

From Womb to Warrior

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Letter From the CEO



HOW IT STARTED

In 2007 when I started this journey, I took over a fledgling orphanage with limited resources – it was much like many orphanages in India and around the world. These children who came from hard places had their basic physical needs met of food, shelter and clothing. They went to the local language government school where they learned very little and often ended up in devastating life circumstances. They remained powerless against the generational cycles of extreme poverty and exploitation that continued to plague their family. The solutions and systems were broken.

After spending time with the children, we realized that just providing for their physical needs wasn't enough. We discovered that a much deeper journey of love, care, and healing was needed. Care that was personal, that resulted in deep relationship, trust and belonging. Care that emanated from hearts that saw each girl not as an orphan, but as a daughter welcomed into our family – for life.

James 1:27 taught us that the depth of our calling was to fully investigate the needs of the orphan and vulnerable – to take responsibility, by God's grace, for meeting those deep needs. Needs of healing from trauma, vulnerability, and the brutal violence that is accompanied by multi-generational poverty. Needs for safety, belonging, healing and empowerment. **In doing this, we would be able to propel them from a place of vulnerability into an opportunity where they could reach their full intended purpose and become world changers – finally free from the bondage of their past and now warriors ready to fight for the next generation.**

After 15 years, I'm amazed how God has used As Our Own in the lives of the children he has brought into our family. I'm extremely proud of each of our daughters – for their courage and how hard they have worked to overcome obstacles in their own lives. They have embraced God's blessings and have worked to ensure the next generation won't be enslaved and bound to broken systems of mediocre solutions. Our daughters are fiercely loyal, driven and ambitious in how they want to fight for others and have been forged for something greater than themselves. Each are true warriors. Warriors that see the world as it could be and are set on contributing to its reformation with ferocity.

But even as we see our children thriving, we have uncovered more of the darkness to combat. **We have discovered the age at which evil is being orchestrated has gotten younger and younger – even beginning in the womb.**

"I want to be a warrior for my younger sisters and for those who do not have hope. Those who are helpless, needy, and trapped in slavery. I want to raise my voice for them and fight for them. And that can only happen because of God's love in my own life. Through that I have learned how to love and fight for others." Preena

When a mother learns she is pregnant, the news is not met with joy, but rather with brutal beatings intending to harm the growing baby in the womb. If an abortion is avoided, unqualified peers often handle the delivery, which takes place in unsanitary and unhygienic circumstances. Complications ranging from birth disorders, infections and death are common. What is worse, once born, this baby is now a burden and subjected to repeated abuse affecting her sense of security, identity and development. We must intervene earlier to reduce the effects of complex trauma and to rescue her from this pervasive darkness. With the launch of our Lighthouse Care Center, we are able to do just that – creating a place of refuge located in the red-light district and paving a pathway out of the darkness and into our family – for life.

None of this is possible without a family of advocates surrounding our warrior daughters: the As Our Own family, loving, caring and fighting for them; you – our donors, partners and champions globally and even our Junior Board who rally their peers across schools and universities. I am thankful beyond words for your investment and influence in their lives. You have fought to protect and empower them, and now you inspire and enable them to take their place in the battle as we all fight for the next generation of vulnerable children.

With many blessings,

RALPH BORDE
FOUNDER AND CEO



HOW IT'S GOING



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The Crisis

India is home to over one-sixth of the world's population. Its culture is among one of the oldest. With contributions ranging from finance, technology, and business, India has raised some of the most powerful and sought-after executives, who are leaders in corporations around the world.

However, over 44 million of India's children are born into a high-risk slum or red-light district and are trapped within the horrors of generations-deep cycles of slavery and extreme poverty.

As this number continues to grow due to the increase of global instability and economic depression, children have become helpless victims to predators lurking to take advantage of and exploit their vulnerability. For some, surviving in this environment means preying upon others - even within their own family. Heartbreaking tales of abuse, rape and abandonment prevail within this ecosystem of exploitation and darkness and there is little hope for escaping the systemic brokenness.

India is facing a crisis

SOLD FOR SEX

A dozen girls, four of them below seven, were rescued by a team that raided brothels following a tip-off. Some of the girls, still in school uniforms, were found having been injected with hormones to get them ready for commercial sexual exploitation.

RAPED AT EIGHT MONTHS

Cries could be heard outside the home. An eight month old baby, left in the care of a family member, was found by her mother lying in a pool of her own blood and feces. This baby, surviving this torture, had been brutally raped and abused.

DRUGGED AND SOLD

A girl had something slipped into her drink. She woke up thousands of miles away in a brothel. Locked in the dark, she was relentlessly abused until she obeyed without question. Her new reality was made clear as customers began to arrive.

NINE YEAR OLD BRUTALIZED

A nine year old had gone out to fetch water from the cooler at the neighborhood crematory and ended up dead. A group of men in her village had gang-raped and electrocuted her. She did not survive.

ALONE AFTER AIDS

Her father contracted AIDS after spending time in the red-light district. After returning home, he passed the disease along to his wife which ultimately killed them both. Their three year old daughter was now left alone, orphaned and vulnerable.

