



RAPHA

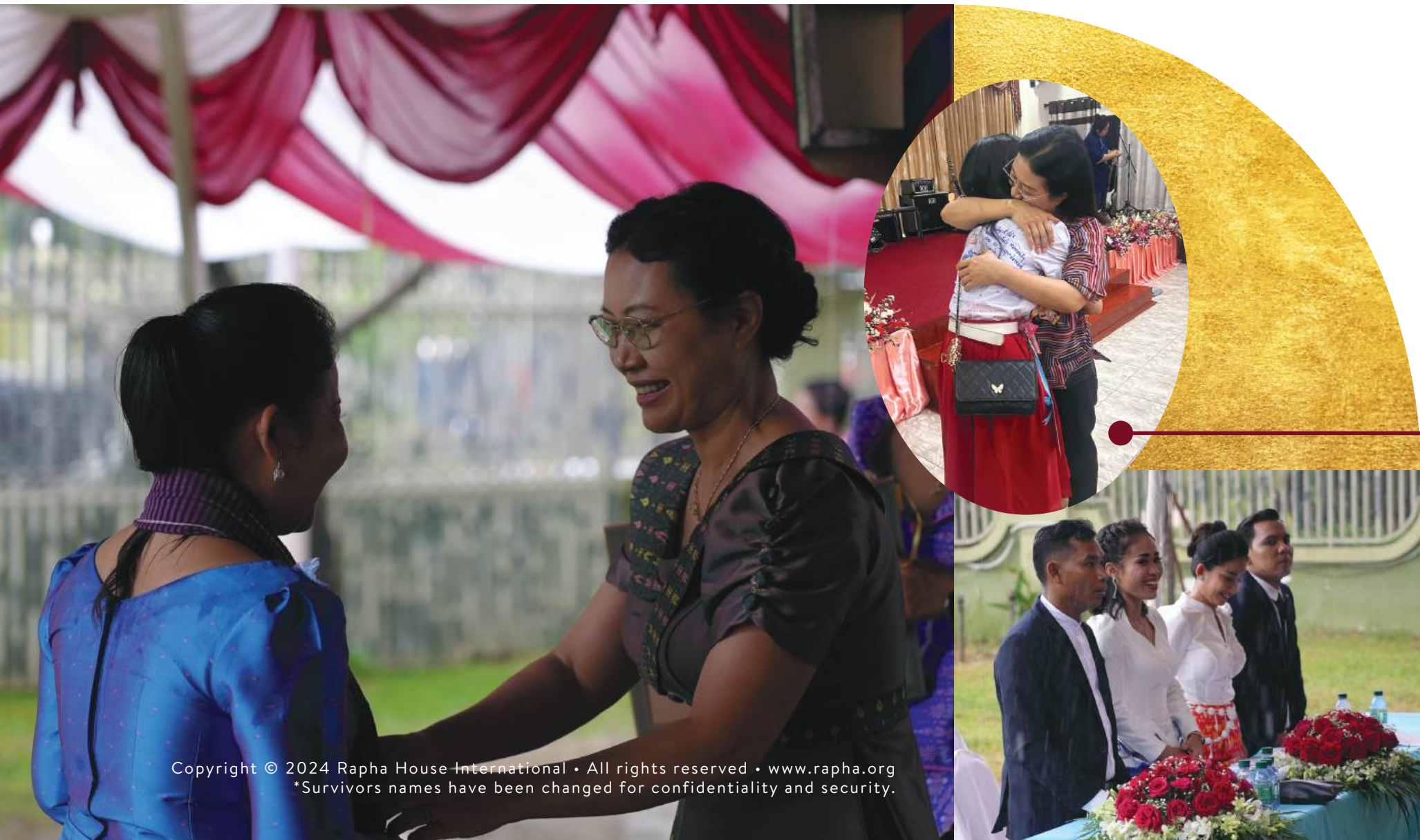
INTERNATIONAL

A Time to Celebrate

Ecclesiastes 3 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Rapha International adopted the theme of celebration for 2023 in honor of the 20 years of ministry and life-changing work that the Lord has orchestrated. This was a season of deep gratitude as our team was encouraged to remember remarkable moments of challenge and victory, celebrate the journey thus far, and cast vision for the next 20 years.

On a very hot afternoon in August of 2023, Rapha held a ceremony of celebration in Battambang, Cambodia where staff from across the world, international partners, Cambodian government representatives, and members of partner organizations came together to honor 20 years of service to survivors and vulnerable children in the place where it all began. Held under large tents in ceremonial Cambodian fashion, this beautiful event was to commemorate the dedication, sacrifice, and commitment of so many people on behalf of the precious children served by Rapha.



Midway through the ceremony, a monsoon rolled in and I began to lament for our team who had put so much effort into this event. However, to my utter amazement, everything continued as though things were completely normal. Instead of fleeing for shelter in vehicles or buildings, everyone stayed engaged in the celebration. As the monsoon winds blew the hammering rain down and sideways, everyone simply scooted their chairs toward the center. The tents swayed and men with long poles pushed up the tent roof fabric where large pools of water settled and threatened to burst through. When it was their time to be honored and called to the stage, female staff members in their traditional dresses and high heeled shoes navigated the mud and large puddles that had immediately formed on the ground under the tent. At times the rain and wind were so loud that it was difficult to hear the speakers, and yet, the ceremony went on. Along with the rain, the monsoon blew a fun and lovely mood over the event and the pomp was replaced by a casual atmosphere filled with delight and laughter.

