

HAGAR

news

social rehabilitation
economic empowerment



Spring 2010

On the Ground in Afghanistan

Working Toward Change

Afghanistan is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked persons. Sadly, effective care to trafficking victims is rarely provided. Upon rescue, child and female victims are often criminalized and imprisoned. Services rarely even approach international standards of best practices.

In March, Hagar Afghanistan begins working to change this. As we continue to operate a Kabul shelter serving up to 40 women and children, we'll begin a new initiative to extend our reach. A two-year project funded by the US Department of State (Office to Monitor and Combat the Trafficking of Persons) will bring together multiple key players. Along with promoting a broader understanding of trafficking issues, Hagar will develop a training program for specific shelter partners. We'll help transfer our holistic model of long-term recovery services to build capacity within Afghanistan.

However, we are not naive to the realities of working within the Afghan context. Hagar's mission of empowering women is challenged by on-the-ground realities. All over Afghanistan, women who have been victimized are living in absolute fear. Shame, honor, and disgrace are incredible forces. Cultural issues complicate responses to all forms of gender-based violence.

"Imagine," said Hagar Afghanistan Country Representative Myriam Geach, "a rape victim so terrified to be returned to her family, that she asks to be sent to prison, instead. Though her family may accept her she feels society may not."



"It is a privilege to be a part of this healing journey – not only of the women and children in our care – but of the country as well."

—Talmage Payne, Hagar International CEO



donation form



Hagar's work is dependent on charitable gifts from individuals who share our heart for the abused, exploited, and rejected. With your help, Hagar provides whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to restore life in all its fullness.

Yes! I want to support the work of Hagar.

Please accept my donation of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please send your check to: Hagar USA • c/o Town Bank • P.O. Box 180620 • Delafield, WI 53018

What your gift means, to Hagar Afghanistan:

- \$500** Monthly, holistic care for each woman at Afghan shelter
- \$250** Three months of nutritious food for one resident
- \$100** A month's vocational training for one woman
- \$50** One month's education for an abused Afghan child
- \$25** Clothes for one rescued child on admittance to Hagar Shelter

Or, go online to make a Paypal donation at www.hagarus.org. Click on 'donate.'

VIETNAM *update*

Joma Bakery Café Provides Opportunities

Early in 2010, Hagar's enterprise partner, Joma Bakery Café, enjoyed the successful opening of its first two stores in Hanoi. Hagar Vietnam's first group of women from backgrounds of domestic violence and trafficking are currently being prepared to join Joma's workforce. Each woman will journey through a personal development program, job readiness training, and training in a specific skill set needed in the Bakery Cafe. Joma anticipates employing 20 women from Hagar's programs in 2010. Numbers will grow each year, making this an exciting new partnership. Together, Hagar and Joma aim to empower women for life, through a full continuum of services. We will provide whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to help each woman become self-supporting and reintegrated to community.



▲ Hagar's enterprise partner, Joma Bakery Café, opened its first store in Hanoi to great success.

"I feel more self-confident and strong now...I have the right to decide for myself what I can do and what I want to do, to live a life without fear."

—Trang, one of Hagar Vietnam's first clients, currently engaged in vocational training

announcing

Life Restored: Aftercare at Hagar Cambodia

The leadership potential of children who have overcome adversity continues to inspire us at Hagar. Beginning last year, six girls in Hagar's Aftercare Program were convened as a 'Child Committee.' Elected by their peers, they are trained to solve small conflicts, run workshops, and help organize outings. Recently, they met with Hagar Cambodia's top leadership to share ideas and concerns.

In 2009, Hagar served a total of 113 girls from sexually exploitative backgrounds. Girls received services in a variety of settings, depending on each child's stage of recovery.

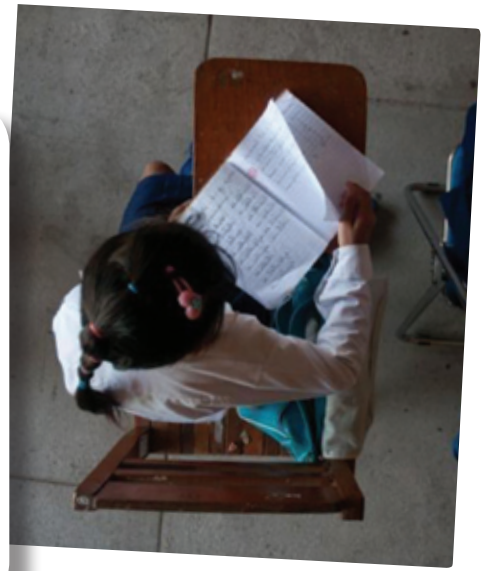
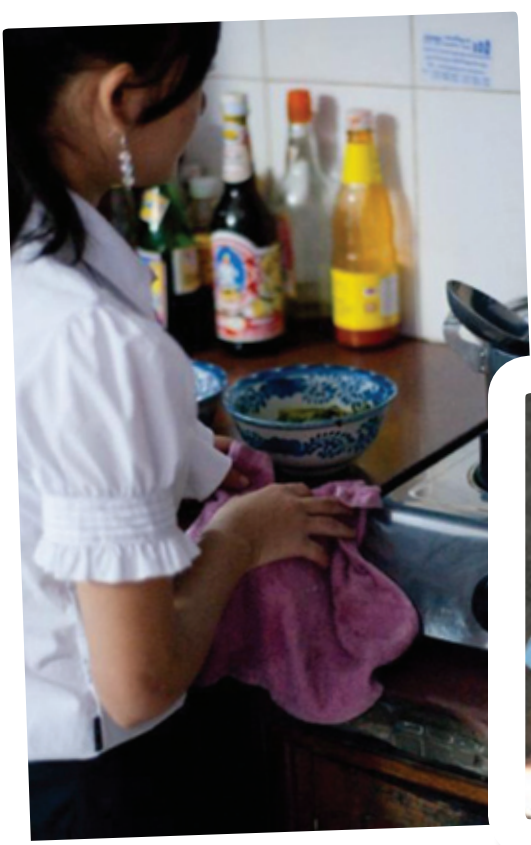