TORTURED AT SIX YEARS OLD

After her mother died, her father remarried. Her stepmother tortured her with beatings. Eventually she forced her to become a slave laborer.

ORPHANED FROM THE PANDEMIC

In the dark, twin sisters often wake up crying and seized with fear. At five years of age, the girls lost both parents to COVID-19 leaving them orphaned and alone. There is no one to care for or protect them. Their situation is dire, but no one intervenes for fear of the virus.

The Depth of Darkness

For a child conceived in India's high-risk slums or red-light districts, the threat to their life begins in the womb. From repetitive abuse or brutal beatings inflicted upon the mother, the pressure for a forced abortion is high. This child is a curse. To be pregnant is an interruption, inconvenience and hindrance – a burden.

If the child survives the pregnancy, their life, unplanned and unwanted, is immediately endangered with the stark realities of extreme poverty, exploitation and enslavement. And while both boys and girls are threatened, being born a female is an added burden that compounds her undesirability and places her in greater danger.

Young girls, as young as five or six years of age, are being forced into the sex trade to be abused and brutalized at the whims of others and from the very beginning, those intended to protect, become her predator.

Their stories vary, but their situations are similar. Some are kidnapped, others abducted. Some are promised a better life and others are drugged and driven thousands of miles from their family and friends. Others are enslaved simply because their birthplace is a brothel, sold into second-generation servitude because their mothers are also enslaved. It is a life full of terror.

Without intervention, generation after generation will be robbed and **girls will continue to be victimized.**



The Cycle of Darkness

The realities facing girls born into vulnerability are dark and hopeless. According to the UN, India is the most dangerous place to be born a girl. The systems that govern within this world exist to perpetuate family-based helplessness and devastation.

The same fate imposed upon her mother and previous generations, is now her own. It is a life that inflicts repetitive trauma and overwhelms with crippling shame.

She is taught that she has no innate value or worth, rather she must accept what was predestined from conception which gives those who abuse permission to wreak these acts of terror without consequence.

There seems to be no way to escape, and she is defenseless against this system perpetuated with evil. This cycle of darkness is endless, hopeless, and strengthened with the promise of her demise and destruction.

Stage 1

PREGNANCY & BIRTH

Prenatal Trauma – An unwanted pregnancy is often met with severe abuse and brutal beatings, including kicks to the stomach.

Abortion – Pregnancy is bad for business and can mean a loss of income for brothel owners. Even though illegal, these women are forced to comply. Nearly 16 million abortions are reported annually.

Born a Burden – Caring for a child puts extreme financial pressure on a new mother and without a support network, she must carry this weight alone.

Born a Commodity – Child traffickers see her as a soon to be sex-slave, to be groomed as a future source of income.

Unhygienic Delivery – Without medical intervention, most deliveries are handled by fellow sex workers in the brothels.

Birth-day Deaths – Every year 309,000 babies die on their day of birth in India. That equates to 29% of first day deaths globally.

Birth Defects – Babies suffer with residual effects resulting from malnutrition, substance abuse, repetitive beatings and prenatal neglect during the pregnancy globally.

Stage 2

BABIES & TODDLERS

Postnatal Care – Babies are treated at home as doctors are not easily available and are expensive.

Child Mortality – India is the only large country where more girls die than boys, with the inverse sex ratio at birth being 900 girls born for every 1000 boys.

Malnutrition – Without the means to provide a nutritious meal, children are left to scavenge for their next meal. One third of the world's under-nourished children live in India.

Infant Rape – Babies are defenseless and left vulnerable to the whims of pedophiles who seek to steal their innocence. Every 15 minutes a child is sexually abused in India.

Exposure to Abuse – Children are kept under or tied to the bed while their mothers are repeatedly abused night after night and forced to work as a sex slave.



1

PREGNANCY
& BIRTH



2

BABIES &
TODDLERS

3

EARLY
CHILDHOOD



4

ADOLESCENT &
YOUNG ADULT



Stage 3

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Sold into Slavery – As early as five and six, girls are sold into a life of sex slavery where she will service over 15 clients a day. 95% of girls born in the red-light district become enslaved.

Abandonment – Children orphaned are left on the street to defend themselves against those looking to exploit and enslave. There are over 31,000,000 orphans in India alone.

Child Marriage – Girls married early are more likely to experience violence, abuse and forced sexual relations due to unequal power relations. India has the largest number of child brides in the world – one-third of the global total.

Stage 4

ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT

Disease – Sexually transmitted diseases are typically left untreated and wreak havoc on a girl's physical health.

Early Pregnancy – Leaving birth control up to the client, early pregnancies are inevitable and the cycle of darkness continues to the next generation.

Premature Death – With a lifetime of abuse and trauma, the life expectancy for most women in red-light districts is around 30 years of age.



WHAT IF WE COULD END THIS
CYCLE OF DARKNESS?

WHAT IF HER LIFE HAD A
DIFFERENT STORY TO TELL?

From Womb to Warrior

To end this cycle of darkness, **the light must be present from the very beginning.**

When the light is present, the darkness retreats. As warriors of the light, As Our Own engages in the battle at the very beginning and remains present throughout the lifetime of each child – from womb to warrior.