“The rains of blessing,” our Country Director said loudly with a big smile as she leaned in close so that I could hear her. Throughout that afternoon and evening, I continued to hear those in attendance happily remarking on “the rains of blessing” that had unexpectedly and delightfully covered our celebration. Yes, of course they had.

As I look back over the past 20 years, I can clearly see the “rains of blessing” that have covered the work of Rapha. I think of the transformative blessings in the lives of those we have served and I think of all of you, those who have provided so many blessings through your generosity and commitment.

Tasanee, Rapha's Thailand Director with a survivor.

The Rains of Blessing!

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend another ceremony. In Thailand, we were celebrating more than twenty girls and young women, currently or formerly served by Rapha's Survivor Care program, who were graduating from different stages of education. Some were graduating middle or high school. Some were graduating from a vocational training program and a few were graduating university. When the program was over, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned and was immediately embraced by a young woman who we have had the privilege of walking alongside for a long time, and who had just graduated high school.

Through her tears, she said, “Because of you, my life is changed. I am going to make you so proud of me!”

“I am already so proud of you. I could not be more proud of you,” I told her, wiping away my own tears.

She wasn't finished. “I am going to University, and I am going to become a counselor. One day, I will come back here to work at Rapha and help other girls like me.”

Friends, these words are truly for you. If this young woman was able to speak to you today, she would say, “Because of you, my life is changed.” Your investment in the lives of those served by Rapha are like a stone cast into the water. Those ripples become waves in an ocean of justice.

20 years of healing, 20 years of hope, and 20 years of freedom—made possible by the generosity and faithfulness of Rapha's partners. With your support and partnership, Rapha's next 20 years will be even more transformative for vulnerable children and their families.

May the “rains of blessing” continue to cover Rapha International and each of you who make this work possible!



Stephanie G. Freed
STEPHANIE GARMAN FREED
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER

Celebration in Cambodia

In August of 2023, Rapha gathered staff, partners, and friends to celebrate 20 years of service to survivors and vulnerable children in Cambodia. It was a beautiful event that commemorated the dedication of so many people and the first 20 years of Rapha's life-changing work.

20 years of healing, 20 years of hope, and 20 years of freedom—all made possible by the generosity and faithfulness of Rapha's partners.

We are excited for the next 20 years—and we hope you are too! Rapha is growing in its capacity to reach families and communities within and beyond Survivor Care campuses. We are working hard to promote trauma treatment and child protection in communities all over the world—including communities right here in the United States. Our vision for children to live in sustainable freedom within safe communities can only be achieved when Rapha partners commit to that goal.



CELEBRATING RAPHA STAFF

For the past 20 years, Rapha has impacted not only its clients but also its staff.

Last year, in Cambodia, Rapha conducted forty-three professional development trainings for staff. Two staff members have finished their classes and are doing research for their masters degrees in Clinical and Counseling Psychology and in Social Work. One staff member is continuing her masters level course work in Clinical and Counseling Psychology in 2024, and three are starting their post-graduate studies in General Management and in Social Work.

Every year, Rapha Cambodia holds an award ceremony to recognize employees who have completed 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service with Rapha. In 2023, during Rapha's anniversary celebration, many staff members from both Battambang and Siem Reap were honored for their enduring service to Rapha.

Nine people marked their 5th year with Rapha in 2023 and seven celebrated 10 years of service. Twelve staff members were acknowledged for their 15 years of remarkable service and six people were recognized for being with Rapha since its beginning in 2003.

A staff member shared her thoughts upon receiving her award:

"My name is Bopha and I am the Leader of the Caregiver team. During my 10 years at Rapha, I have gained experience, knowledge, appreciation, love, and a lot of support that has kept me going to this day. I have three things that I would like to share my gratitude for:

- 1. Thank you for creating a beautiful place for each client to stay without fear, where they can receive care and attention, comfort, and love. There are people who are willing to listen to them, value them, respect them and provide them freedom of speech and education.*
- 2. I have felt valued and have gained knowledge, skills, support, and care from Rapha. This is why I can effectively provide care to the clients we serve.*

3. Thank you to our entire organization which has great leadership in Battambang, Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and abroad. They provide support, encouragement, and think about the well-being of staff and our families."

An esteemed guest from the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs made this statement at the celebration:

The participation of partner organizations, especially Rapha International, is essential for the benefit of victims, especially women and children who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia.

On behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs, I would like to commend and praise the efforts of Rapha International. I would like to call on all development partners to support and continue to cooperate with the Ministry of Social Affairs to jointly protect vulnerable people, prevent harm, and provide services to victims of human trafficking in the future.

I would like to thank all the staff at Rapha for dedicating their precious time to participate in social work with the Royal Government. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, the leadership and staff of Rapha International, for continuing to carry out this good mission."

