



Dining for Women

PROGRAM FACT SHEET
Transitions Global
July 2012

Transitional Living Center

Website: www.transitionsglobal.org

Mission: Transitions Global’s mission is to empower survivors of sex trafficking with the opportunity to heal and recapture the most basic of human rights - freedom and hope. They “help girls transition, from darkness to light, from victim to survivor, to world changer.”



Program Summary: Transitions Global works to restore the lives of young girls rescued from sex trafficking through the power of a dream.

Comprehensive restorative aftercare for girls rescued from sex trafficking is provided, with each girl receiving personalized care to heal from her past and providing opportunities for her future. With holistic trauma therapy, life skills and sustainable career training, girls find hope and a dream for their future.

About the Organization and Where They Work

James Pond and his wife, Athena, founded Transitions Global after their family was forever changed by the NBC *Dateline* program, “Children for Sale”, that showed Cambodian and Vietnamese children being bought and sold to child predators. Being moved to tears as he kissed his daughter goodnight and said “sweet dreams”, he realized these victimized children would never have sweet dreams and that as a family they had to do something. He was told by the U.S. State Department that the *Dateline* story was ‘just the tip of the iceberg.’ James was soon in Phnom Penh, Cambodia after contacting agencies and

organizations to survey what was needed and what could be done.

DFW supports programs that work to reach the **2015 Millennium Developmental Goals**, developed by the United Nations to address the needs of the world’s poorest people by 2015. The goals addressed by Transitions Global in Cambodia include:



Moving with their three children to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2005, the Pond’s began their work combating sex trafficking where they co-established the Agape Restoration Center (ARC), a high-security, long-term aftercare for Cambodian and Vietnamese victims of sex trafficking between the ages of 8-18. In 2006, the Dream Home in Phnom Penh was opened to meet the unique needs of girls 13-18 years old who are referred by rescue organizations, Government and law enforcement. After two years, the family moved back to the U.S. and established Transitions Global as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. While continuing their

work in Cambodia, Transitions has been instrumental in helping organizations in Greece, India, Indonesia, and the United States in developing effective aftercare programs.

Life Challenges for Girls

Phnom Penh is the capital and largest city in Cambodia and home to over 2 million people. Colonized by the French in 1863, it was once known as the 'Pearl of Asia' for being one of the loveliest French-built cities in Indochina in 1920s.

But Phnom Penh, is also world known for its commercial sex industry and trafficking with an estimated 15,000 prostitutes, of which 35% are under the age of 16. Each year though, by some estimates, hundreds of thousands of girls and boys are bought, sold or kidnapped and then forced into sex trafficking in Cambodia. Vietnamese women and girls are also trafficked for forced prostitution in Cambodia. Sadly, a significant number of Asian and other foreign men travel to Cambodia to engage in child sex tourism.



The Cambodian government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. But the government continues to make significant efforts to improve which included an increase in convictions in 2010.

Transitions' target beneficiaries are girls between the critical ages of 13-18 years old, one of the most underserved populations due to the intensity of care required to successfully engage this age group.

Factors found that make girls vulnerable to sex trafficking include:

- *Lack of education* - most girls do not have access to education, or the family does not have the financial means to provide educational support.
- *Lack of opportunity* - girls still have lower status than boys, limiting job opportunities.
- *Poverty* - a driving factor, as the majority of sex trafficking occurs in outside provinces where poverty is high.
- *Lack of self-esteem/self-confidence* - victims of violent crime have severe self-confidence issues, usually beginning in early childhood.

But even more disturbing, the typical background of the girls that Transitions Global serves may include:

- Sexually abused by a relative or someone close to them by the age of 7 years old
- Raped or sexually assaulted by the age of 11 years old
- Sexually exploited and/or trafficked by the age of 14

All of these factors hold a key to addressing the issue of victim services, but also to long-term prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking. In Cambodia, there is an urgent need for professional, intentional, results driven programs for sexually trafficked girls. Without these services girls are vulnerable to re-trafficking, re-exploitation and voluntarily engaging in the commercial sex industry.

