

RAPHA HOUSE

SPRING UPDATE

2019





Rapha House International is excited to announce that we have broken ground in Haiti and are well into the dirt work process for our new safe house campus!

Construction work in Haiti comes with many challenges, but we are thankful for a committed team who shows up every day to continue the progress. When completed, this facility will be a beautiful oasis for children who have survived trafficking and sexual exploitation. Rapha House is thankful for the DoTERRA Healing Hands Foundation, which has underwritten the build of this safe house campus.



Survivors Serving Others

Siem Reap

At Rapha House, we are excited to see girls transform from being exploited victims to becoming strong survivors. It is powerful to see them emerge from pain and begin to experience lives full of love, joy, and hope. One of the most beautiful expressions of this transformation is when they are able and eager to reach out with hearts full of compassion to help others in need.

Twice each year, a local church organizes and invites our girls to participate in outreach programs in remote villages to share the gospel through the Word of God and acts of kindness. The program includes both teaching and meeting practical needs by sharing food and clothing. We also roll up our sleeves for acts of service like picking up trash, planting flowers, and doing lice treatments for the village children.


The girls love getting to be a part of this outreach team. They jump right into the tough and dirty jobs with sweat pouring down and faces bright with smiles. At the end of the day they all say that they are exhausted, but so happy.

How is it that these girls who have been broken and traumatized from terrible abuse can love so well?


I believe it's the fruit of being loved well. When girls come to Rapha House, they receive the love of Jesus Christ every day through caring and compassionate caregivers, counselors, teachers, and other staff. When they allow themselves to open their hearts to accept and trust that love, the hard work of healing can begin.

We are so thankful for your investment in the ministry of Rapha House. Your commitment to this work allows girls the opportunity to experience the healing love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your financial and prayer partnership.

Jenni | *Associate Director - Cambodia*



Be a part of the team in Siem Reap and Battambang by providing love and healing to these amazing girls. Become a monthly Safe House Partner by going to our website.



WWW.RAPHAHOUSE.ORG/SPRING19



Sweet Home

Battambang

For the first few years after opening our special needs home we called it the “small house”. However, due to the powerfully sweet hearts and lives that embodied this space, “small house” did not reflect or express the love and personalities indwelling this space. It was quickly renamed by our staff “sweet home.” Our “sweet home” consists of survivors of trafficking, rape, and sexual exploitation, who also have special needs. When you enter this oasis you find a place of healing and peace as both the house mothers and girls have made this special place their home. This name has stuck over the years as it is a place that brings “sweet memories” of the sweet hearts whose lives have been transformed in the loving arms of the women who have cared for them. This transformation spills over from these girls into the lives of the staff, many teams, and all who have encountered their love and contagious spirits.

In Cambodia, these sweet faces are often pegged as having two strikes against them; they are disabled (and therefore seen as a throw away), and they have been victims of abuse (meaning they are unlucky and they have bad karma). Psalm 139:13 & 14 says: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Each of our girls’ lives were knit together by the hand of our Creator. Each girl is fearfully and wonderfully made. It has been powerful to watch both our staff and our girls’ minds be transformed by this understanding that God did not accidentally create anyone. God placed value, love, and purpose into every life He created; this is just one way we are witnessing life-change in Cambodia. Donna Burkle, our Special Needs Manager in Cambodia, reminds our staff often that we are striving to empower our girls with their abilities, not limiting them by their disabilities. Don’t limit God, He created you for a purpose.

Hannah | *Country Director - Cambodia*

wonderfully
made

International Women's Day

I am continually humbled by the willingness of our staff to support, empower, and encourage the girls in our care. March 08, 2019 marked the 108th year of International Women's Day. This is a national holiday in Cambodia; our staff has the day off and our girls have no school. More than half of our staff volunteered to come in to observe the holiday with the girls by celebrating the importance of their lives together. We grilled food and had a giant picnic in a former airport hangar. We played games, danced, and released balloons in celebration of how God created each of us for His good purpose. We are thankful for each of the girls in our care and the women who lead, mentor, teach, raise, and love these special young women!

Hannah | *Country Director - Cambodia*

Gala

Rapha House International celebrated our 15th anniversary this past fall! We hosted a Winter Masquerade Gala at our international headquarters in Joplin, MO to commemorate the occasion. The night was a celebration filled with stories and memories of what Rapha House has accomplished through the years alongside our faithful partners. Whether you were there in person or not, **thank you for fighting alongside us for the last 15 years.** You make the work of Rapha House possible, and we hope you will continue to partner with us on this journey forward!