THEARA SATH

COUNTRY DIRECTOR – CAMBODIA



Thank you for creating a beautiful place for each client to stay without fear.



Happy Birthday, Rapha!



20 Years of Healing

After fifteen-year-old Sira escaped her trafficker she was referred to Rapha's Survivor Care campus. At Rapha, she was finally safe, but she didn't know it yet. She was angry and withdrawn. She had no interest in making friends with the other girls. Those girls who had been at Rapha a little longer tried to reach out to her, to assure Sira that she was finally in a good place with people who wanted to help her, but Sira didn't believe them.

Sira sat in her therapy sessions with her arms crossed, scowling at her counselor. This woman couldn't help her. Nobody could help her. As she lay in her bed at night, "safe" in this new place, she scoffed at the idea of safety. She could never be safe.

One day when she was called for a counseling session, Sira was surprised to see her lawyer in the room. He informed Sira that her trafficker had been charged and was in jail awaiting trial. Her lawyer explained that Sira would remain safely at Rapha until her case was completed. As Sira listened to the picture being painted of a future she believed she could never have, the hard shell she had constructed around herself began to crack.

Once she accepted the truth of the fact that her trafficker could not take her away from the protection of the Survivor Care campus, her demeanor began to change. She ate lunch with the other girls. She participated in art, music, and free time. She committed herself to school because now she could actually believe there was a point to it. She even smiled.

At Rapha, healing is our heartbeat. Trauma tears people down, but healing builds them up again. When girls come to Rapha they are often sick or injured. They are afraid, confused, and sometimes angry. Trauma has taken their ability to trust others and to value themselves. In Hebrew, Rapha means "to heal." Our work with each young survivor is focused on building her up and healing for her body, mind, heart, and soul.

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20 years of healing, 20 years of hope, and 20 years of freedom - all made possible by the generosity and faithfulness of Rapha's partners.

20 Years of Hope

Ten-year-old Akara's mother could not afford the books, uniform, or yearly fee required for Akara to go to school.

One day a rich couple came to her village and offered to let Akara work for their family in the city and in return they would pay her to go to school.

The next morning Akara left for the city. Once at the family home, she was given a grueling load of housekeeping tasks and numerous errands to run every day. Days went by, and Akara was forced to work over twelve hours a day and never given the opportunity to go to school. One night, the man snuck into her room and raped her.

Weeks went by and Akara was raped many times. Unable to contact her mother, Akara began to lose hope for her future. One day when she was buying groceries, Akara encountered a police officer and courageously told him what was happening to her. Law enforcement immediately investigated the couple exploiting Akara and found evidence of rape, labor trafficking, and numerous forms of exploitation.

Akara was brought to Rapha International and was reconnected with her family. Her mother was horrified to hear what Akara had experienced and relieved that she was finally in a safe place. Rapha social workers worked with Akara's family to provide Akara with counseling, medical care, and education. Rapha's lawyers advocated for justice and after months of work, the man and woman who mistreated Akara were finally put on trial. Rapha staff celebrated with Akara when the couple who had exploited her were charged with their crimes. For the first time, it seemed to Akara that she could actually return to her family and reclaim her life alongside her parents, siblings, friends, and neighbors.

When a survivor's needs are met, and she is on the path to physical and emotional healing, her next step is to cultivate hope for her future. Hope is found at Rapha when girls reconnect with their families, when their abusers are convicted, and when they make plans that they previously would not have thought possible. Families have hope restored when Rapha's Prevention programs help them to connect to their communities and send their children to school. Moments like these accumulate into genuine, lasting hope.

20 Years of Freedom

When she ran away from home to live with her friends, Sanoh was unaware that several of them were members of an organized gang who were skilled at using coercion to exploit underage girls online. In order to manipulate Sanoh into online sexual exploitation, a boy took a video of her being sexually assaulted and threatened to share it on social media. She felt that she had no choice but to give into his demands. It wasn't long before Sanoh became deeply entangled in sex trafficking. Although Sanoh desperately wanted to return to her life as a normal teenager, she was trapped in fear of the gang that was exploiting her for profit.

When law enforcement finally discovered Sanoh's situation, she was rescued and placed with Rapha International. Rapha staff immediately began working with officials to remove videos of Sanoh from the internet. Online sexual exploitation robs children of carefree childhoods, and it can also rob them of their futures.

Sanoh engaged in trauma-informed therapy and received additional tutoring that enabled her to catch up to her grade level. While at Rapha, she attended a local vocational training school and now she operates a shop in a nearby community. Sanoh lives independently, in sustainable freedom, using the skills and network of support she gained at Rapha.

Sustainable freedom is the ultimate goal for every child served by Rapha. Finding freedom that is long lasting and durable requires education, skill building, and community reintegration. Survivors must be empowered and equipped to provide for themselves and their families, to decrease their vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking. Sustainable freedom requires a safety net—a community that protects the vulnerable and has been educated on the dangers of human trafficking.

Check out our Birthday Video!





ICOM 2023

Rapha's Co-Founder and CEO, Stephanie Freed, served as President of the International Conference on Missions which took place in November of 2023. We heard from diverse perspectives on complex issues related to mission work. The conference was a great time of encouragement and motivation to spread Hope to the Nations. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this conference a success!

