

2017



HER FUTURE COALITION  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2017**

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# 2017

## WHAT A YEAR!



### MISSION

To help survivors of gender violence - and girls at the highest risk - find and realize their individual goals and dreams, and to provide them the tools they need to remain free forever.



### IMPACT

In 2017, Her Future Coalition helped over 1,500 women and children on their journey to freedom and independence in India, Nepal and Thailand, through intensive programs offering shelter, education and employment.

Since our beginning in 2005, our focus has been on rebuilding lives and ensuring that the most vulnerable women and girls remain free forever. We now have the joy of seeing girls who joined our program as children becoming empowered, successful young adults, doing their part to create a better world.

### MILESTONES

- We added a third floor to our shelter housing **100+** girls in Jalpaiguri, North India
- Launched **3** Resource Centers in Calcutta red light areas, serving **250** women and children
- Supported an entire school for **275** survivors and high risk children in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Opened **3** new jewelry training centers in India & Thailand; providing economic opportunity to **40** women
- New education sponsorship program in Thailand now serving **500+** children
- At the request of the survivors we serve, changed our name to better reflect our work and values



## WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

I am so thankful for the transformations we have witnessed in individual lives, families and communities over the last 13 years! I'm also thankful for the growing awareness, activism and concern around women's issues over the past year. Around the world, attitudes about women are beginning to shift, and we are overjoyed by the positive effect of these shifts in the lives of our girls.

When I first got involved in the issues of gender-based violence, I was afraid that the darkness and tragedy of the situation would be overwhelming. Thankfully, once we jumped in and started working, the answers came - from the survivors themselves, from the children on the streets, from our valiant local partners.

We listened as rescued girls shared the circumstances surrounding their experience, and responded with programs to counteract those vulnerabilities. We listened as women who had been forced into slavery told us what they needed to get out of the cycle, and responded with programs enabling them to support and educate their children. We listened as our local partners talked about previous approaches that proved to be toxic, inefficient, or that did not meet the real needs of struggling girls and broken communities. We worked closely together to create new programs that were effective and sustainable.

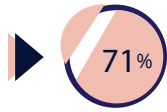
Through all this listening and responding, some trial and error, and some spectacular successes, we learned, and have created an organization which we can all be proud of. All of us - together - have created something beautiful and powerful, full of integrity and heart. In the lives of the most abused and vulnerable people, our programs are working, creating profound and permanent change.

I now know that no matter how awful a survivor's background is, the light within her is brighter and stronger and more powerful than the abuse. Our job is simply to open some doors so that her light can shine through, transforming her life and uplifting everyone around her. Thanks for believing in us this far. The best is yet to come!

SARAH SYMONS

# THE PROBLEM

**30-40 MILLION** PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE LIVING IN SLAVERY



Of all trafficking victims worldwide are **WOMEN & GIRLS**

► Girls represent **3** out of every **4** children trafficked

► **12 MILLION GIRLS** Enter into **CHILD MARRIAGE** every year

► **1 IN 3** of girls in the developing world are married before their 18th birthday

► **1 IN 9** before their 15th birthday

► Child marriage interrupts schooling and limits a girl's opportunities in life

► **7,200+ CHILDREN**

Report rapes in India each year. Among these, victims who do report the assaults often suffer mistreatment and humiliation from the police.

► **120+ MILLION GIRLS**

In the world (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.

## OUR SOLUTION - BUILDING FUTURES



**RESCUE**



**LEGAL AID & ADVOCACY**



**REBUILDING LIVES**

Breaking the chains of oppression requires several critical and interdependent steps. Her Future partners with respected local organizations who conduct rescues and provide legal aid or advocate for policy change. Our focus is on rebuilding the lives of survivors and those at high risk. Through a full circle approach, we address housing, mental health, education, human rights awareness, employment, social and family issues.

## LONG TERM COMMITMENT

Rescue without rehabilitation is like putting a band-aid on a bullet wound: ultimately, the injured person will not survive or thrive. We are not interested in short-term interventions because they are not effective for the people we serve, due to high levels of trauma, marginalization and the low status of women, which is deeply rooted in the communities where we work. Many rescued girls can never return home because their families were involved in trafficking them or because they are blamed for the abuse and outcast. They need help for years and we are committed to giving it to them.



# BREAKING THE CHAINS

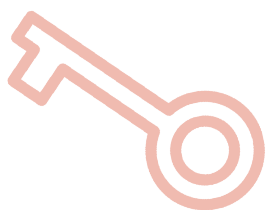


## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

For our organization to remain successful, our community of women and girls must eventually assume leadership. Through a human-rights based approach, a culture of continuous learning, and advancement opportunities, we empower and employ women to be leaders, teachers, and mentors for the next generation.

## WHO WE SERVE

Her Future serves survivors of gender violence, and extremely vulnerable women and children in the poorest parts of the world, including survivors and girls at high risk for:



Child sex trafficking

Child marriage

Rape and Incest

Child labor

Extreme Family Violence  
and Torture

## ► THEORY OF CHANGE

### HEALING

To become slavery-proof, survivors of gender violence need to gain tools to overcome the root causes of violence and discrimination. We provide shelter, education, and employment to women and girls throughout their journey to freedom and independence. This enables survivors and high risk girls to remain free forever.

### INDEPENDENCE & ACTIVISM

With education, employment, empowerment and emotional healing, the women and girls we serve will become leaders in their families and communities - the vanguard for broader social change.

Our goal, working together with partners around the world, is to create an army of activists who will end the scourge of gender violence once and for all.





## SHELTER

Her Future partners with local agencies to build, expand & maintain shelters for rescued girls, and to support the ongoing needs of girls in shelter care: food, clothing, medical care and counseling.

Shelter is the crucial first step in the girls' journey to recovery and freedom. Many girls are rescued as children and need a safe, loving home until they reach adulthood.

- ✓ [Jalpaiguri Shelter, West Bengal, India](#)  
Built in 2015. In 2017, we added a third floor, making room for **150** girls.
- ✓ [Red Light Resource Centers, Calcutta](#)  
Provides a safe space for **250** children and mothers.. Opened 2017.
- ✓ [Rescue Foundation Shelter, Delhi, India](#)  
Rescue Foundation conducts the most brothel rescues of any agency in Asia. We support ongoing care for **100** survivors at their shelters.
- ✓ [Nijoloy Shelter, Calcutta, India](#)  
We have been supporting this shelter since 2011, including constructing a 2nd floor with housing and services for **50** survivors.

## EDUCATION

Her Future supports the education of 1000+ survivors and high risk children in India, Nepal and Thailand. Our Education programs are designed to transform individual lives, families & communities.

The children in our newest sponsorship programs in Northern Thailand are marginalized, stateless, members of the indigenous Hill Tribes. Many are not able to access government sponsored education. Without education, they are extremely vulnerable to trafficking & exploitation.

- ✓ [Apple of God's Eye/Nepalese Home](#)  
Trafficking survivors; children from border areas
- ✓ [Princess Home, Nepal](#)  
Survivors and former street kids in Nepal
- ✓ [Ektara Community Foundation](#)  
Topsia slum community in Calcutta, India
- ✓ [Red Light Resource Centers - Hamari Muskan](#)  
Children living in a red light area in Calcutta, India
- ✓ [Divine Script](#)  
Red light area in Calcutta, India
- ✓ [Women's Interlink Foundation](#)  
Survivors of gender violence and high risk girls In Calcutta & Jalpaiguri, India
- ✓ [Mirror Foundation Free Schools, Thailand](#)  
Marginalized, stateless, hill tribe children





## EMPLOYMENT

Since 2005, high quality employment has been a priority. Survivors need employment to get out of shelters, remain free and support their children. This is fundamental in ending the cycle of poverty and violence.

Survivors who return home without economic alternatives are often re-trafficked or otherwise exploited. Our employment programs counteract this, enabling women to enjoy a bright, self-directed future.