The Program

The program will serve 28 young Cambodian and Vietnamese girls rescued from sex trafficking through the Transitions' Dream Home Program. The Dream Home is a unique and holistic shelter aftercare program focused on helping girls rescued from sex trafficking to heal from their trauma and to discover a new future. It focuses on empowering girls to go beyond learning menial skills and helps them to attain a dream for their lives – finding girls opportunities to pursue 21st century careers and become world changers.

The Dream Home is a phased program for survivors of sex trafficking ages 13-18 years old. The program is designed to help girls in a progressive approach to learn vital adult life skills, engage in specialized individual and group therapy, receive vital medical and dental care, participate in educational, cultural, and social activities, as well as pursue a new dream for their future.

Healing Through Therapy

Trauma recovery is the keystone of the rehabilitation services and is individualized. Based on the needs of each survivor, the therapy sessions encompass a range of techniques specially selected for each girl.

In 2011, Transitions Global focused on additional training for all staff members in therapeutic skills and awareness. Social Workers participated in workshops and observed therapy sessions, learning new techniques and sharing ideas on how to improve the trauma therapy. The House Mothers were trained to recognize psychosomatic symptoms and behavioral patterns in the girls, and to record their incidence. This allows a better understanding of how each girl is progressing in her rehabilitation, and the Social Work team is empowered to react more effectively to facilitate recovery from trauma.

Transitions Global is one of the only aftercare programs with a full-scale clinical therapy program. The program is overseen and supervised by Dr. Wendy Freed, who is one of the foremost authorities on trauma therapy for trafficking survivors. This program is one of the most professional, innovative, and truly accountable programs in the world.

Healing Through Learning

Transitions' goal has always been to empower girls to choose their own life-paths. The vocational or educational programs are not selected for them; the girls choose what they want to become. An in-house English teacher provides both group and individual tutoring in basic literacy and math, vital skills for these young trafficking survivors.

Once a girl has had time to decide whether she wants to continue with her formal education or go into vocational training, Transitions Global works with partner organizations to facilitate learning. In 2011, former victims of sex trafficking enter a huge diversity of careers, including:

- Child Care Worker
- Counselor
- Chef
- Graphic Design
- Hospitality

- Yoga Instructor
- Administration
- Aftercare Coordinator

Healing through Life Skills

It may sound simple, but life skills such as personal hygiene, budgeting, cooking, cleaning, looking after yourself- all these are things young victims of abuse and trafficking have to learn slowly and with support. The Dream Home's House Mothers support the girls in learning these skills, working with the Social Work Team to ensure each individual gets the care and support needed to successfully care for herself in the future.

In 2011, Transitions Global instituted a new curriculum for training, giving each girl chores and individual responsibilities at the center, and also introduced monitoring and evaluation systems for plotting a girl's progress towards rehabilitation. This allows Transitions to monitor and assess each girl more effectively. Each successful achievement leads to greater trust, greater responsibility and a greater sense of self within the girls.



Healing Through Basic Needs

The Dream Home caters to the most basic needs of these vulnerable girls. Transitions provides quality medical care, restorative dental care, clothing, shelter, a safe home-like space and a community trained and committed to facilitating these girls' journeys from victim to survivor to world changer.

Healing through Continued Support

2010 saw the continued success of The STAR House (Secondary Transitional Apartment Residence). The STAR House is a 12-month social-work monitored program for girls who 'graduate' from the Dream Home, but would benefit from 'practicing' their adult life skills in a safe environment. In 2011, seven girls were residents at the STAR House, making the move towards independence while retaining contact with Transitions and the support services offered.

How DFW's Donations Will Be Used

DFW will provide a grant for \$50,000 to Transitions Global to support the Transitions Dream Home Program, with a total annual budget of \$219,906. **Please note:** *Net donations over \$50,000 will be reserved to ensure we fund in full all future selected program grant requests, and to offer a \$25,000 - \$30,000 grant to an organization selected by member voting through the new **Member Choice Program**.* Look for more details in upcoming months.

