

# HAGAR

## news

social rehabilitation  
economic empowerment



Summer 2010

### Empowering Women for Life

#### Hagar Vietnam's First Year

It has been an encouraging first year for Hagar Vietnam. Early stories from Hanoi bring hope. From our initial pilot group of 13 women, 19 year old Trang looks back on her devastating past: "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. I can live a life without fear."



Over this past year, Trang and 12 others from backgrounds of domestic violence and trafficking have travelled a complex journey. In August, this first group completes their formal training. Hagar's enterprise partner, Joma Bakery Café, will employ them. For most, this will be their first-ever experience with safe and dignified work. Still, we know that reintegrating to community can be a vulnerable time. Social workers are working with each woman to determine an individualized plan. Some will

be supported in transitional housing. Each will be provided a stipend, to ensure living and childcare costs are adequately covered. Then, Hagar will provide on-going support and follow-up services for up to two years.

A second group of 14 Vietnamese women have already begun their own journeys. In 2010, we anticipate serving over 50 abused and trafficked women. Sex trafficking and violence against women has been a hidden issue in Vietnam. Only recently have these needs begun to be publically addressed. Agnes Lam, Hagar Vietnam Country Representative says, **"Our first year of working with these survivors has been amazing. They came to us with deep wounds, and now they are glowing. It's been amazing to see this transformation. And, as a Vietnamese-American, I love doing this work. It is my way of giving back."**



*"In Hagar's program, it was the first time in my life I felt like I am listened to by others."*

—Chi, domestic violence survivor,  
32 years old

## 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

### The difference your gift can make in Vietnam:

- \$25** supplies and materials for one woman's personal development training
- \$50** a woman's food and transportation during vocational training, per month
- \$100** one month training in the hospitality industry per woman
- \$250** a month's accommodation for a group of 14 women, as they heal

Or, go online to make a Paypal donation at [www.hagarusa.org](http://www.hagarusa.org). Click on 'donate.'



# announcing

## Fresh Start

### Another 'Hagar' Served

At Hagar Cambodia we continue our commitment to serve women cast out and rejected through “Fresh Start,” a new program serving women being released from prison. Too often, these women have nowhere to go and no safety net to catch them, making them extremely vulnerable. Hagar’s Fresh Start program works with imprisoned women with particularly high risk factors. These include widows, unmarried mothers, and those who are already victims of gender-based violence. While still incarcerated, women are learning literacy and job readiness skills. Upon release, they receive transitional housing support and ongoing vocational training and job placement. *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 24: 40.*

*Hagar is responsive to the most severe injustice and alienation among individual women and children. Consistent with Jesus’ example, Hagar provides services without any discrimination on the basis of religious beliefs, race, gender, culture, social position, or nationality.*

—From Hagar International’s identity statement

Support Hagar clients, staff, and programs in prayer. Join our monthly prayer list by emailing [usa@hagarinternational.org](mailto:usa@hagarinternational.org) and writing ‘join monthly prayer list’ in subject line.



# update

## House of Smiles Program Grows

Hagar’s program for children with disabilities has taken two big steps forward this summer. Construction of our new House of Smiles facility was completed in June. The center includes accommodations for resident children, classrooms, therapy rooms, and training space for parents, staff, and our growing group of community partners. It replaces a rented building that flooded frequently. The pink paint was chosen with children’s input! (see photo bottom left)

Also in June, Hagar established a **third partnership** with a Phnom Penh government school. Through this expansion, we will provide inclusive, integrated education to 40 more children with intellectual disabilities. As at our two other partnership sites, Hagar teachers and government teachers will share classrooms. Parents will be trained to help out. Although children with disabilities are traditionally an extremely marginalized group in Cambodia, we are encouraged by the growth of this new model. The opening ceremony was attended by large numbers of supporters, including top officials of the Phnom Penh Department of Education.

In a country where children with disabilities are often neglected, abused, or abandoned, this new model of integrated education is a beacon of hope. From one mother whose child is attending school at a partnership location, “I have noticed my son has developed a lot. He can speak some words that he has never spoken before. Having this program, my son will have a good future. My son can learn as other students.”

