe home for 150 girls rescued from trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence

Rescue Foundation Shelter, Delhi

Shelter for girls rescued from sex trafficking and increasingly, domestic labor trafficking

Jeevan Aadhar Homes, Mumbai

Residential program for survivors wishing to pursue higher education

Red Light Resource Centers, Kolkata

Freedom School Residential Care





2400
GIRLS
sheltered
8 SHELTERS
built or
expanded



RESOURCE CENTERS

HFC, working closely with local partners and community mobilizers, operates five Resource Centers in three red light areas of Kolkata. For children, the Centers provide safe space, education support, counseling, and therapeutic arts. Their mothers can access job training and alternative livelihood, counseling, supportive community and remedial education. Each of the Centers has its own unique vibe and services - to meet the needs of the people it serves.

- **The Sovabazar Learning Center has a focus on computer training, is Kolkata's first and only nonprofit co-working space, and offers training and employment in Bakery & Cafe Management**
- **Kidderpore Center houses a thrift shop which employs women and enables community members to buy quality clothing at prices they can afford**
- **The Sonagachi and Bowbazar Centers offer free daycare that keeps preschool children safe while their moms are working or getting training in cooking or jewelry making, helping them break free from exploitation**

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 being exploited alongside their mothers.

The Resource Centers are an alternative approach to shelter, enabling families to stay together while keeping children safe from abuse and exploitation. Together, these Centers provide a full range of services to over 500 women and children, helping families to break intergenerational cycles of exploitation and poverty.

This year we hope to purchase and refurbish a large building in the Bowbazar red light area to replace the small, rented accommodations we are currently using.



Education

Her Future Coalition provides education to over 1000 survivors and high risk girls each year. Many have never been to school before, or their education was interrupted due to exploitation, extreme poverty, or cultural norms that undervalue educating girls.

For girls growing up in red light areas, slums, or communities that engage in harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM, the percentage completing high school, or even primary school, is exceptionally low. For women trafficked into red light areas, 98% are illiterate, which is unsurprising given that 49% are trafficked before age 16. The majority of girls in these situations who attend school at all drop out before the age of 12.

Education breaks cycles of poverty and slavery, and gives girls the tools to build a bright, independent future, free from all forms of exploitation. Many of the graduates of our education programs go on to higher education and professional careers. 100% of children in HFC's education programs in 2024 remained free from trafficking, child marriage and child labor.

HFC Education Programs include: 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.



2024-25 Education Programs

Nabadisha Street Child Project

After school care, mentorship and education for 325 children in Kolkata

Her Future Middle School x EkTara

High quality education, with a focus on STEM and arts, for 250 girls from Kolkata's largest slum community

Freedom School

Survivor-led anti-trafficking program serving 150 indigenous children in rural Nepal

Life Bloom Leadership & Sponsorship Program

Serving 200 children from nomadic communities in Narok County, Kenya

The Apple of God's Eyes, Nepal

Primary, secondary and college education for survivors and high risk kids.

Suchana

A mobile school and remedial education project serving marginalized indigenous children in rural West Bengal

Mustard Seeds

Workshops, arts and library program for children in a Kolkata slum community

School & College Sponsorship

Education support for survivors and vulnerable kids in India, Kenya & Nepal.





FREEDOM SCHOOL

Survivor-Led Community Transtormation

The Freedom School launched in 2021 in the Nuwakot District of Nepal. The majority of Nepali trafficking victims come from rural indigenous communities such as this. Before the school came to the village, many young girls were being trafficked or forced into child marriage. Almost every family had daughters, sisters of mothers in the red light areas of India.

The Freedom School was a long time dream for its leader, survivor-activist Anjali Tamang. Anjali was an HFC beneficiary for many years and co-wrote a book with HFC founder Sarah Symons. The school is now educating over 150 kids, including 35 girls at highest risk living in our dormitories. Through quality education and community awareness, Anjali is determined to change the mindset of her people, and change the story for the next generation of girls.

OBSTACLES TO GIRLS' EDUCATION

COST

TRAFFICKING

SEXUAL ABUSE

TRANSPORTATION

CHILD MARRIAGE

MENSTRUATION

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

DISCRIMINATION

HFC Education programs address each of these obstacles in order to be successful in the complex, under-resourced contexts in which we work.