Our commitment is not only to rescue vulnerable children from extreme poverty and certain exploitation, but to protect, empower, love and care for each child, not as an orphan, but as our own daughters – for life. We stand in the gap to shield her from the darkness that threatens her very existence.

We go beyond simply meeting her physical needs of food, shelter, clothing and provide opportunities that develop her capacity – uncovering her intended and unique purpose. We invest everything possible to bring a depth of healing and redemption to her heart that enables her to break through the generational cycle of vulnerability, poverty and enslavement.

We fight until she is ready to fight – then together, as an army, we combat the darkness for the next generation.

WHAT IS A WARRIOR?

- A warrior is strong and confident in her identity
- A warrior is equipped and ready for battle
- A warrior stands for truth and justice
- A warrior fights for those who cannot fight for themselves

The darkness cannot win.
The light has declared a war.

Life begins in the womb. The moment a child is conceived they are helplessly engulfed by a battle between light and dark, good vs. evil. There is a vast difference between the way a daughter is viewed in the darkness vs the light. Unable to fight for themselves, this unborn baby is defenseless and completely vulnerable to the whims of the world surrounding their mothers. Those who are present from these very early stages of development define this baby's worth and value. They determine her future and whether she survives.



THE DARKNESS:

- Born a burden
- Identity as an orphan to be exploited
- Created as a commodity to be used and abused
- Lives a life bound by shame and oppression
- Hopeless with no dreams of a future
- Stuck in a vicious cycle of generational poverty



THE LIGHT:

- Born a blessing
- Identity as a daughter to be cherished
- Created for a unique purpose with intrinsic value and worth
- Lives a life of freedom and empowerment
- Hopeful to pursue dreams for a brighter future
- Seeks to rescue and care for the next generation



In the Darkness

FROM THE WOMB

The moment a mother realizes she is pregnant, we are present. The pressure surrounding her to abort the baby is high and through established relationships, we ensure the mother understands there is an alternative to ending the pregnancy, that she isn't alone and that another future is possible for their child. We provide them with nutritional, medical and emotional support throughout the pregnancy so that any developing child is cared for, even in the womb.

BORN A BLESSING

When the time comes for her baby to be born, she is taken to a hospital to receive proper care from trained medical staff. This new life is celebrated as a blessing rather than a burden.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Lighthouse Care Center is located in the heart of the red-light district. It provides a place where children can seek refuge and receive love and care from our trained staff while removing the child from situations of potential abuse while they are still living in the district with their mothers.

RESCUE FROM DARKNESS

Working through our freedom network, vulnerable children living in dire situations are identified. We then become their advocate- standing in the gap, working to rescue them into our care and bringing them into our family – for life.

FREEDOM:

Working in high-risk areas, the Freedom Team identifies pregnant mothers and vulnerable children that are imminently in danger and urgently in need of help. Through patient and consistent attention, women and children gradually respond to our ongoing advocacy, allowing us to step in and provide safe solutions through programs offered in our Lighthouse Care Center.



The Transition

HEART CARE

The rescued children don't join an institution, but are accepted and cared for through the steady, unconditional love of a family consisting of trained staff and counselors. We work to heal trauma, build trust and develop healthy attachment. We care for them, not as a vulnerable child, but as a daughter.

DEVELOPING CAPACITY

With the loving and stable commitment of a family, girls begin to thrive. We work to cultivate each daughter's unique talent so that she becomes confident in her individual identity. A quality English education is critical for combating social prejudices, allowing children the opportunity to become women of influence in society-the changemakers in our world.

VICTORY THROUGH FAMILY

Family, for life. We go beyond the basics of food, shelter and clothing making the pursuit of their dreams possible. By laying a solid foundation, we empower them to make decisions from a place of safety and security. We walk with them through every life stage and every season. This family is extensive, stretching out globally as our student-led Junior Board advocates for them in school and our donors support them.