*“Hagar believes that every child matters....that every child has the right to be included.”*

—Sarah Bearup, Hagar Cambodia Country Director



# HAGAR

Whatever it takes  
for as long as it takes  
to *restore a broken life*



## donor focus

### From Katie and Josh Gilliam, of Colorado Springs, Colorado

*Why they support Hagar on a  
monthly basis*

*"We were immediately drawn to the work of Hagar because of the holistic nature of their care. We love that they walked women and children through the entire process of healing from initial trauma to reintegration into society. We also appreciate how they recognize and address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women and children instead of merely focusing on one area.*

*"It is our family's honor to sow finances monthly into this thriving ministry and pray that others will be motivated to do the same. We want Hagar to be able to count on our monthly donation so that they can sustain current programs and have confidence to begin new ones. This makes us feel like a true partner in the work."*

Gilliam family ▼

## Alumni Reunion

### *Career Pathways graduates share their stories*

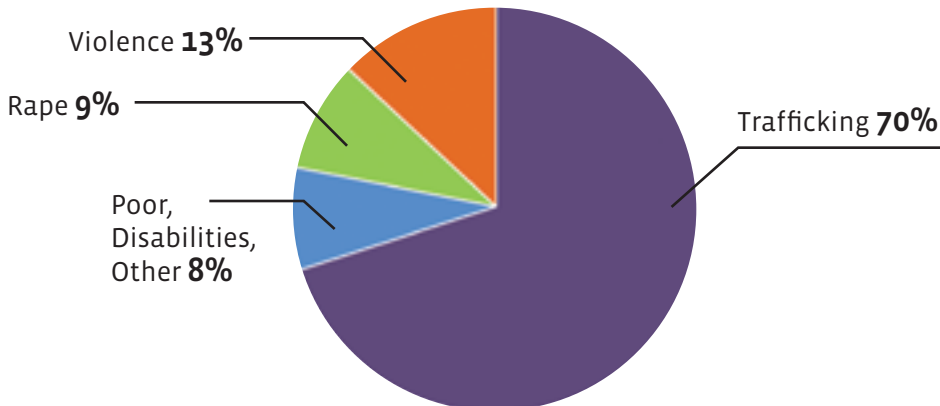
When women from Hagar programs graduate from the Career Pathways program, they are on their way to sustained, independent living. Students learn soft skills (teamwork, effective communication, problem solving, etc.), receive vocational training, and are supported in their first job placement.

On June 17th, Hagar Cambodia's 'Career Pathways Alumni Workshop' brought over 130 people together. Graduates were invited back to share their experiences with current trainees, Hagar staff, business partners, and collaborating organizations. Gathering in small groups, women were eager to tell their stories. Some also spoke bravely from the stage. Much was learned about successes and challenges. Programming will be reviewed and improved based on insights gleaned.



Most importantly, current trainees in the Career Pathways program were inspired. Hearing from others who have journeyed from similar difficult backgrounds helped them better envision their futures. They have been further encouraged to work hard to achieve their dreams.

## Backgrounds of women and children served by Hagar Cambodia's residential programs, 2009



**You can help Hagar most**  
by joining our Partnership  
Program for monthly giving. Go  
to [www.hagarusa.org](http://www.hagarusa.org) and click  
on 'give' for more information,  
or call 715-514-2294.



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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*

Hasti grew up in a poor family in a small village in Iran. She quit school when she was 13 to help her mother with their growing family. She was still young when her father brought an Afghan man home from work one day. It was love at first sight. Within six months they were married. They made plans to travel back to Afghanistan, where Hasti knew he had another wife and children. She thought love would prevail.

Hasti and husband reunited with his family and things went very well for awhile. Hasti had several children. But, when Hasti's husband returned to Iran to find work, everything changed. Hasti's first wife routinely abused her. Her children were not allowed to go to school. Her family was seldom allowed to eat. Then, Hasti's husband returned and they had a joyful reunion. But, only months later he was bit by a rabid dog and died. The abuse at the hands of her in-laws intensified. Life became unbearable.

Now, Hasti is living in Hagar Afghanistan's shelter. Hagar is working with other organizations to help Hasti move back to Iran. Hasti wants to find peace and a new life and Hagar is working to make that a reality.



*Sadly, Hasti's story is one that echoes the haunting cries of many abused and rejected women in Afghanistan.*