KENYA EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Remedial Education, Leadership, Higher Education Support

HFC began working in Kenya in 2023, focusing on pastoralist (rural nomadic) communities in the North and West. In these communities, girls as young as seven are at high risk of FGM, child marriage and sexual exploitation. These harmful practices cause many girls to drop out of school early, leading to high rates of illiteracy. This in turn makes it more likely that their daughters will suffer the same problems, so the abuse continues from one generation to the next.

Working with local partner organizations in a rescue shelter and in the public school system, we are paying school and college fees, providing remedial education for rescued girls to prepare them for mainstream education, and offering leadership and peer counseling training for girls and boys to learn to protect themselves and others.

Economic Independence

Economic Independence enables women to rise out of extreme poverty and makes them - and their children - less vulnerable to exploitation.

Vocational training - combined with life skills, job placement support, and financial literacy training- gives women a pathway to become financially independent. They gain power in their family and community - and the freedom to make choices for their lives.

In 2024, HFC provided 6-12 month vocational training courses to 325 women. For many trainees, this was the first opportunity in many years to do something for themselves and to convene with other women.



89% successfully completed their courses

79% increased their income

The average income increase was over 600%

80% enjoyed significant improvement in their life skills, confidence and emotional wellbeing



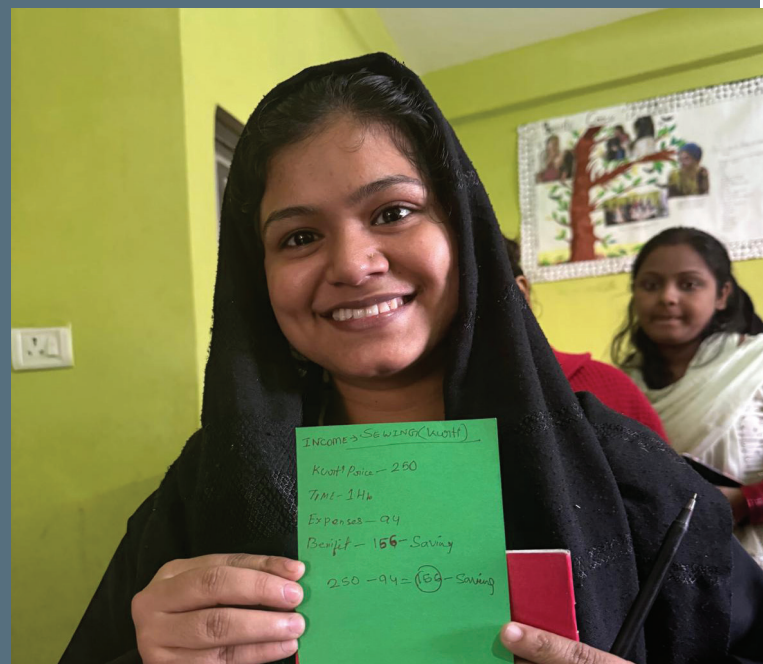
2024-25 Vocational Programs

INDIA:

Computers and Spoken English
Beautician and Henna Arts
Textile Printing
Retail (Thrift Store, Marketing)
Bookkeeping & Accountancy
Home Health Care
Bakery & Cafe Management
Sewing & Tailoring

KENYA:

Counseling & Community Advocacy
Beaded Jewelry & Entrepreneurship



Health & Wellbeing

Most girls come to HFC with significant trauma and little or no support network. Girls who have been trafficked have been robbed of bodily and personal autonomy. For many girls, abuse, neglect and betrayal has happened many times throughout their young lives. Suicidal thoughts, depression, disconnection from their bodies, and anxiety are common.

Ongoing mental health services are essential - in order for any other services to be successful. Mental health services are offered to all participants in all HFC programs, whether they are living in a rescue shelter, growing up in a red light area, or taking a computer or baking course. Services include group and individual counseling, therapeutic arts, leadership training, yoga and mindbody wellness.

Solutions are rooted in a larger human rights framework: teaching people their rights and applicable laws so that they are able to protect themselves and others. All services are offered in a trauma-informed and strength-based context - building on the girls' innate resilience and individual gifts. Perhaps most important of all, girls are surrounded by a supportive community of kinship and love, vital to their healing.



NEW & UPCOMING

We are excited about growing the programs in Kenya, while deepening the work in India and Nepal.

- In late 2025, we plan to purchase a building in the Bowbazar red light area for one of our Resource Centers.
- This fall, we begin construction of a new building at the Freedom School. The school is currently at full capacity, with 150 students, and we need additional and larger classrooms as our student body grows (in numbers and height!) Along with the building expansion, we are expanding trafficking awareness programs to reach girls at highest risk in other villages.
- In Kenya, we are adding a feeding program and gender-based violence prevention training for 750 Maasai children in a community where food insecurity is driving child marriage and trafficking.
- In early 2026 in Kolkata, we will pilot a Global Girls Leadership Program and a new mental health curriculum, and adding computer and English intensives at several project sites.



FINANCIALS & PARTNERSHIP

2024 INCOME

Donations & Grants	\$1,440,030
Investment Income	\$58,050
Sale of Products Made by Survivors	\$46,020
Total Income	\$1,544,100

2024 EXPENSES

Education	\$612,728
Shelter	\$530,825
Economic Independence	\$335,872
Fundraising Expenses	\$67,958
Admin/Overhead	\$72,051
Total Expenses	\$1,619,434

School Fees/sponsorship	\$163,545
School Construction - Nepal	\$65,000
Learning Center	\$81,053
Middle School	\$60,000
Freedom School	\$94,717
Street Child Project	\$35,000
Peer Leadership, Kenya	\$25,000
Computer/STEM Education	\$38,000
Kenya Education Programs	\$42,400
Other Education Programs/Staff	\$11,924

IN 2024:

<9%

of expenses used for fundraising & overhead

1010

children supported in Education

850

girls enjoyed safe & loving Shelter

325

women given tools for Economic Independence

2022 Income	\$1,238,812
2023 Income	\$1,979,099
2025 Budget	\$1,677,000

2024-25 FOUNDATION & CORPORATE PARTNERS

YOGA MEDICINE SEVA FOUNDATION
MELDRUM FAMILY FOUNDATION
MISS AMARA
HENRY NILES FOUNDATION
GUPTA FAMILY FOUNDATION
IMPACT ASSETS
ROTARY CLUBS OF FALMOUTH, MA & MADISON, WI
MAUNE, RAICHLE, HARTLEY, FRENCH & MUDD

I=CHANGE
ASHMORE FOUNDATION
GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION
CIRCLE OF SISTERHOOD FOUNDATION
CROSSROADS
COASTAL WEALTH MANAGEMENT
HENRY NILES FOUNDATION
MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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

OUR TEAM



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2024-25 OPERATING PARTNERS

INDIA

SOUTH KOLKATA HAMARI MUSKAN

EK TARA

CALCUTTA FOUNDATION

WOMEN'S INTERLINK FOUNDATION

UDDAMI INDIA FOUNDATION

SUCHANA

DIVINE SCRIPT SOCIETY

NEPAL

THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYES

FREEDOM & HOPE

KENYA

SAMBURU GIRLS FOUNDATION

LIFE BLOOM SERVICES INTERNATIONAL



Layla was trafficked with her mother in a roadside hotel

Now she's in college, pursuing a degree in social work

Joy was married at age 8

Now she's an engineer

Priyanka was born into a red light area, sharing one room with her family of 5, and abused by her mothers clients

Now she's a baker in a cafe

Saba grew up in a slum community. Her family struggled for basic needs

Now she's the first female gynecologist in her community

Dolly was trafficked into a circus as a young child

Now she's a nurse

20 YEARS OF

Dreams Restored

Patience was forced to sell her body for food as a young girl

Now she owns her own business

Tania's family lived under a bridge. She didn't start school until age 12

Now she's at the top of her high school class

Sitamaya was abandoned in a red light area as a toddler

Now she leads a program for street children

Asha was trafficked as a maid in a private home, enduring physical and sexual abuse

Now she's an IT professional

Ruth experienced FGM and was married at age 10

Now she's in college, studying international business

HERFUTURECOALITION.ORG
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Photography by Sarah Annay & Paul Chelmis