In the Light

INFLUENCING IMPACT

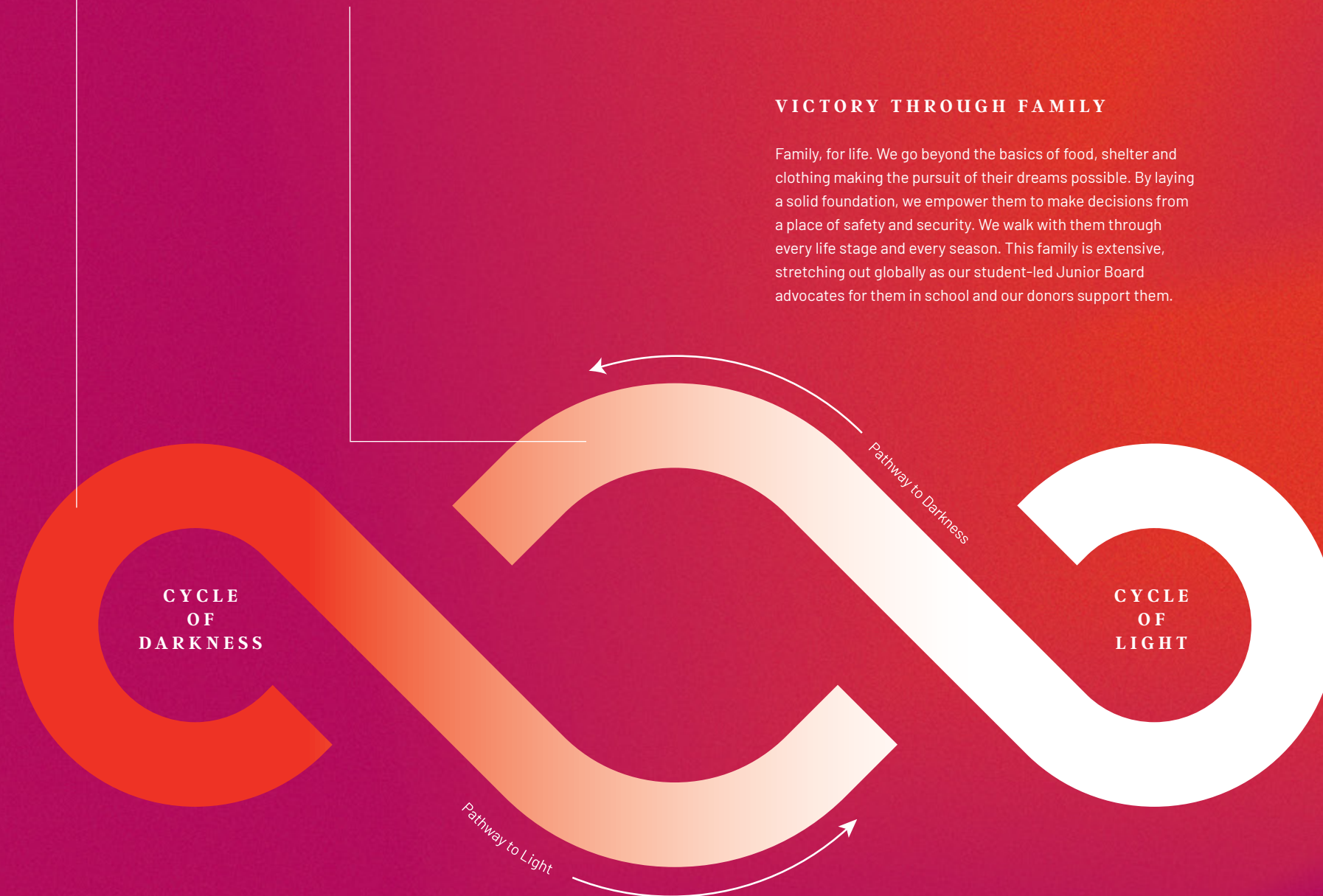
As a daughter begins to look ahead and plan for their future, she turns to her trusted counselors – her family. Pursuing college and advanced degrees is the catalyst for becoming an influential member of the community, whether through her career or by starting a stable, loving family of her own.

THE WARRIOR DAUGHTER

Because of her courage, her integrity and her inclination to look out for the least of these, she joins an army of warriors who seek to shine the light into the darkness. Instead of being only a recipient of the outpouring of passion from her family, she is now a leader in the movement to change the way the world cares for vulnerable children.

THE EMPOWERED RETURN

Now an empowered warrior, each daughter uses her talents, skills and network to break the same cycle of brokenness that was eliminated in her own life. She is now engaged in the battle, taking the light back into the darkness, fighting for the next generation.



FAMILY CARE:

Our Family Care Institute prioritizes the state and wellbeing of each child's heart. Rescued children are soothed through the steady, daily love of a Warrior Family consisting of staff, counselors and donors. We work to heal trauma, build trust and develop healthy attachment. We love and care for them by providing a nurturing, safe relationship that reiterates how valuable they are as a daughter in our family.

FUTURE:

Our Future Program provides a world-class English education through university and, works to develop each young girl's capacity. With the loving and stable commitment of a family, girls begin to thrive. Gifts and talents begin to shine through and we work to cultivate those talents so that our girls become confident in their unique and individual purpose.

FOOTPRINT:

Each daughter's footprint is a substantial picture of the impact a family can have together. Much deeper than simply the adoptive house parents, this comprehensive and seamless view of family welcomes in our staff, our on-the-ground counselors, and our donors into their lives for continued growth, support and care for the entirety of their lives.



Intervention Begins in the Womb

For vulnerable children born in exploitative conditions in India, life's story is harsh even from the first pages. Conceived out of abuse, the threat to their life begins in the womb. Pregnant mothers are repeatedly and brutally beaten, which creates an increased risk to miscarriage, premature birth or even death for their baby. The emotional stress and anxiety they experience as a result can affect the development of the baby. In addition, many of these women have experienced severe trauma from countless forced abortions and have crippling fears associated with being pregnant. They have no access to reliable medical care and are routinely taken advantage of by untrained staff with no medical training.

Our presence in the red-light district enables us to identify pregnant mothers. We invest in relationship with these women who otherwise would be all alone and without hope – building trust and redefining what is possible for her child.