- ✓ Rabindra Jewelry Center, Calcutta  
20 of our most highly skilled artisans, pioneers as some of India's first women goldsmiths.
- ✓ Red Light Resource Centers, Calcutta  
Training center in cooking and jewelry making for 30 women. Recently, trainees launched a successful food cart business serving the red light community.
- ✓ Nijoloy Training Center, Calcutta, India  
Launched in 2017. 10 trainees recently begun producing jewelry for sale, the first step towards self-sustainability.
- ✓ Chiang Rai Entrepreneurship Center  
Skills training, entrepreneurship and scholarships for 10 women, operated in partnership with Durga Tree International.

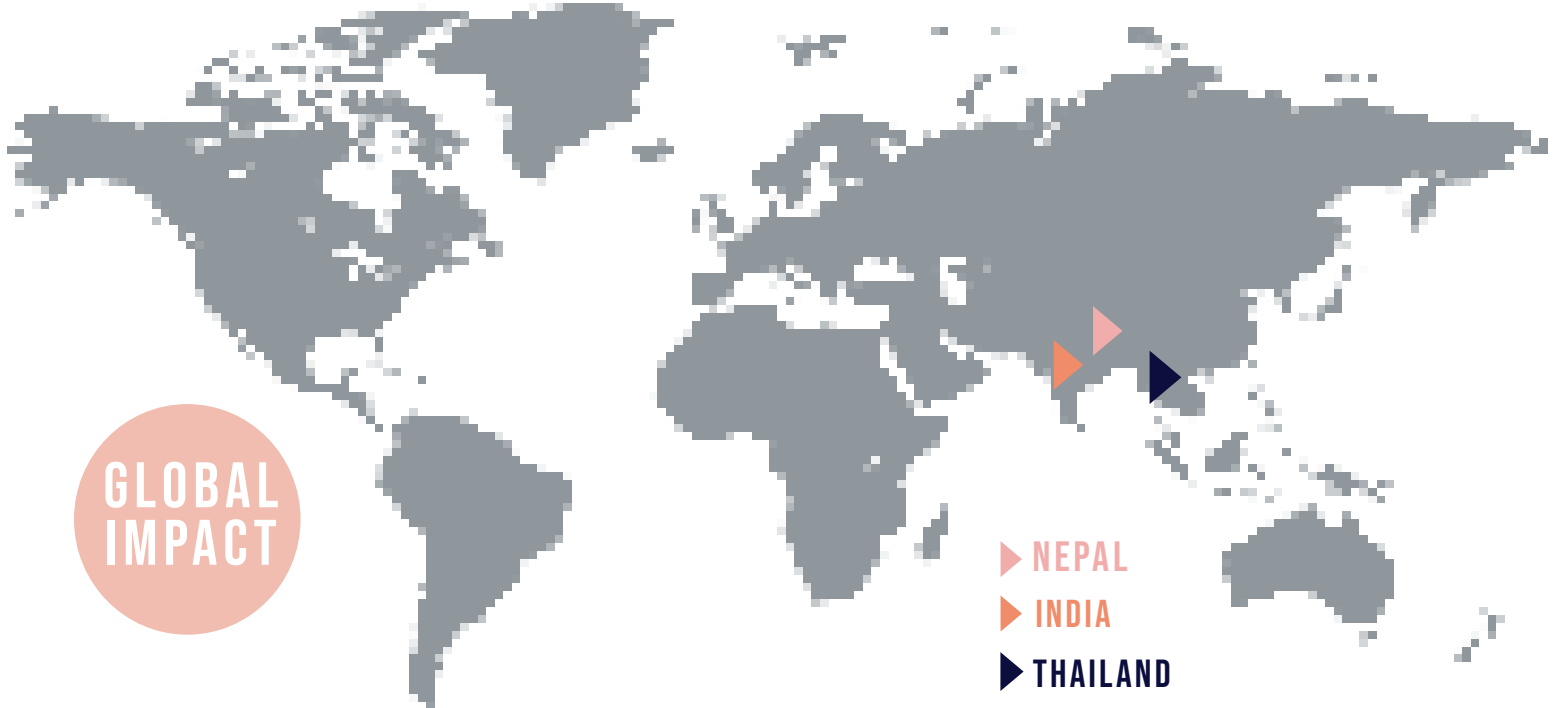


## EMPOWERMENT

The goal for all of our programs is for girls and young women to rejoin society, recover from trauma and enjoy happy, successful lives.