We didn't miss the opportunity to celebrate Rapha's 20th year with all of our friends at the ICOM! It was so sweet to see so many staff members, from the US and abroad, as well as Rapha partners, advocates, and encouragers.

This year, Rapha invited a partner organization, GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in a Christian Environment), to train in all six sessions of Rapha's workshop track. Maureen Garcia from GRACE provided expert training on child protection, child abuse prevention, and responding to allegations of abuse for ministry and church leaders at ICOM. We are so grateful to everyone who attended a workshop session, demonstrating their willingness to prioritize the safety of children.

Before the conference, Rapha's international leadership staff gathered with members of the US-based leadership to discuss and vision cast for Rapha's next 20 years. A commonly repeated quote among Rapha's staff is a saying attributed to Maya Angelou: Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better. This summit was a great example of Rapha staff living out that philosophy. As we learn more, we are discussing how we can always do better on behalf of the children we have the privilege to serve.

Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.

MAYA ANGELOU

IMPACT IN 2023

We are reflecting on all that God has done and celebrating the lives that were impacted in 2023 through Rapha's mission "to end trafficking and sexual abuse of children— one child, one family, and one community at a time." We could not do this without your faithful partnership, prayers, and dedication. Please celebrate with us!

Children who are survivors of sexual trauma found hope and healing in Rapha's Survivor Care programs. Families gained in strength and stability when they accessed essential resources through Rapha's Prevention programs in Southeast Asia and Crisis Intervention programs in Haiti. Communities developed safety nets for children when young people and adults were trained on the prevention of exploitation and abuse.

Residential Survivor Care



145

145 Survivors Received Residential Survivor Care

Young survivors received holistic care and treatment—including counseling, medical care, education support, social work and legal advocacy—at Rapha's Survivor Care campuses.

Non-Residential Survivor Care



599

599 Survivors Received Non-Residential Survivor Care

Survivors of exploitation and sexual abuse—children and young adults—received treatment and support, including counseling, medical care, education support, social work and legal advocacy, while living in their families and communities.

Strengthening and Support Services



1034

1034 Families Involved in Strengthening and Support Services

Families received prevention and family strengthening services, including food and education support, relocation, income generating activities, and more.

Community Outreach and Training



3071

3071 People Engaged with Community Outreach and Training

Young people, parents, service providers, and community leaders attended training classes on preventing and responding to trafficking and abuse.

CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION IN 2023

2023 was a year of construction and renovation that will dramatically increase the number of children Rapha is able to serve in the years to come. Projects that we have been dreaming of for years came to life!

Rapha is taking an important step in expanding our impact for survivors in the United States. Renovation began on the expanded Hope and Healing Center and international headquarters in Joplin, MO. The new facility will multiply the number of survivors who can access professional trauma counseling with Rapha here in the US. It will provide a space for training and collaboration that will strengthen the safety nets for children and vulnerable people throughout the region.

Trauma therapy is scarce in Southwest Missouri—and many places in the United States—and Rapha is dedicated to meeting the most critical needs of survivors of domestic trafficking and sexual abuse. Our vision is to pilot the program in Joplin, MO—where Rapha is headquartered—and then expand to other communities to offer services to more survivors.

Enormous progress was made on the TTF Protection Center on Rapha’s Survivor Care campus in Thailand, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. The TTF Protection Center will serve the most vulnerable children in our care—children with active court cases and potential for dangerous retaliation. The beautiful new campus will provide safety, healing, and hope for young survivors who still face terrible challenges.

In July of 2023, Rapha International Thailand was recognized as an Outstanding Anti-Human Trafficking Organization by the Thai government. We were honored to receive this award and grateful for the hard work and dedication of our fantastic team in Thailand. Our new facility dedicated to these high-risk cases strengthens Rapha’s relationship with the Thai government and police force, further securing Rapha’s place on the multidisciplinary team that is combatting trafficking and sexual abuse in Thailand.

New facilities will become safe havens and valuable resources for children only when they are staffed with compassionate professionals trained to serve children with complex trauma. Caregivers at the TTF Protection Center will provide care for young girls with complex behavioral and emotional needs. Social workers will accompany those girls to court hearings. Teachers will help them regain control of their own futures through education and skill building. At the TTF Protection Center and the Hope and Healing Center, professional counselors will support courageous survivors on their journey toward healing.

Rapha is building the capacity to serve more children, but we need more committed monthly partners to reach our full potential. It takes all of us coming together to do the work of Rapha. In addition to our dedicated professional staff—now over 250 worldwide—supporters, partners, advocates, and encouragers are all essential to Rapha’s mission.



Aryn Tanksley
ARYN TANKSLEY
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



“
New facilities will become
safe havens for children.”



THE CURRENT CRISIS IN HAITI

Haiti's complex history of exploitation by outside forces has led to a state of constant unrest, violence, and systemic corruption. The collapse of Haiti's government after the assassination of President Moïse in July 2021 plunged the country into a state of unprecedented chaos, leaving children and women even more vulnerable to violence and exploitation as internal criminal justice and social service systems are unable to operate effectively. Economic freefall and gang warfare have created an environment rampant with sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

A study conducted by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in December 2022 revealed that gender-based violence (GBV), especially sexual violence, has escalated dramatically since the President's assassination and the escalation of gang conflicts in 2022. Of the women who participated in the study, 80% had been victims of one or more forms of gender-based violence, significantly higher than the UN's estimated world average of 33%. Of these women who had experienced GBV, 62% had experienced this in 2022 (GIATOC, 2022, p. 3). A study conducted in October 2022 by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights showed that much of this sexual violence is being perpetrated by the gangs to instill fear and assert power over communities. This recent data confirms the gravity of the deteriorating situation in Haiti and the increasingly unsafe conditions for its citizens. Dealing with an unprecedented number of sexual violence cases, Haiti lacks adequate capacity to respond to the psychosocial, physical, and security needs of survivors.

Rapha's work in Haiti over the past few years has been transformed through the flexibility and innovation necessary to respond to this crisis. Focusing on the issue of gender based violence—which encompasses trafficking and sexual abuse—Rapha has implemented projects, in partnership with transnational organizations like UNICEF and UN Women, that assist women and girls in the recovery from and prevention of sexual violence. In 2023, more than 4,000 women, children, and men participated in various violence prevention efforts launched by Rapha as the political, security, and humanitarian crisis deepened. Despite security challenges and lack of access to communities most affected by the violence, Rapha provided holistic services to 160

survivors of sexual violence in 2023, which included access to mental health counseling, social work services, relocation from gang-affected areas, training on risk and violence mitigation, and support for income generating activities. In addition, 63 female-headed families were relocated to safer, more stable housing after being displaced by gang warfare; 140 micro-enterprises were launched; and 580 displaced families received life-saving nutrition and hygiene kits. Over 3,000 young people, parents, service providers, and community leaders were engaged in Rapha-led training on abuse and violence prevention, community peace building, and risk mitigation.

Rapha's courageous staff members continue to navigate this dangerous and challenging situation in order to serve. Their dedication to coming alongside survivors in their community is an inspiration to all of us—the bravery, selflessness, and resiliency they demonstrate every day is incredible. Their faith sustains their energy and hopefulness as God watches over and protects them.

At this time, Rapha is not operating large-scale residential care in Haiti. It became clear as violence escalated that keeping survivors in large groups was unsafe. Currently, the flexibility and agility to move quickly from place to place, often at a moment's notice, is essential for safety. Because that is not the case for large groups of residential clients, it is more responsible and effective for Rapha to focus on community-based and outpatient programming for survivors in Haiti.

GERSON NOZEA

COUNTRY DIRECTOR - HAITI



Pray for Haiti

Please join us in prayer for Haiti and for everyone impacted by the crisis. Pray in particular for Rapha's staff and the survivors they are serving—pray for their safety and pray for them to maintain hope in the midst of this terrible crisis. **Visit rapha.org/prayer-guide to receive a copy of Rapha's 30 Day Prayer Guide and join us in prayer for Rapha, our staff and girls, and an end to trafficking and abuse.**

Rapha is still coming alongside survivors and vulnerable people to promote healing, safety, and hope in Haiti. Please join us in standing with and supporting women and children as they are coping with unimaginable trauma, abuse, and violence. **Commit to a monthly gift that will go directly to Rapha's efforts in Haiti at rapha.org/give.**

memorable moments



TASANEE

The most memorable moments from my work at Rapha are words spoken by clients who have found healing and hope at Rapha.

At her high school graduation, Taeng cried happy tears as she told her teacher, "I am the only one in my entire family who has had the chance to study until high school, and now I will be attending a college!" There is so much hope for the future when survivors are given opportunities to thrive.

Another Rapha client, Chailai, told her counselor, "I never thought that I could be a good person until I came to Rapha. Now I understand and can start to love myself."



HEATHER

When I think about memorable moments from the past 11 years I have worked for Rapha, many different scenes flash across my mind. Standing on the front porch of the safe house in Haiti, cutting the ribbon to signify the beginning of this brand new program, alongside the Haitian team that we had hired, trained, and worked with for months in eager anticipation of that day. Dance parties and laughter on that very same porch with the beautiful girls we had the privilege of serving there. Sitting on the floor of an upstairs balcony with one of those girls who wanted to jump and put an end to her pain. Standing in an operating room and holding the hand of a 12-year-old while she delivered twin boys. Taking the girls to the beach and seeing the wonder and delight on the faces of those who had never been to the ocean before. Boarding an airplane with a terrified 6-year-old to escort her back to her passport country on behalf of the government. Gathering with the staff in my office to pray for a reintegrated girl who was in a dangerous situation. Holding the hand of a 5-year-old while a doctor did a gynecological exam to determine the extent of damage done to her. Listening on the other end of the phone to shrieks of joy as our social worker called a family to let them know we had found their daughter with Down syndrome who had been missing for months. Watching a young woman who had once felt hopeless and broken leave our care and go back to her community with a newfound confidence and vision for her future.