Standing together, we empower them to combat the societal pressures around them and help them to dream about their child's future outside the realms of poverty and enslavement – shifting their perspective beyond mere survival to a flourishing future. Taking care of not only their physical needs with free medical checkups, we offer counseling services in order to help educate and bring emotional healing to the mothers as well. By providing prenatal care, we intervene to reduce trauma and begin caring for their children long before they come to live in our home.

ROSHIDA'S STORY

Roshida needed work. After hearing of job opportunities in a different city, she and her friend packed up eager to pursue a new life together. Once they arrived, they realized things were not as they imagined and found themselves enslaved in the red-light district.

Shortly after Roshida's arrival, she got pregnant. "I felt happy when I found out I was pregnant. I had fallen in love with a man who promised to be mine. For the first few days it was like a fairy tale. However, due to the pandemic, he did not earn well and left me."

Pregnant and now all alone, Roshida must decide if she is going to keep her baby. "Women are looked down upon if they are pregnant. It is not easy and is a very painful process. It takes a lot of courage for a woman in the red-light district to stand up to the pressures to abort their child. They treat you badly and they beat you. I have no support from the community around me and am more alone than ever before. I am unable to get the rest I need with people walking in 24/7 and don't have the money needed for check-ups or medicines."

She must have the strength and conviction to fight for her baby to survive.

"I hope my child does not get a life like me. I want my child to be away from all of the troubles."

A Light Shining in the Darkness

Deliveries in the district are difficult. Children born in the red-light district typically incur significant injuries and defects stemming from the abuse they receive in the womb. They are often birthed by unhygienic practices, born in unsanitary conditions and suffer severe infections as a result. Mortality rates for these children are high.

Surviving pregnancy and birth is only the beginning.

With no time to recover from the trauma of delivery, these new mothers are expected to return to work immediately while now carrying the burden to care for and provide for their new babies. Their babies are subject to their mothers repetitive and daily torture as they service the needs of their clients; intensifying and compounding their complex trauma. This trauma can disrupt many aspects of the babies' development and the formation of their sense of self.

"While we work, we tie our babies to the bed below or make a small cradle for them under the bed. Children two years and above are left outside the brothel door or with a neighbor to play for a while. We don't have the luxury to think about any other options. Our children stay with us. They grow up crawling on the dirty floor of a brothel and eat whatever we can find. Their life is not special. I do not have the money to send my child away to get an education. Instead, my child is raised in the brothels. I have so much fear for my child – if we will starve or what happens to them while I sleep."

"I learned about your Lighthouse Care Center from a friend. Since sending my child, it has been a huge relief to know they are being looked after when I am working or resting. I am so thankful that they are receiving food, shelter, rest, education and medicines – things I cannot provide."

Jaya, mother in the red-light district

Our Lighthouse Care Center stands as a beacon of hope for the women and children living in the red-light district. It is the entry point into our family – giving mothers, who are not ready to commit their child into our family full-time, the opportunity to continue to build trust while their child is within their close proximity.

This center creates a place of safety where children receive love and care from our trained staff. We provide meals and activities for the children where they are able to laugh, learn and play without fear of abuse or abandonment. **It is a refuge that reinforces our commitment to creating a pathway out of the darkness for hundreds of children into our Warrior Family, for life.**

Rescue Through Relationship

For many mothers, life in a high-risk slum or red-light district is all they have ever known. They were born into this ecosystem and are bound to these generational cycles of poverty, pain and perversion. It is impossible for them to imagine life could be any different for their child. Believing anything else is painful and pointless.

Having only known a life where those you trust take advantage of you, it takes a lot of time for a mother to be willing to trust again. Most of the women in the district are there because they were sold by a family member or by someone who promised to love and cherish them and offered them a better life but, instead trafficked them for money.

Our relationship with our daughters begins with their mother. To reach the girls, we must first invest in the life of the mother.

Our Freedom Team starts the conversation to begin laying the foundation for a mother to entrust their daughter into our care. They provide tangible help by identifying and meeting immediate needs of the mothers. They share stories of other mother's experiences and how their daughters are now doing in our care. They foster a friendship and through their faithful persistence, mothers begin to believe and hope for a life outside of the district for their child.

"My experience is the same as every other mother. **We have sent our children into your care and have realized she is as much your daughter as she is ours.** We have nothing to worry about. When I visited the school, it was beyond my expectations. I could not have imagined a place so wonderful for my child to grow. My other friends, who have their children in the district with them, face a lot of hardships. They have a lot of worries."

Even after a child comes into our care, the darkness isn't just present at the beginning, but can remain a threat throughout her life. We continue to develop relationships with the mothers and biological families as our daughters matures. Maintaining this connection is incredibly important as they can continue to influence our daughter's decisions throughout her life. As each girl grows, situations affecting her future arise that could compromise her safety and emotional stability.





Transition to Family – For Life

A pivotal moment in our daughter's lives is the moment when their mother's courage has outgrown her fear and she makes the decision to place her child into our care – removing her completely from the reach of darkness.