We create a culture of continuous growth, where love and dignity are the most important things we offer. We teach girls about their rights. We listen. We provide what they say they need, and adapt accordingly. After coming out of difficult or tragic situations, we see these women are support, rescue and inspire others. This changes their communities from within.

- ✓ Vision for Empowerment  
Offered a 6-week training workshop in photography to 20 girls in Calcutta. We have since helped 3 to find jobs as photographers, a male dominated profession!
- ✓ Choosing your Future  
We sent 22 girls to college last year including our first graduate school students. Saba is studying gynecology and Sarah is pursuing her Masters in Nursing!
- ✓ Financial Freedom  
Several women in our jewelry programs have savings accounts of \$15,000 or more.
- ✓ Leading the Charge  
Our newest training center is entirely managed by Dipa, a graduate of our first jewelry program.

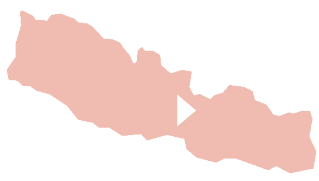
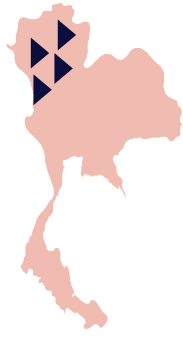
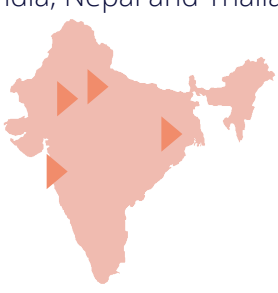


GLOBAL  
IMPACT

▶ NEPAL  
▶ INDIA  
▶ THAILAND

## ▶ WHERE WE WORK

The latest report from the UN estimates that there are **40 MILLION SLAVES** in the world today, with nearly **40% in SOUTH ASIA**. These same regions have the highest rates of child labor, child marriage, rape, extreme domestic violence and other issues affecting women and girls. Her Future strategically goes into the hardest, highest risk places. We provide life-changing programs serving survivors and girls at risk in India, Nepal and Thailand.



<h3>WHY INDIA?</h3> <p>India is caught between the developed and developing world. It has the highest GNP in the South Asian region with immense wealth alongside abject poverty, a massive population, and coupled with endemic and institutionalized misogyny.</p> <p><b>13 out of 40 million slaves worldwide are in India.</b></p> <p>▶ SHELTER, EDUCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT</p>	<h3>WHY THAILAND?</h3> <p>Violence against women is a major problem in Thailand, partly due to cultural beliefs about female submissiveness and filial responsibility. Bangkok is an international hub for sex tourism, and many women are forced into prostitution due to poverty. The Hill Tribes, who do not have Thai citizenship, have been disproportionately targeted for exploitation.</p> <p>▶ EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT</p>	<h3>WHY NEPAL?</h3> <p>Nepal is a source country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. A 15 year Maoist insurgency and a series of devastating earthquakes in 2015-2016 have diverted law enforcement away from the problem. <b>15-20 Nepali girls are trafficked each day</b> into India and the Middle East. Most never return.</p> <p>▶ SHELTER AND EDUCATION</p>



# WHY HER FUTURE?

Unfortunately, the rate of recidivism for girls who have been violated or trafficked is high. So often, this is because only one part of the girls' lives are addressed. They are rescued but given no options for a new life. Because of our commitment to providing our girls a new and hopeful future, not one of the women in our employment programs has returned to a life of exploitation.

Having done this work for well over a decade, we have a deep understanding of the culture, and an even deeper commitment to empowering our girls to change their culture from within. We are thrilled to see this happening as more of our women and girls use their healing, voice, and hope to not only advance themselves, but to support and advocate for the most vulnerable women and girls in their communities.



## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GIRLS

### ● MIA'S STORY

Mia is 9 years old and the oldest of four children. She is sweet, serious, delicate of build, a worrier, precise about everything she does. Mia's mother was trafficked into prostitution in her teens. Her Future has sponsored Mia's education since 2015. She also attends art classes, gets tutoring, nutrition, counseling and loving care at our Red Light Resource Center when her mother is seeing clients. Without this help, Mia would not be able to go to school and would be victimized by clients of the brothel where she lives. Now, instead, she is getting an education. She has learned to read and has beautiful, careful handwriting. She plans to become a police officer, so she can protect people in her community. For now, she is very protective of her younger brother and sisters.

### ● LAI'S STORY

Lai is 18 years old, a tomboy with short, bright red hair who is always laughing and joking. She is a member of the Akha hill tribe in Thailand. Lai and her family do not have Thai citizenship, so they are not able to work legally. Because of the lack of employment options, discrimination and poverty, Hill Tribe girls have been targeted for trafficking for decades. At one point, the problem was so severe that there were entire villages without a single girl over the age of 12. Lai was about to be trafficked to Bangkok, which is why she was selected for our jewelry program. She has excelled, and has used her income to buy a motor scooter and help her family. She is no longer at risk for trafficking because she is self-supporting and knows her rights.

### ● TINA'S STORY

Tina, 17, was rescued from a brothel and sent to Jalpaiguri Shelter last year. She was sold by her father and stepmother to traffickers, after a bad crop year. She was drugged and taken across the border from Bangladesh to India. When she awoke, she was violently raped by several men for 3 days to break down her resistance and identity. Despite a high level of trauma, Tina is beginning to recover now that she is in a safe space, receiving counseling and remedial education. She was overjoyed to be selected for the photography project that we offered at the shelter. She is illiterate and had never held a camera before, so she was nervous about the technology, but picked it up quickly. Tina told us that this was the first time she felt she was good at something.

# MEET OUR TEAM

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

SARAH	JOHN	PAUL	NAFIZA	SOMA	HEATHER
<b>SARAH SYMONS</b> Founder and Executive Director	<b>JOHN BERGER</b> Co-Founder CFO	<b>PAUL SUIT</b> Managing Director	<b>NAFIZA KHATUN</b> India Director	<b>SOMA SEAL</b> Program Director; Trainer & Counselor	<b>HEATHER DEYO</b> Director of Business and Development

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Dávalos Beale, Board Chair - President, Expanded Learning

Sarah Symons - Founder and Executive Director

Mark Harvey - Former Head of Treasury Operations, Nationwide Building Society, UK

Shira Weinert Cornfeld - Arts Educator, former New York City Special Education Teacher

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

Jennifer Hansell - Executive Director, Berkshire Conservation Trust

## PART-TIME, VOLUNTEER & ADVISORY TEAM

Maura Hurley - Sponsorship Coordinator

Dianna Badalament, Nancy Edwards and Felicity Denby -

Jewelry Trainers/Designers & Strategic Advisors

Mark Harvey - Social Media Manager

Meredith Lockwood - Creative Direction & Graphic Design

Sarah Annay - Vision for Empowerment Trainer & Director

Angela Walter - Jewelry Party Coordinator

Aslyn Baringer - Videographer

Jim Kennedy - Photographer

## ACADEMIC PARTNERS

Babson University

University of Texas, San Antonio

Weston College, North Somerset, U.K.

## FOUNDATIONS & MAJOR GIFTS

Foster Family Foundation

Anneberg Foundation

Friends of Jill Karp, 2017 *Gentle Warrior Award* Recipient

# OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

We are passionate about collaboration as a means to solve the world's biggest problems. Our partners in the field play a crucial role in our work. Their local knowledge and connections as well as their unwavering commitment to the people we serve together, make it possible for us to help many more people and to remain extremely cost-efficient.

▶ <b>WOMEN'S INTERLINK FOUNDATION</b> West Bengal, India Education and Shelter	▶ <b>EKTARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION</b> Calcutta, India Education	▶ <b>SOUTH KOLKATA HAMARI MUSKAN</b> Calcutta - Red Light Resource Centers and Education	▶ <b>RESCUE FOUNDATION</b> Mumbai and Delhi Shelter Care Programs
▶ <b>APPLE OF GOD'S EYE</b> Kathmandu, Nepal Education	▶ <b>MIRROR FOUNDATION</b> Chiang Rai, Thailand Education and Employment	▶ <b>DURGA TREE INTERNATIONAL</b> United States - Education and Employment in India and Thailand	

# FINANCIALS

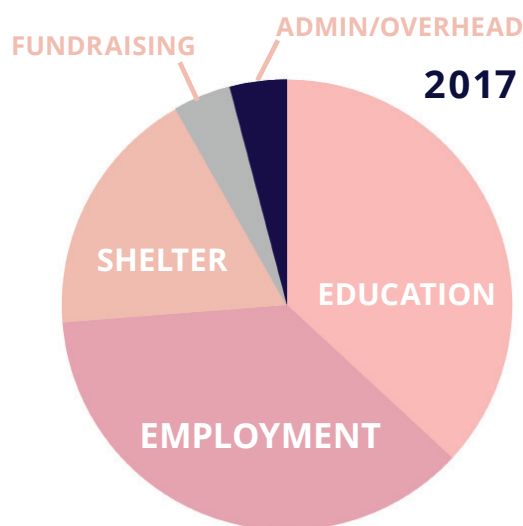
## ► 2017 FINANCIALS (audit in progress)

### ● INCOME

Individual Donations	\$334,531
Grants	\$270,000
Sponsorship Donations	\$25,481
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$630,012</b>

### ● EXPENSES

Employment Programs	\$218,724
Education	\$241,435
Shelter	\$113,323
Fundraising Expenses	\$13,851
Admin/Overhead	\$22,460
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$609,793</b>



**We spend less than 10% of our income on fundraising and administration.**

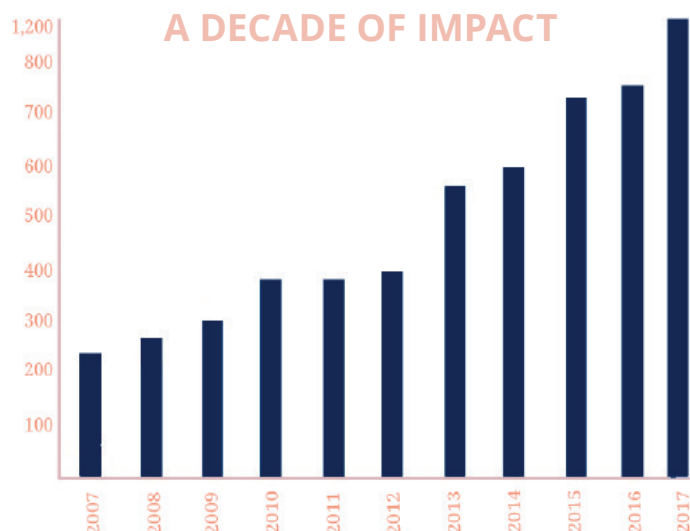
## ► 2016 FINANCIALS (audited)

### ● INCOME

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$510,216</b>
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### ● EXPENSES

Employment Programs	\$119,093
Education	\$141,310
Shelter	\$135,680
Fundraising Expenses	\$19,759
Admin/Overhead	\$18,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$434,435</b>



## MULTIPLYING IMPACT

Employing and empowering women has a powerful multiplying impact. Women in the developing world invest on average **90%** of their income on their families. The young women in our employment programs are passionate about giving back. Many pay it forward by rescuing others, preventing trafficking, training new girls, volunteering at shelters, mentoring others at risk in their local communities.





# CONTACT US

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[www.herfuturecoalition.org](http://www.herfuturecoalition.org)  
@herfuturecoalition



**YOUR  
SUPPORT MAKES  
HER FUTURE  
POSSIBLE!**

**THANK YOU!**