Dream Home Direct Care Budget	Total
Educational and Vocational Expenses	\$18,000
Medical Expenses	\$ 6,000
Dental Expenses	\$ 2,000
Toiletries	\$ 3,600
Reintegration Expenses	\$ 1,800
Girls' Allowance	\$ 2,400
Cultural Events/Outings	\$ 5,000
Therapy expense	\$ 3,500
Transportation	\$ 5,400
STAR House	\$ 2,300
Total to be supported by DFW	\$ 50,000

Program budget information:

- *Educational and vocational expenses* are to enroll girls in private school, vocational training courses, and cover the expenses of tuition, books, supplies, uniforms, equipment, and other expenses related to Transitions' girls pursuing their education and career goals.
- *Medical expenses* will provide comprehensive medical care for all our girls, including general health exams, screening for sexually transmitted infections (STI), HIV screening and antiretroviral treatment as needed, pelvic exams, medications, vaccinations, and any other medical needs. Transitions Global utilizes Embassy Health, which is a well-established and respected medical clinic.
- *Dental care* is a health issue, as is self-esteem. Since 2007, Transitions has done restorative dentistry for their girls. Funds will be used for dental visits, X-rays, dental work (i.e. fillings, crowns, root canal work, etc.) and restorative work (i.e. implants, veneers, or corrective dentistry).
- *Toiletries expenses* will provide girls with personal care things such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, make-up, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items.
- *Reintegration* is a critical part of Transitions' program. Funds will be used for assisting girls in the process of leaving the program and returning home or becoming independent. Expenses vary by girl, but include travel, new bedding, new clothes, and all the other living necessities girls will need for a fresh start.
- *Weekly allowance* is a critical learning element allowing girls to learn the value of money, saving,

and can be used as a way to provide logical consequences to bad behavior. Funds will provide girls \$10 per month to use as they wish. This allowance is recorded and monitored with the girls' case file.

- *Cultural Events/Outings funds* will be used to provide girls with regular outings (i.e. the water park, bowling, or even to the movies), as well as important cultural outings (to historical sites, holidays, etc.)
- *Therapy expense* includes therapeutic tools, assessments, training of clinical staff, therapy room expenses, staff resources, anatomical dolls, art therapy supplies, and additional resources.
- *Transportation funds* will support the travel staff does throughout the year for family and community assessments, family visitation, government and referral agency meetings, court trials, and other related transportation expenses.
- *STAR House funds* will support the step down residence for recent graduates. This will include rent, food, social work support and reintegration costs.

Why We Love This Program

Freedom without a future is another form of slavery.

We love the progressive, comprehensive and phased approach to care; beginning with medical, dental and psychological assessments, to psychotherapy and counseling from highly qualified mental health professionals, to education and training that will help each girl identify a career path to help her succeed.

A holistic and individualized approach is the most effective response to a girl rescued from trafficking. By first treating her trauma, then creating a nourishing environment that encourages and respects a girl's desires and choices, Transitions Global builds a bridge to opportunities, programs and systems that give her control over her life and the tools to realize her dreams.

Transitions Global also meets the core principles established by the UN for shelter programs (see text box).

We are very impressed with Transitions Global's approach to bringing about awareness of their work while protecting each girl's dignity, and without exploiting the girls. Please read Transitions' note below on use of photographs and media.

From Transitions Global on Photographs/Media:

"Transitions works with underage, female survivors of a violent crime. In other words, young girls who have their whole lives ahead of them. We refuse to exploit our girls, who have already endured the horror of sexual exploitation. We protect our girls' privacy and human rights utilizing the highest level of child protection standards, based on the United Nations' Protocol on Rights of

Core Principles for Shelter Programs *International standards established by the United Nations:*

- Trafficked persons' sense of empowerment, trust, and community need to be re-built.
- Trafficked persons' safety and well-being should be the core of all services.
- Trafficked persons require some combination of comprehensive services, including psychological, medical, legal, educational, life skills, vocational, and translation/interpretation.
- Service delivery must be victim-centered.

a Child, the Chab Dai Coalition Charter, and our own Child Protection Policy (CPP). As a result, we do not show the faces of our girls with their trafficking stories, real names, or anything else that may compromise their safety, rights or damage Transitions' integrity.