Rescuing a child from vulnerability takes far more than removing them from a red-light district or high-risk slum. Sadly, even children who have been brought into shelter homes or orphanages can be continuously victimized by predators lurking within a broken system. Facilities and care are dismal at best. With underqualified care staff, the children are often predisposed to a lifetime of neglect and abuse. Meeting the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and education are a start, but never enough to remove a child from a position of vulnerability and restore them to life. This child never truly has an identity that she belongs to anyone. She is cared for as an orphan. She is treated as an orphan. She has a lifelong identity as an orphan.

We provide vulnerable children a lifelong family, an identity as our daughter and high-quality education through college to empower them to fulfill their intended purpose.

We provide everything our daughters need to be safe, well-nourished and healthy. From a secure home and quality healthcare to family meals and beautiful clothes, we make sure our daughters are at their best physically. That physical provision and nourishment frees them to reach their full potential.

Not only do we tend to their physical needs, but to their emotional and heart needs as well. Each child is welcomed into small family units led by parenting teams, consisting of a mother and father figure and 5-6 sisters. Through intentional and daily interactions, they reinforce each child's identity as a daughter who is known, loved and seen as a valuable member of our family.

WE ARE FAMILY

"I am proud to say I am part of this family. I am thankful to God and all the people who are looking after me and have concern for my life." **KALA**

"I don't think family is only your parents who gave you birth or only those with blood relations. I believe family can also be the people who step in and take care of you, to give you everything that you need to create a better future. My family spends valuable time with me – they support and help me in every situation." **SEEMA**

"Our family stands on good values and principles. We are not only providing basic needs of food, clothes, and shelter, but also giving the best education and best life to each daughter who is part of our family. What makes our family different and special is that we focus more on character than education. Our family is not looking just to fulfill duty, but taking responsibility for every single child and going out of the way to help that child achieve their purpose." **RANI**

"I am so blessed to be in this big family. The best thing is how you accept me the way I am." **VERANA**

"Family isn't always about being connected biologically or the last names. To me, the word 'family' includes all the people in our lives who commit to love and support us unconditionally. It is a choice of people who believe in the discipline of kindness that helps us thrive both as individuals and society—but utterly understanding my desire for them to be proud of me and my decisions in my life's boundary. Family is loving and supporting one another even when it's not easy to do so and having someone to love you unreservedly despite your flaws. It's the best person you could be so that you may inspire your loved ones. Family isn't just valuable; it's what is most essential so that I can depend on it for support, laugh with, play with and share the challenges and rewards of life with." **MINA**

To Care for Her Heart - Is the Foundation

Eradicating years of trauma and darkness in our daughter's hearts requires radical love. The depths of darkness only begin to recede when confronted by the breadth of care's light. The Family Care Team prioritizes the state and wellbeing of each child's heart. We begin the long, hard work of building and redefining their identity. Who they are is not the result of what happened to them in the red-light district or the circumstances of their birth. We start to remove the weight of shame associated with the stigmas of her past and walk with her as she begins to understand her worth as a daughter for the first time.

We focus on small staff to daughter ratios and have highly trained experts who invest deeply into the heart of each child. Rescued children are soothed through the steady, daily love of a family. We go beyond the basics of food, shelter and clothing and make the pursuit of their dreams possible. We love and care for them by providing a nurturing, safe relationship that reiterates their value as our daughter, for life; walking with them through each life stage and every season.



RAVEENA'S STORY

When Raveena was two years old she came into our family. She was very shy and didn't interact with her new sisters when she first arrived. She kept to herself and was very quiet. Slowly, through the patient and tender love she received from our staff and her sisters, she began to open up.

For Raveena, family are the people who always stay with and care for each other. Raveena said, "I have a really important place in my heart for our family. My family has provided me everything I need - giving me an education, supporting me and encouraging me. Since coming to this family, I have never felt that my needs were not met. I pray that every child like me would experience a family like this who is loving and caring."

Raveena loves to dance and play with her sisters. She has dreams of becoming a doctor and helping care for those who can't afford proper medical care.

"I see my sisters as my friends. I love them and I am thankful for them; I am lucky to have so many sisters. Whenever I am sad, they will come and talk to me and ask me what is going on, and they check on me. During the hard times they come and make me laugh - this shows me that they care about me and love me for who I am."



Training Our Staff Is a Priority

We offer world-class development and training to equip and raise up the next generation of leaders and care givers in India. Because they are with our daughters each and every day, our staff has the closest relationships with them and are truly responsible for helping our daughters understand their identity as an irreplaceable member of our family.

Through ongoing training, each staff member is trained through our Family Care Institute with holistic and clinically sound best practices used to heal trauma, build trust and develop healthy attachment.

The Heart of Our Staff

REENA

Has been with As Our Own for 23 years

Dream For Our Daughters

"I want to see them successful and independent. I also want to see them blessing others."

What Is Family To You?

"Family is not something that is forced. Family occurs when people give each other a chance - to love, to share, and support each other. It goes beyond building up each other through education, but it involves building them for a lifetime."

How do you build trust and develop healthy attachment with our daughters?

"Trust is at the center. To build and develop a good relationship with the children in our care, you have to think like them. We need to understand the child first by spending time with them."

DAVID

Has been with As Our Own for 16 years

Dream for Our Daughters:

"I desire to see daughters who will fight against social injustice and help children just like they used to be."

What is Family to You?

"Family is all about relationship. Caring for and serving each other, giving respect to and knowing the value each person brings to the family."

How Do You Build Trust and Develop Healthy Attachments to our Daughters?

"Through connecting with and spending quality time with our daughters. I look for ways to create safe environments where they feel free to express their emotions."

KARUNA

Has been with As Our Own for 45 days

Dream for Our Daughters:

"That they would invest in society and empower the weak."

What is Family To You?

"Family is everyone who is there for us and stands by your side in good and difficult times. Family is knowing that whatever you do you will always have someone waiting for you."

How Do You Build Trust and Develop Healthy Attachments to Our Daughters?

"I believe in staying real and genuine with them. Making sure that I am available for them when they need me and just listening to them."

The Heights of Possibility

Developing each daughter's capacity through the loving and stable commitment of a family, girls begin to thrive. Our Future Program works to develop each of our daughter's capacities by cultivating their unique talents and educating them in schools with world-class curriculums. We ensure they receive the best education available. That includes great tutors to help them stay on track. A quality English education is critical for combating social prejudices and defeating debilitating generational cycles of poverty; allowing them the opportunity to become women of influence in society and changemakers in our world for future generations.

Hope without a plan is just a dream. In India, many kids dream of careers, but the path they're on will never help them reach those dreams. We want more for our daughters.

RIMA'S STORY

Rima came into our family at age four. When Rima was 11 her mom passed away.

Since this shocking moment, the As Our Own family has surrounded and supported Rima through her loss and grieving process. Her pain led to anger, yet through the care and love of our staff, it has slowly caused the anger to go away.

"Our family loves us, cares for us, and supports us no matter what we do and who we are. Our family provides us with a good education and meets all our needs. Our family corrects us, whenever we are wrong and guides us in the right direction."

Rima was among some of the first of our daughters to be admitted into an ICSE affiliated school. Less than 1% of India's elite has access to a program of this caliber. Through established networks, an opportunity opened for 10 of our daughters to attend. Rima is the oldest in this group of girls and is a leader. This year after taking her final exams, her grades placed her among the top of her class and she stood with distinction. Rima's accomplishments broke every cultural barrier that previously kept children from vulnerable backgrounds bound in the belief that they aren't capable of learning or competing at the highest levels of education.



"I know that I was created special. I have been blessed with my beautiful family. There are many homeless children that do not have family, but I was chosen to be part of this family and I am thankful."

Now, Rima is passionate about science and wants to become a doctor. Her favorite subject in school is biology. She wants to help women, like her mother, who don't have access to good medical care and research diseases that do not have a cure. She has used the pain of her past to drive her into her purpose.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

When our daughters reach adulthood and begin to live life away from our family, we recognize and celebrate the fruit of our investment. Our ambition is to stay deeply connected with them and cheer them on into their future endeavors.

We are focused on giving our daughters a bright future. As our daughters begin to look ahead and plan for their future, they turn to their most trusted counselors – their family.

Pursuing college and advanced degrees is the catalyst for becoming an influential member of the community, whether through her career or by starting a stable loving family of her own.

Our Footprint Team includes our daughters who now stand alongside us and have joined the fight for the next generation. They are using their places of work to influence those around them and are taking hold of the blessings God has given them to make a lasting impact.

ARYA'S STORY

Arya was the sixth daughter born to her parents. Overwhelmed with the responsibility to care for her older sisters, her parents abandoned her, resulting in Arya's grandparents taking her in as their own. As they aged, they began looking for an organization who could provide for the growing needs of their granddaughter. Arya joined our home when she was five years old.

"In my life, I have been blessed and now it is my responsibility to be a blessing to others. From my childhood, I used to see many people around me struggling to get what they needed in life. I never had to struggle and saw how my family used the abundance we had been given to help others."

What she learned growing up in our family, she and her husband now pour the same values into their daughter's life. Not only that, but they have also returned as staff members to partner with us in caring for her next generation of sisters.

SHE IS NOW AN EMPOWERED WARRIOR

- She knows her identity – not as vulnerable, but as chosen and worthy.
- She is educated having received a master's degree with certificate training.
- She can care for her own family, as a wife and mother.
- She is a blessing as she helps invest in the lives of her small sisters.



"Whatever the background we are from, we all are one. Every child is precious. I am able to manage and care for my own family now. I enjoy sharing the love of our family with my younger sisters – a love that has deeply impacted my life."

Returning as a Warrior

It isn't enough to rescue and bring our daughters into the light. It isn't enough to just protect them throughout vulnerable places as they discover their true identity. It isn't enough for them to be comfortable and simply stay in the light. Their true journey begins when they join us, as a warrior, in the battle.

Pervasive darkness and generational cycles of devastation can only be broken when a generation of children, once enslaved, return with the keys to freedom and begin unlocking the chains of those still bound.

Our mission is that the darkness is demolished for each child in our care and she works to break its stronghold for future generations.