The pain, the injustice, the beauty, the hope—all of this is a part of the work of Rapha. It is not easy work, but the role we get to play in protecting vulnerable children, reuniting families, and empowering survivors in their journey towards healing and freedom, makes every bit of it worth it.

ANGIE



On a recent trip to Cambodia, Heather Nozea, Rapha's Programs Director, and I met with client services staff at our facility in Battambang, including a new Social Work Manager. She had been with Rapha for about two months. Even though she was professional and competent, our first impression of her was that she was stoic and quiet.

At one point in the meeting, Heather asked the new Social Work Manager, "What is your vision for Rapha in the future?" To our surprise, she began to cry. She answered with heartfelt desire to do even more work strengthening the community and investing in families, as well as serving survivors, so that the girls can have a future that doesn't repeat their past. There was not a dry eye in the room.

Her passion for healing and freedom for girls is shared by every team member you meet at a Rapha program site. Our faithful, dedicated, and professional staff can only do this life-saving work with your support—thank you!



LUKE

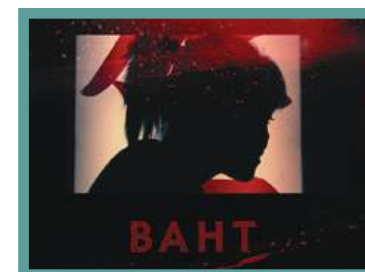
As a young youth pastor, I learned about Rapha when I saw the Baht film with my students at CIY MOVE in 2008. Like my students, I was moved and motivated to learn more about Rapha's programs and the issue of human trafficking, and to share about Rapha with our church and community.

In order to decorate a booth at local events to share about Rapha, we ordered several merchandise items from Rapha's website. At the time, Rapha had greeting cards that were hand drawn by clients. We bought several. To me, the scenes on the cards (most of them simple, Cambodian landscapes and houses) represented what the girls were thinking of and longing for while they were in treatment at Rapha. Although they were spending a necessary season at Rapha's campus to ensure their safety and support their healing, they were thinking of their homes and their families.

A couple years later, I took my first trip to Cambodia. Our team was invited to a wedding of a former Rapha client. It was a celebration that extended beyond the meaning of a typical wedding. This wedding symbolized love and commitment, but also a new found freedom and the redemption of a life from trauma and darkness.

I had brought along a hand drawn card that had been purchased from Rapha and decided to use it to deliver my wedding gift that day. On the bus on the way to the wedding, Stephanie Freed, Rapha's Co-Founder and CEO, noticed the card and asked to see it. Scrutinizing the tiny signature in the corner of the card she made an incredible discovery. The client who drew the card was the same client being married that day!

To me, that card symbolized her longing for her future and her freedom while she recovered from trauma at Rapha. Presenting her with that card at a celebration of her rebuilt life represented the spirit of Rapha's work and my hope for every girl we serve.



memorable moments



ANTHONY

In 2023, my son and I were able to visit Rapha's Siem Reap campus. As part of our time there, we spent time playing soccer with the girls—there was lots of giggling, smiling, high-fives and fist bumps as we ran around doing our best Messi impersonations. It was their smiles that got me most—huge smiles that were so carefree—and the thought that "these are just normal teenage girls having a blast," which was quickly followed with a reminder of the horrors they have all seen and been through. Rapha allows space for these survivors to at least for brief moments to be teenagers again filled with life and joy.

As CFO, I spend a lot of time in meetings discussing financial stuff—I was in the middle of meeting with one of our wonderful accounting staff in Battambang in 2023 when our meeting was interrupted by laughter and shouting outside. Despite the closed windows and the AC blasting in the room, it was quite loud but I knew what it was. My son and I had set up a 9-Square-In-The-Air game and he was teaching the girls and the staff how to play. From 200 yards away, I could hear the laughter and the happy screams each time one of the girls was knocked out of the game. What I love about working at Rapha is that we bring joy and fun to girls who previously knew so much pain and misery—and I'll never forget these sounds of joy!



ANGELA



The moment that will forever be etched in my memory occurred while I was in Cambodia at our Battambang campus. While visiting, the team was on a campus tour and I was sitting on the front steps of our vocational training facility spending time with some of the girls—they were practicing their English and teaching me Khmer. This is one of my favorite pastimes when I take visitors to see the work of Rapha on the field.

While we were talking and braiding each other's hair, we watched as a new girl was brought inside the campus gate. As she sat down on the garden wall, very sullen and looking overwhelmed, the girls around me chatted in Khmer. To me, it sounded like they were coming up with a plan.

As I watched the scene unfold, it was decided that they would take turns going over to this scared, sweet girl. I don't know what was said, but each of them took a turn, spoke softly and briefly to her, then returned back to the group. As I watched her demeanor change, however subtly, I began to cry tears for her, knowing she was scared and in a new place. As I continued to witness this beautiful shared understanding, my tears turned into those of great joy, watching these girls welcome her. They had been in her shoes once, they had felt overwhelmed, and they wanted her to know it was going to be okay.

As her counselor came to get her and lead her to the administrative offices, she turned, looked at us with the faintest smile, and lifted a slow hand to acknowledge our group. My prayer then and my prayer for every girl that crosses through the gates of Rapha is that the peace of Jesus will be felt, friends will be made, and healing will begin.



DAVID

I took a group of students to Cambodia in 2009 (I was then a professor at Florida Christian College). It was really an investigatory trip—these students had started to believe in Rapha, and to invest in its work, and we wanted to make sure that reality tracked with what was being represented to us.

When we visited Rapha's campus in Siem Reap, all the girls in their care were new, and they all were aloof from the entirety of our group of ten visitors. It was completely understandable and completely heartbreaking.

Our visit was relatively brief. We got to meet and talk with the staff. We were delighted to have the privilege of dreaming with them about how their hearts and minds would be used by God for his good purposes in the lives of the girls in their care.

As our time drew to an end, we sat with the staff in a circle of chairs in the courtyard, gathering together for a farewell prayer time together. We left several chairs in the circle empty. The staff made clear that any of the girls who wanted to come and sit and pray with us were welcome. At first, none were forthcoming. We had almost started to pray, when a young woman—we guessed she was in her mid-teens—came and sat down in the circle. She didn't make eye contact with any of us. It clearly took a monumental, intentional effort to choose a seat and sit down with us. We tried to contain our excitement that anyone would choose to join the group in prayer—we tried to play it cool, but I am sure that some of our happy enthusiasm naturally broke through.

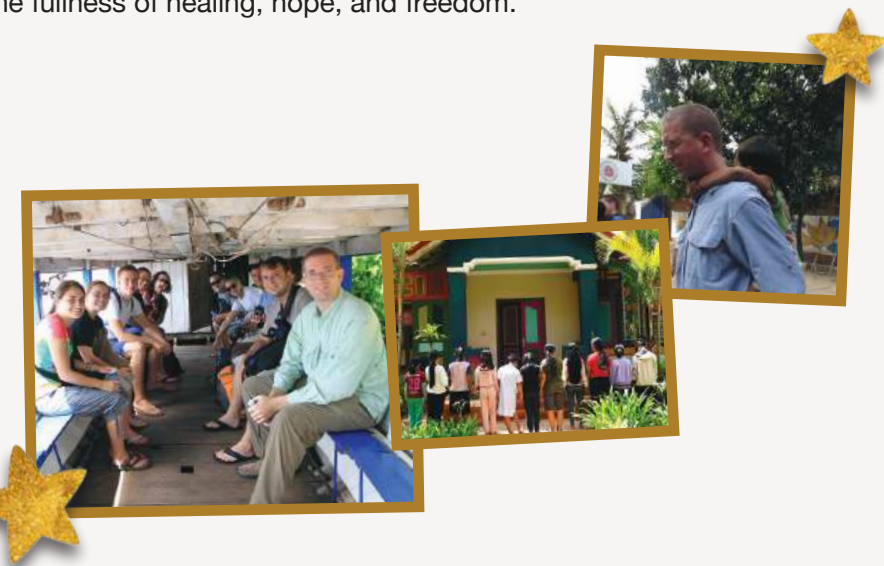
As a group, we were determined not to make her focal; we didn't want any very real awkwardness or discomfort to be augmented even further. So, we just went around the circle, asking each staff member and trip participant whether they had any requests they wanted the staff team leader to pray for, making clear that it was fine if they didn't. Some of the travelers and staff shared requests, others didn't. We normalized quietude and tacitly gave permission to say nothing. The young woman was about two-thirds of the way around the circle. We didn't want to too hastily move past her and treat her strictly in terms of our collective assumption that she would likely decline; she was entirely quiet up until that point and otherwise wholly aloof. So, we waited just

long enough—long enough for a moment that remains written on my heart. She lifted her head. She didn't really make eye contact with any of us but she did lift her eyes. Looking past us, she spoke briefly and quietly, but clearly. She didn't smile, but was compelled to speak, and did so with a determined earnestness, asserting whatever she felt she had left of herself. The translator told us what she had asked for:

"That I would be safe."

The breath still leaves me as I think of this girl who had had everything, even a basic sense of safety and trust, taken from her. Her skepticism that she would ever again be something other than used and abused was embedded in her prayer request. And yet she asked, clinging to whatever hope she perceived might be afforded her in this place, by these people. I cannot even fathom the courage it took to sit down, as she did, in that circle of strangers, heavily burdened by trauma. I don't know if I've ever seen anyone so strong, so courageous, and so entirely staking her life on hope in a single moment.

May we ensure that the last vestiges of God-fired hope of every child like her, every child willing to cling to whatever hope there might yet be in the world, would never be in vain. God is already there, trying to spark that hope, trying to whisper it into ears that the world has tried to empty of even the echo of hope. God awaits those who know him and who say they want his will to be done to show up and ensure that her hope—all the "hers" like her—is not in vain, but will come to the fullest fruition it can, in the fullness of healing, hope, and freedom.

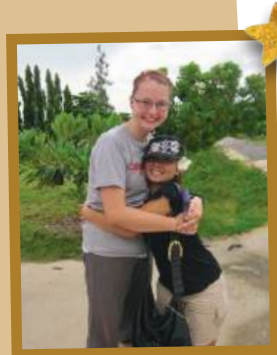


memorable moments



BETHANY

When I visited Cambodia as a teen, and saw first hand Rapha's work with children and survivors, my life was forever changed. One of the most impactful moments was our time visiting and learning from Theara Sath's (Rapha's Cambodian Director) family. The Sath Family has been a foundational part of Rapha's work from the beginning. They have served as a place of refuge for children in their community for over 20 years.



Our team spent the day learning about Cambodian history—the horrific genocide of the Khmer Rouge, seeing God at work through faithful church leaders, and having our eyes open to such an incredible need for resources and education. It felt overwhelming throughout the day.

That evening we all came together and ate a delicious meal that Theara's mother had prepared and listened to her family share so many stories of God's faithfulness through hardship, pain, and suffering as well as stories of how they were able to serve right where they were in their community. Earlier that day we had witnessed first hand Rapha's community involvement and spent time learning and praying over this community. That evening we saw how God

truly was at work despite the overwhelming need—He was already there meeting those needs and providing protection for children through Rapha's prevention efforts and the Sath family.



SARAH



My Grandpa, Jim Boman, always had a heart for missions. To say he was overjoyed, back in 2019, when I got a job at one of his favorite mission organizations would be an understatement. I grew up hearing all about his mission trips and the amazing opportunities he had to serve the vulnerable in Cambodia alongside his friends Joe and Linda Garman, co-founders of Rapha.

In 2009, I felt the passion he had for those vulnerable kids in my own heart for the first time. Stephanie Freed came to my school to talk about Rapha's part in the fight against human trafficking across the world. She showed a powerful video about the issue of sex trafficking. My thirteen-year-old heart broke that day. As I sat with all my friends seeing the brokenness of the world, I knew my life was changing forever. I didn't know how or what I was going to do—I just knew I had to do something. Wanting to do anything I could to help, I soon found myself with a teacher, Mrs. Russell, and a handful of other students sorting and tagging merchandise at Rapha. It felt like a small task, but I knew it was making a difference.

As a middle school student, I couldn't imagine where learning about Rapha would take me or how it would connect back to my grandpa. Thirteen years later, I now get to work for Rapha. My grandpa and I always bonded over stories; he would tell me what it had been like to serve overseas in Cambodia and I would talk about the new things I was getting to do at the Rapha office stateside. Though he passed away in 2022, I feel immensely blessed to continue to live out his legacy of loving and serving the vulnerable girls Rapha International exists to help.



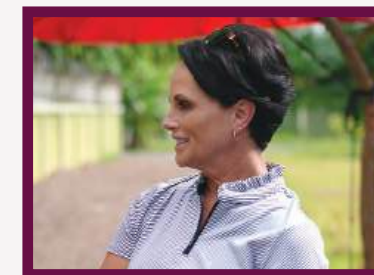
STEPHANIE

Several years ago, a child was rescued and placed with Rapha in Cambodia. She had a severe form of cerebral palsy. This child could not walk and she had great difficulty with communication. Her family lived in extreme conditions of poverty, and her migrant worker parents had left her in the care of an aunt who, in their absence, sold her to a trafficking ring that exploited children living with special needs—some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

People living with special needs are viewed by many in Cambodian culture as "unlucky" or having "bad karma." When I heard about this child who had been placed with us, I prayed that she would find great kindness and care at Rapha.

I was in Cambodia not long after her placement with us. It was late afternoon when I walked through Rapha's gates and encountered children at play in the front yard. It was a game of chase and there was much laughter and shrieking! I stopped in my tracks as I listened to the laughter coming from a child in a wheelchair. Two girls were pushing her as they (not very gently) helped her chase the other girls. Friends, I will never forget that moment.

That child changed the cultural landscape at Rapha on behalf of exploited children living with special needs. In the years following her rescue and placement with us, Rapha's Cambodian staff and clients would take on a deep understanding of the innate worth and value of individuals with special needs. I like to talk about ripple effects, but I think that might be a tide changer.



JOSEPH



I was sitting with one of our Cambodian Rapha counselors in her office on a warm August morning. She had just finished up a counseling session with a young girl at Rapha who was only 10 years old. The counselor said that some days are harder than others but that morning was such a special morning for the girl. That morning there were no tears in the session but a lot of laughter and joy. They had spent the morning simply painting pictures and laughing together. They got to talk about what colors they liked and even how colors made them feel. Walking through trauma with people is difficult but the counselor shared there are also so many little moments of joy when she gets to slow down and just connect through art and laughter.





FUNDRAISING DISCLOSURE

A copy of the latest financial report, registration filed by this organization, and a description of our programs and activities may be obtained by contacting us at: PO Box 1569, Joplin, MO 64802, or 417-621-0373. Rapha House International, Inc. was formed in Missouri. You may view a full copy of our state disclosures at rapha.org/state-disclosures.

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RAPHA HOUSE INTERNATIONAL is a public benefit 501c3 nonprofit committed to ending the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. Founded in 2003, Rapha International continues to serve and support children, while bringing them to lasting freedom. Healing, Hope, and Freedom is more than a slogan to us. It's a way of life at Rapha International.

Our mission is to to end the trafficking and sexual abuse of children—one child, one family, and one community at a time.



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