



To the hungry, we offer *life*.  
To the forgotten, we give *opportunity*.  
To the outcast we foster *dignity*.  
To the desperate, we bring *hope*.

3 September 2007

World Hope International operates a short term Assessment Center that provides immediate care and protection for children shortly after rescue from brothels and other trafficking for sexual exploitative situations. After assessment, few girls are ready to return directly home. This is due to either continued high levels of trauma, risk of re-trafficking, or continued threats from brothel owners and human traffickers. Most girls will therefore be transferred to medium to long-term aftercare centers for continued care and preparation for reintegration back home or back into a safe community.

The process of assisting girls who have been tortured, raped, physically and mentally abused can take a long time. Each girl has her own challenges that vary greatly depending on the circumstances of abuse, family situation, and many other factors. Some children recover quickly and others struggle into adulthood. One of the most challenging groups of sexually abused girls to provide services to are those intelligent older teens. Many struggle with their identity and the circumstances surrounding how they ended up in a brothel. Some believe they have no choice but to work in a brothel. Others believe they are cursed, ignorant, or just meant to be a prostitute. In addition to counseling and lots of love, these teenagers need to have opportunities to see positive alternatives for their lives.

One of the most effective ministries for older teens is the Transitional Living Center (TLC). TLC offers girls an opportunity to live in a safe home environment to receive counseling, love, and care, while they train for a new profession or start a new job. TLC is the best model of care presently available for these teenagers who are soon headed into adulthood or for those young adults willing to try something new. As such, WHI supports the operation and expansion of TLCs as an effective ministry to sexually abused girls. WHI supports James and Athena Pond as they establish Transitions Cambodia, Inc. and expand effective TLC ministries in Cambodia.

Sincerely,

Gregg Burgess  
Director