PRINA'S STORY

"I was born to an extremely poor family that was hoping for a son. My parents used to fight constantly because of the financial situation they faced by raising two daughters. Because of these fights, my dad committed suicide - we lost the protection we had. My mother left us and went away with another man. We never saw her again. I was 8-months-old and my sister was 2 years old. We were vulnerable, and our lives were in danger."

After this, her elderly grandmother was able to take them in, but their situation was still very bad.

"We didn't have food to eat, it was hard for us to go to school, there was no money at all. Because of my grandmother's age she started to search for a safe place for me and my sister, but every door we knocked on was closed. There was no one to help us."

Eventually, her grandmother found As Our Own and we welcomed Prina and her sister into our home. "My dreams for my life changed when I was accepted as a daughter of our family. I remember when I was little, I used to want to become a doctor, teacher, nurse or something else, but really didn't know why. It wasn't until I came into this family that I decided that I want to care for vulnerable children and tell them there is a purpose for their lives. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to pursue a master's degree in the U.S. where I am studying counseling."

Through her education coupled with the love and identity she has received from her family, Prina wants to bless others - not only her sisters, but she wants to use her training as a counselor to return to the places of vulnerability where she was born and help them.

"For me being a warrior means someone who not only fights for themselves, but for others. I want to be a warrior for my younger sisters and for those who are helpless, needy and trapped in slavery. I want to raise my voice for them, fight for them and give them hope. I want to return to the darkness, as a warrior of the light. I want to work with them and help them to understand that they are not alone, they have a family, hope, future, dreams and so much to offer in this world."

Our 2021 Impact





Rising Above the Crisis

In March of 2020, when COVID-19 first spread to India, a nationwide lockdown stopped all non-essential work and plummeted the most vulnerable parts of society into hopelessness and deep despair. The red-light districts where we worked were barricaded, locking women and children inside with minimal access to food, medical care or other necessary supplies for survival.

When the second surge of cases hit the country in March of 2021, it's healthcare infrastructure began to crumble as there was a massive shortage in hospital beds, oxygen, medicines and vaccines as well as ventilators to help treat those critically infected with the virus. **Throughout the pandemic and in the midst of unfathomable devastation, we have seen our Warrior Family rise above the crisis and meet it with radical love.** Our Freedom Team has tirelessly worked with the women and children living in vulnerability and provided essential provisions they needed to survive during this time.

COVID-19 CRISIS RELIEF



303,432 Nutritious Meals Distributed



1,100 Distributed Medical Kits



Provided protective gear to staff and doctors working on the frontlines in hospitals



Hosted pediatric and medical clinics



50 Daughters Participated in the Project



2,944 Families Served

LIGHT HOUSE CENTER



16 Children welcomed to the Lighthouse Center Program (Capacity 20)

MATERNAL CARE PROGRAM



Launched Maternal Care Program (Capacity 20). First two mothers and babies welcomed into program.



Thriving During the Crisis



622 Days of COVID-19 Free Campuses!

Our daughters – those who God has given to us within our Warrior Family – have remained our most important priority. We have walked closely with each of our daughters through the emotional ups and downs of living through the pandemic and have helped them to navigate the challenges of each season.

As schools remain online and our daughters on campus, we are incredibly proud of them as they have faced this adversity with such strength and resolve – not wanting to give up, but to come together and encourage one another. They have hosted celebrations, summer camp and weekly family game/movie nights!

OUR DAUGHTERS ON CAMPUS



86

Daughters in Our
Full-time Care



94,170

Nutritious Meals
Provided



65,000

Hours of Online
Education



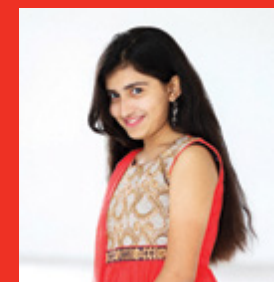
1:4

Staff-to-Child
Ratio



5

Daughters graduated 10th grade Board Exams
with Distinction (80% and above)



Punita



Rima



Aileen



Advika



Rainshi

2

Daughters graduated
12th grade

5

Daughters pursuing
Bachelor's degrees

3

Daughters pursuing
Master's degrees

45

Daughters participating
in International Exchange
Programs

ORGANIC FARMING



6 acres

Farmland Developed



3,068 lbs

Quantity of Vegetables Produced



15

Types of Vegetables
and Fruits Grown

Engaging Our Warrior Family

With your help we have already rescued and are caring for over 80 daughters. We desire to see God bring more daughters into our care and for us to help restore their identity and provide them an empowered future – no longer bound to the cycles of exploitation and enslavement that has plagued their families for generations.

It takes all of us, standing together as Warriors of the light to combat this pervasive darkness.

We can't do this alone and invite you to continue to engage with us as we fight to rescue, redeem and raise the next generation of warriors.



From Womb to Warrior

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

VISION STATEMENT

To transform the way the world cares for vulnerable children.

MISSION STATEMENT

To rescue and protect vulnerable children from exploitation and enslavement, loving and empowering them as our own—for life.

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*Pseudonyms used for
security and protection

*As Our Own is a tax-exempt
501(c)3 organization