Any video or faces revealed in our media is the result of girls, over the age of 18, graduates of our program, who have given informed consent to talk about their stories. This is done in a way that gives dignity to our girls and in 2012, we are moving away from this practice as a whole. We believe there are better ways to communicate this issue and our work in a way that empowers girls, as well as, protects them."

Measuring Success

Transitions has an unprecedented success rate of over 85% which means less than a 15% *recidivism rate*; one of the lowest globally. The DFW contribution will directly impact ability to continue delivery of these effective services to the girls within the Dream Home Program.

TG's Residents are monitored in the following phases:

Phase 1 (1 – 3 Months) consists of medical and dental exams with treatment plans, psychological and emotional assessments, education assessment and placement, family assessment and outreach if appropriate, and case coordination with social worker.

Outcomes: Residents receive medical treatment for sexually transmitted infections, basic inoculations, baseline assessments, family and community history, and a working care plan for the next 6 months.

Phase 2 (6 - 9 Months) includes follow up with care plan, twice weekly therapy sessions with monitoring through evidence-based psychological scales, monitored group therapy, involvement with Transitions Global's volunteer program (girls choose a local NGO and work with disadvantaged youth), and participation in the Life Skills program.

Outcomes: Residents show reduced anxiety and trauma. They begin the Life Skills program units and begin showing competency in daily activities, chores, and tasks. Vocational direction will be established toward a long-term career goal.

Phase 3 (9 - 12 Months) consists of care plan review, full-time schooling and/or career training, psychological assessments (administered every four months until completion of Dream Home program), and job placement. The residents also seek an independent living situation (or residence in the Transitions STAR House), or family return with the supervision of case managers.

Outcomes: Girls will have stabilized psychologically, are able to self-reduce anxiety, exhibit greater self-awareness, have completed vocational training or have a long-term educational goal with reintegration plan.

Phase 4 (After 12 Months) follow-up with clients is conducted for a 3-year period after a girl has graduated from the Dream Home program. This is done with cooperation from the graduates on a monthly basis for 6 months, then on a quarterly basis for the next year, adjusting to two times per year until the third year. Transitions annually reviews all previous graduates to evaluate how they are doing outside of the program.

Voices

"I dream of attending a university after high school to become a nurse or social worker". – *So Na*

"I am so happy to be at the Dream Home. I'm so happy to be studying Khmer, English and cooking. This week we learned to cook Indian curry and chicken marsala. I am very happy to get to learn to cook. "
– *Srey Keo*


"It makes me very happy that people around the world are helping us, This week I had fun helping the house moms, encouraging the other girls, and going to English, Khmer and computer classes. I like English the most because I'd like to help translate for the girls and speak to many people." – *Molika*

"I would like to own a home so my mother can live with me and not have to work collecting recycling anymore." - *Raksmei*

"I dream of marrying a good man, owning a home and having children." – *Chan Thy*

"I dream of having a good job to save enough money to build a house where my sister and I could live together." - *Cham Pey*

Additional Resources

- On the **DFW June Program webpage for Transitions Global** you will also find:
 - **Food for Thought** with more information about sex trafficking issues addressed by Transitions Global
 - Program Presentation – Powerpoint and PDF files provided by Transitions Global
 - Program Videos – links and downloadable files
 - Recipes from Cambodia
 - Fair Trade, Books and Film recommendations
- The story of how the Pond's were moved to start **Transitions Global**:
<http://www.transitionsglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/MomentThatBroughtUs1.pdf>
- A message to men about being a part of the anti-trafficking movement:
<http://www.transitionsglobal.org/programs/cambo/> 
- The U.N. 2015 Millennium Developmental Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Source Materials:

- *Transitions Global website*
- *Documents provided by Transitions Global to Dining for Women*
- *Wikipedia article - "Phnom Penh"*
- *Wikipedia article - "Human Trafficking in Cambodia"*
- "Human trafficking must be stopped"; www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012061556817/National-news/human-trafficking-must-be-stopped.html
- "The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report"; <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf>