With just 365 days to make a lasting impact on the life of an Urban Light Boy I can boldly say that great victory was achieved this year in our fight against modern-day slavery and exploitation—there is much to be thankful for. The support and dedication of our global community is inspiring and reflects your deep hearts and faith in creating a world where freedom from exploitation exists.

Not only does freedom exist, it’s taking root all over Chiang Mai—in the bars and massage parlors of the red light district and on the street corners where darkness once lurked. More and more Boys are fleeing the chains of slavery for a newfound freedom that Urban Light is providing.

This year the story of one Boy in particular has traveled with me across oceans and into my personal journey of gratitude. Last January a very sick Boy stood at the entrance to our Youth Center. He was being pulled, actually more like dragged, into our Center by another UL Boy who had been coming to the Center for months. The new Boy looked up into my eyes and I immediately saw the open soars on his face and the red rash that hugged his body from forehead to toes.

“Tak” was sick, desperate and entirely alone. Newly homeless, he had just been kicked out of the house he shared with his foreign customer and ‘sponsor’, meanwhile his alcoholic and drug-using father wanted nothing to do with him since he could no longer support his drug habits. My heart broke for this young person who had to deal with more challenges than most of us will face in a lifetime—funding from Love146 allowed our team to provide emergency housing and a safe space where he was delicately encouraged to see a doctor and get tested. Sick and frail, “Tak” finally agreed, our Social Worker, Dear, was sitting with him in the Doctor’s office when he got his HIV results. Positive+. They cried together, I cried over Skype. A young boy who held the frame of a 10 year old was alone and only Urban Light was there to support him...this is the story for so many Boys who walk through our Center doors—alone, sick and scared.

Despite his youth being stolen, despite his physical rights being ignored, despite his housing being a place where sexual errands were given in exchange for the protection of 4-walls and despite having a constant companion of daily meds -- still he smiles, still he desperately tries to make staff smile and still he wants a future where forgiveness can be found and given. I am reminded daily of “Tak”, his smile and his hero-like resiliency and so I try to find within me that same strength, that same courage. Let us each be reminded of our blessings, our rights, our health, and our home and learn from a Boy we might never meet in person, but whose spirit lives in each and everyone of us.

Be The Light,
Alezandra Russell

“I thank Urban Light on a daily basis. Urban Light has looked out for me, even when my own family members didn’t.”     -- Tak
As we say farewell to another year and welcome a new one, it is hard to convey to you the monumental changes that came my way in 2014. But I will try, using variations of one word. I heard a quote that goes something like this: “Sometimes when we wouldn’t move ourselves, the universe opens the doors of opportunity for us to be moved to something better.”

I was moved to become involved in—and recently the in-country director of—Urban Light. And to employ more uses of the word “moved,” I continue to be moved on a daily basis here at the Urban Light Youth Center. It is an honor and a privilege to be behind such a movement.

It’s interesting how one word can carry such substance and meaning. This year I moved into the Urban Light family and into a new environment with new joys, challenges and incredible people walking alongside of me. This year I moved into what I now call “home.”

And our boys—the boys caught in the sex-trade industry of Thailand—are moving, too! They are moving out of the red light districts. They are moving out of the clutches of exploitation and moving into new occupations. Most importantly, they are moving into lives filled with hope, beauty, freedom, peace, health and happiness. This is your doing, those of you who are faithfully supporting Urban Light. You enable our Urban Light team to help move our boys from the harrowing dark corners to joy-filled light places.

Starting 2015 in a new role, I feel more than prepared than ever to move into a new year of challenge. Our team at Urban Light is growing as an organization, as a team, as a family and as individuals. We are moving together to become the best we can be for one purpose: to lift our boys.

I have been moved into a greater purpose than I could have imagined earlier this year. To you, our Urban Light community worldwide, thank you! We are deeply grateful that you moved with us throughout 2014. And we ask you to stay with this important movement in the years to come.

May we, together, open doors of opportunity for boys in Thailand so they can move to something much, much better.

Onward,
Brent Seely
BOYS
CANNOT BE
ЗА-ИТ
AN ALL TOO FAMILIAR STORY: LIFE OF OUR BOYS

In September of 2014 Urban Light added “Nong M” into the Urban Light Transitional Housing Program funded by Love146—it was finally time Nong M be given the peace of stability and a place to rest his body. Nong M, like the majority of our Boys, has had a tumultuous history starting from a very young age.

Nong M was just 7-years-old when his mother sold him to a gang in Chiang Mai, a gang which forced him to beg on corners throughout Chiang Mai’s tourist spots, the money he collected filled only the pockets of the gang—Nong M never saw one baht. At nine Nong M was detained by Thai police for begging on the streets and sent to a government shelter in another province. At thirteen Nong M ran away from the shelter and found himself living once again on the streets of Chiang Mai—this time without the protection of his gang leader. He was alone and vulnerable. Two years later Nong M was arrested for petty theft and sent to juvenile detention were he spent two long years. At seventeen he started formally working in Chiang Mai’s red light district, sadly sex with customers was not new to him, it had become a familiar way of survival during the many years he lived on the streets.

Nong M had been a regular visitor to Urban Light’s Youth Center until he was arrested in 2013 on a made-up drug charge. In November of that year, the same day he was released from prison he stumbled into the Urban Light Youth Center complaining of dizziness and fatigue. The UL staff suspected dengue fever but later that day a hospital confirmed he had advanced Tuberculosis and was HIV-positive. After his diagnosis Nong M reported feeling worthless, without hope, and even suicidal—he had jumped off a nearby bridge that overlooked the Ping River trying to drown his diagnosis and shame. He told Urban Light staff that he was unsuccessful because his ability to swim kicked in and he found his way to shore.

Since enrolling in the housing program seven months ago and starting his new job at a coffee shop in Chiang Mai, Nong M is once again hopeful and able to see value in himself and his life. Nong M may not know where he was formally born but today he knows where he is formally loved and valued and for this reason and hundreds more like it the Urban Light Youth Center remains a family and a home for boys throughout Thailand.
FROM THAILAND: MEET “AE”

I can't really say I have had great moments this year due to me finding out I was HIV positive. However, I do thank Urban Light on a daily basis. UL has looked out for me and covered all of my medical bills. I would say the greatest thing is that I am able to lean on and rely on Urban Light throughout all of this year's challenges. I mean not even my own family members were there for me. When I was in need I was so fortunate and relieved to know that I could call upon Urban Light for assistance. I know that even after I stopped going to the center Urban Light was genuine because they still reached out to me no matter my location. Despite me not coming in I still felt like I was apart of the UL family. I would like to thank Urban Light and their staff!
Urban Light is a non-profit organization made up of a community of individuals dedicated to making noise re: teen boys who are victims of sex-trafficking. Based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the Urban Light Youth Center rebuilds, restores & empowers the lives of boys by providing education + health + services + housing & support.
Survivors & vulnerable Boys Supported by Urban Light: 353
# of Boys who enrolled at the Urban Light Youth Center: 122
# of Boys who received services during Urban Light Outreach: 231
# of visits Boys made to the Urban Light Youth Center: 1,718
# of Hot + Healthy Meals provided to UL Boys: 3,665
One-on-One case management provided to UL Boys: 81,420 minutes
# of Urban Light staff members: Thai (5 Staff Members)

EDUCATION x EMPLOYMENT ::
Education-based Services English, Life Skills, Professional Development: 12,600 minutes
# of Boys enrolled in alternative education: 20
# of Boys UL found jobs for outside the sex-trade: 23
# of educational & experiential excursions: 29
# of Youth Empowerment Camps (YEC): 2
# of vulnerable & at-risk children reached during YEC: 287

HOUSING ::
Funded by Love146
# of Boys who entered the UL x Love146 Transitional Housing Program: 8
# of Boys who received emergency housing: 6
## HEALTH SERVICES ::

Medical case-management provided to survivors & vulnerable Boys  
*First-aid, Pharmacy visits, HIV Screening:* **14,760 minutes**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Check-ups</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Education</td>
<td>2,160 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV &amp; STI screenings</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health screenings</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### # of on-site Health Clinics @ the Urban Light Youth Center: **3**  
### # of off-site Health Clinics in red light district: **2**

## OUTREACH ::

*Street Outreach, Massage Parlors, Sex Bars, Internet Café’s*

Outreach services provided to vulnerable & at-risk boys: **8,550 minutes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct services</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health consultations</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home, jail &amp; juvenile detention visits</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UL Health’CARE’ Kits</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoms distributed</td>
<td>6,505</td>
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## AWARENESS ::

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visited Urban Light Youth Center</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickers, flyers</td>
<td>902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking engagements &amp; Campus Tours</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATESIDE
Urban Light strives to be a global voice surrounding the issue of human trafficking and the exploitation of boys. Our team advocates on behalf of our Urban Light boys while constantly pushing to educate our global community on the rights of children which includes boys.

THAILAND
The Urban Light Youth Center (ULYC) is located just a few blocks from Chiang Mai’s red light district. The center is a place where boys, ages 14-24, can seek shelter and refuge from the many harsh realities that life on the street offers.
URBAN LIGHT TEAM :: THAILAND

Thailand Director (USA) / Brent
Thailand Director (Thai) / Dao (August 2013 – October 2014)
Social Worker (Thai) / Dear
Case Manager (Thai) / Imp
Case Manager (Thai) / Prae (April 2013 – April 2014)
Outreach Worker (Thai) / Toh
Outreach Worker (Thai/Akha) / Fame (January 2013 – February 2014)
Youth Leader (Thai/Akha) / Tuen (January – October 2014)
Food and Center Care-Taker (Thai) / Khem

Long-term Volunteer Team:
- English Teacher / Xavier
- Community + Volunteer Liaison / Shelly
- Videographer + Photographer + Friday Support / Brett
- Photographer + Staff + Client Cheerleader / John Briggs

Short-term Volunteers: 60

URBAN LIGHT TEAM :: USA

Founder & President / Alezandra Russell

Professional Partnerships (Pro-Bono):
- Health Support X Trainings: Dr. Kathrin Welch, Go Relentless Org
- Branding & Marketing: Manifesto Agency
- Human Resources Advisor: Marissa Alley
- Merchandise Support: Lori Gadola
- Graphics Design: Tammy Funk Designs
MAJOR DONORS

2nd Community Church, USA
Adrian Rowse & Ping-Pong-A-Thon, Australia
Anthony Yu, USA
Athletic Greens, USA
Canton of Geneva, Switzerland
Embassy of Switzerland in Bangkok, Thailand
ENTRUST Foundation, Australia
Global Health Force, USA
Jean Paul Ohadi Foundation, USA
LOVE146, USA
New Hope Baptist Church, Australia
St. Mark Presbyterian Church, USA
Sweet Charity, Australia
Tristan & Michelle Ellet, Australia
URBAN LIGHT VIP PARTNERSHIPS

Art Relief International, Thailand
Blindfold Magazine, USA
Kelim Jewelry & Lori Gadola, USA
LOVE146, USA
Manifesto Advertising, USA
Ping-Pong-A-thon, Australia
Soap Box Soaps, USA
UP! International, Switzerland
U.S. Consulate Chiang Mai, Thailand
PAST ARTICLES + PUBLICATIONS
RE: URBAN LIGHT 2013

Click on the articles below to be directed to the online article

FAIR OBSERVER (2013)
“Boys, Too: The Forgotten Stories of Human Trafficking”

TIME MAGAZINE ONLINE (2013)
“Hangover from Hell: Hundreds of Westerners Living on the Streets of Thailand”

BANGKOK POST (2013)
“A Guiding Light”

BLINDFOLD MAGAZINE (2013)
“Urban Light’s Fight Against Human Sex Trafficking”

CONSCIOUS MAGAZINE (2013)
“A Rare Light for Male Victims of the Sex-Trade” by Tiffany Schoolfield

SCARLET & GRAY MAGAZINE (2013)
“Alezandra Russell ’99 Educates Students On Modern Slavery”

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE (APRIL 2013)
“Redlight Rescue”

SOMA WATER ONLINE (SEPTEMBER 2013)
“Finding Our Purpose: Change-making With Our Heart’s Intent”
SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT

@BeTheLightUL  @UrbanLight_CNX  Urban Light

WWW.URBAN-LIGHT.ORG
ENDING THE EXPLOITATION OF BOYS IN THAILAND