

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Shelter. Healing. Hope.

# Annual Report 2021

Assisting survivors of human trafficking and gender-based violence since 2013

## Our Mission

Solid Ground International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the help, assistance, and healing of individuals exploited by human trafficking and gender-based violence through the establishment and maintenance of transitional housing.

## Our Goal

The goal of SGI's transitional housing model is to launch residents into a successful independent life, focusing on transformation into the best individuals they can become.

## Program Details



### Housing

Family-style, safe housing near employment and educational opportunities



### Medical and Dental Assistance

Financial assistance for residents needing medical and dental check ups and treatment



### Life Skills Training

Onsite training in money management, home life, healthy relationships, health and hygiene, and accessing community resources



### Case Management

Individualized case management support from qualified staff



### Educational and Vocational Support

Tuition and new job requirements assistance



Dear Friend of Solid Ground International,

When 2020 drew to a close, the 2021 we imagined under the “new normal” seemed within reach. Then Typhoon Odette closed out 2021 and, in the midst of turmoil, we were even more determined to thrive through the challenges. Our residents found themselves engaged in online classes and digital modules throughout the entire year. They are so

grateful to continue their schooling despite the difficulties in distance learning. As an organization, we’ve implemented new strategies in educational support as partner support for education has changed over the past two years. This is a practical aspect of the work we do: we support our residents in achieving educational and vocational goals which make economic independence and stability sustainable.

At the same time, our program aims to support the person with its history, vulnerability, and complexity. The staff and I derive great joy from hearing the residents reflect on their growth and healing. In their 2021 renewal application letters, which the residents write after 18 months in SGI, Janani wrote this sentiment: “I’ve some realizations living here in SGI like how important social relationships are and mine are growing. I specialize on everyone’s story with sensitivity because everyone has different experiences and the SGI environment is helping us to grow and we slowly heal.”

Another resident, Rumi, shared these thoughts in her letter: “Staying at SGI has made a significant difference on my life, not only physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. We succeed individually but we can’t do it alone. Without encouragement and advice, when we feel down along the way, we will sure lose motivation to continue. That’s why, I’m always grateful for my SGI family for not getting tired of taking care of me and my attitude,” As much as Janani and Rumi’s resolve to finish college inspires awe, I am also moved by the value they place on supportive relationships and personal story.

We’ll continue to provide a physically safe home for Janani and Rumi to pursue education and to learn practical living skills. We also want to equip them with immeasurable courage and hope that comes from understanding ourselves and our power to grow and heal together – even during a pandemic and a powerful typhoon. Your support truly helps our residents thrive through the challenges.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
Kimberly Shields  
**Director**

### **Board of Directors**

Lukuang Lynette Hsu, MD – Chair  
David Wolter – President  
Sandra Borgest – Secretary  
Romina Yeganeh – Treasurer



## Our Impact to Date

Total number of residents served:



### Educational Accomplishments

12

College

12

High School

20

Vocation Training and Work

### Kenzie's Story

Kenzie was 18 years old when she was trafficked by a relative at a hotel. She stayed silent until she gathered the courage to tell a classmate who in turn told Kenzie's mother about the trafficking incident. With cooperation from her mother, the local authorities conducted a rescue operation and placed Kenzie in a government shelter.

Staying in a government shelter proved emotionally difficult since Kenzie was separated from her siblings and father who live on a different island. Nevertheless, she did not forsake her dream of pursuing her college education. Kenzie joined SGI in 2021 and enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics program. She hopes to be a financial analyst after she graduates.

Kenzie receives regular mental health services to help in the healing process. She believes her emotional, mental, and spiritual growth are essential in achieving her long-term goals. She expresses her determination in her

own words: "To my dearest self, I thank you for remaining strong to face a lot of problems at your young age. The past may give and bring you painful memories, but it gives you also a lot of lessons in life. There are a lot of persons who supported you along your journey. If we fail, just learn to get up and stand again. Life is like a bamboo; we need to be resilient. Just learn to fight for yourself."



\*In all cases, names have been changed to protect privacy.

# Resident Achievements and Life Skills Activities

## Education and Vocational Training

- Ten residents pursued college degrees in these majors: Psychology (3), Early Childhood Education (1), Tourism (1), Secondary Education (2), Industrial Technology (1), Graphics and Design (1), and Mathematics (1).
- Seven residents pursued senior high school education in grades 11 and 12.
- One resident pursued junior high school education in grade 10.
- One resident completed a vocational training course in Housekeeping and pursued on-the-job training at a hotel.
- Three residents completed a Skills Training and Empowerment and Program through a partner organization.

## Restoration

- Working with an international partner organization, two women served as mentors for a local support network for survivors of online and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Two residents maintained active mental health engagements.
- Two residents continued movement in family healing through reconnecting with immediate family members after long absences.

## Life Skills Activities

- Two residents participated in a financial literacy program.
- Local health center workers conducted a Reproductive Health Seminar for our new admissions.
- The residents attended several life skills seminars: Online Safety, Stress Management, Nutrition, and First Aid and Disaster Preparedness.
- The residents learned proper oral hygiene through dental checkups.
- One resident trained as a peer coach in an international youth workforce development program.

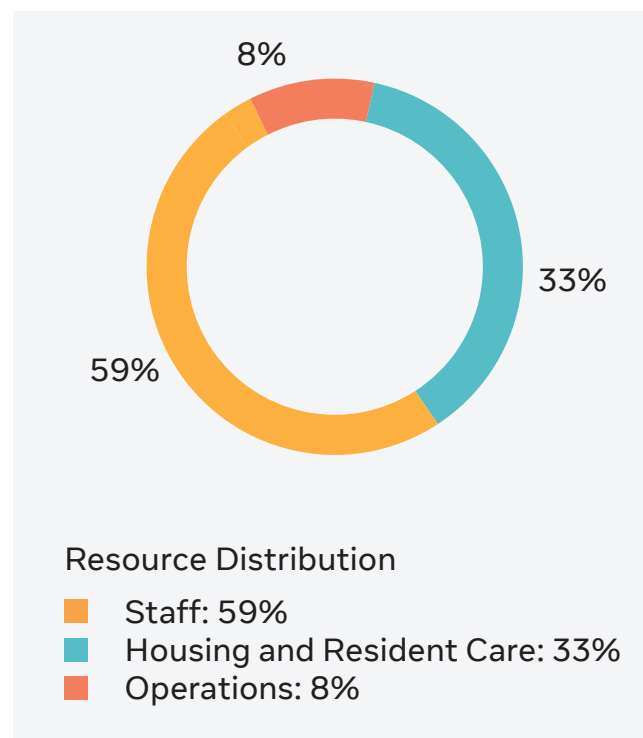
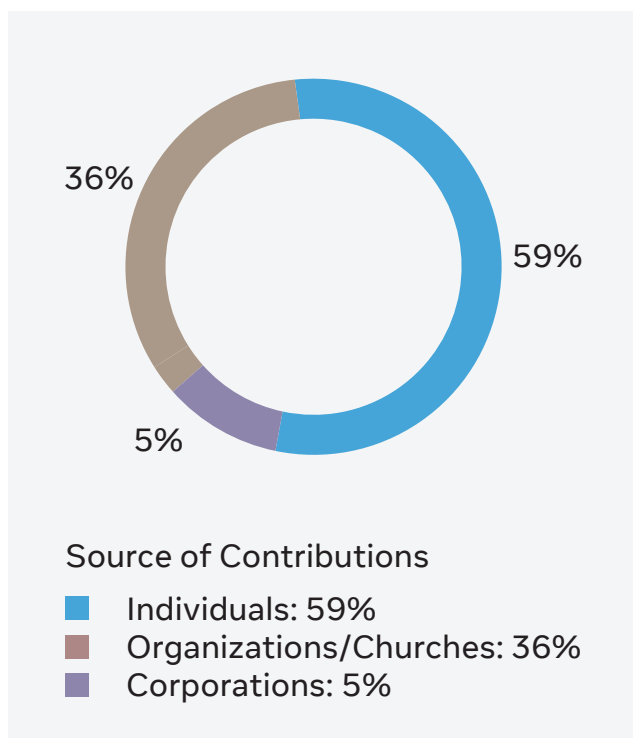
## Alumni Highlights

- An SGI partner employed a former resident as a social worker.
- One resident passed the Social Work Licensure Board Exam. She is a government social worker.

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## Financials



Total Contributions: **\$189,721**

## Launching a New Service in Our Program





We are excited to announce a new level of service for our residents. The service, called Aspire, provides more independence for graduates of our core homes and enables us to serve more residents overall. In this community-based home, the residents have an opportunity to gain confidence in using the life skills gained through living in our transitional homes.

Through Aspire, we look forward to seeing our residents complete educational goals



and find safe, stable employment. Three residents have started in this program, and we are so thrilled to watch these residents flourish with greater independence. We look forward to sharing the positive impact this program will have on our residents with you.

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