Photo credit: Jeremy Maz

HAGAR

Our purpose is singular; we restore broken lives.

We welcome the toughest of human conditions.

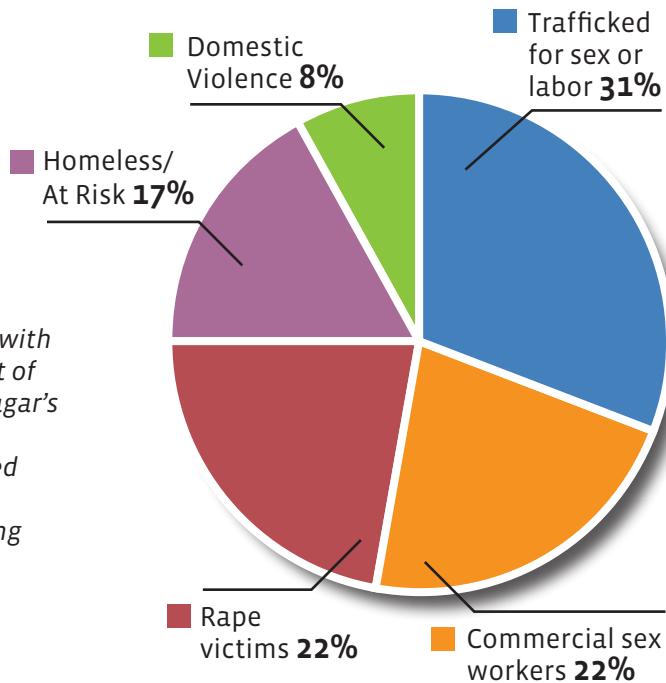
We stay focused on the individual.

And we do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes, to restore life in all its fullness.



Backgrounds of Women Served by Hagar Cambodia, 2009

In 2010, Hagar Cambodia launches a new initiative to provide healing and support to another group of marginalized and rejected women. In partnership with the General Department of Prisons in Cambodia, Hagar's "Fresh Start" program will assist newly released women prisoners and their children, facilitating reintegration to society.



donor focus

Hagar Featured at Mission Conference



For five days at the end of 2009, Hagar was featured at Urbana '09 Mission Conference, held in St. Louis, Missouri. Organized by Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, this year's event drew over 17,000 students. Hundreds of them expressed interest in Hagar. We were particularly grateful to be one of a dozen recipients of an offering collected at the conference. Students gave generously and in many cases sacrificially. Funds will support Hagar's program for women from trafficking backgrounds.

THANK YOU

Hagar USA would like to thank the following US-based foundations for supporting Hagar's work in 2009:

- Aid for Abused Children, Santa Rosa, CA
- Children's Hunger Relief Fund, Santa Rosa, CA
- Curtis L. Carlson Family Foundation, Long Lake, MN
- Equitas Group, Knoxville, TN
- First Fruit Foundation, Newport Beach, CA
- For the Silent, Tyler, TX
- International Crisis Aid, St. Louis, MO
- Maclellan Foundation, Chattanooga, TN
- The Master's Plan, Portland, OR
- Provision Foundation, Knoxville, TN
- Steps Foundation, Louisville, CO
- Stewardship Foundation, Tacoma, WA
- Young Green Foundation, Piscataway, NJ
- Anonymous (2 additional foundations)

We are especially grateful to one US foundation which is supporting Hagar USA operations, meaning that no other donor money was used to provide this newsletter.





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Hagar USA is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists to support the work of Hagar International, in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Vietnam.

HAGAR

case study

From Small Cook to Chef...

VannRa lived with her husband and two children and worked as a fisherwoman. Life was difficult. She rarely earned even \$1 a day, but life was harder at home than at work. An alcoholic, her husband routinely abused VannRa and her daughters. Finally, he became so enraged one day that he destroyed their home.

When VannRa escaped to Hagar Shelter, it turned her life around. At first, it was a great relief just to know that her daughters were safe. Then, she learned new parenting skills, and now her daughters are thriving. VannRa has learned to read and studied cooking. She works for Hagar Catering, in the staff cafeteria of a 5-star hotel. She is proud to support herself. "I have more confidence, I have skills, I have a job, and I have freedom," VannRa said. "Hagar provided for me the means to my life."

"Now I am a small cook," says VannRa, "but I have confidence that I will be a chef one day."

