



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Annual Report 2022

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



Family-style, safe housing near employment and educational opportunities



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



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



Individualized case management support from qualified staff



Tuition and new job requirements assistance



Dear Friend of Solid Ground International,

We are so grateful for the triumphs and challenges of 2022. The year brought a return to pre-pandemic daily life in many regards. While some residents managed hybrid classroom schedules, others returned to full face-to-face classes and thrived. Travel opened and I was able to once again work alongside the staff and residents personally.

We expanded upon a new level of service we began in 2021 called Aspire, which provides housing support with no onsite staff but assistance with food and medical needs. At the end of 2022, we had six residents actively participating in this program. Aspire provides two benefits: the right level of independence and an enhancement of our ability to serve more residents in our core homes. We are renting an ideal place that fits our safety and location needs and continue to provide case management support to the Aspire residents.

In January, a former Solid Ground International (SGI) resident contacted our staff to ask if she could return to SGI. Difficult circumstances in her life left her without safe housing options or a supportive environment to continue her healing process. Lesley returned to our transition home in February and transferred to Aspire in March. In addition to her growth and healing throughout this year, she had full-time, regular employment as an administrative staff member of a medical laboratory.

Lesley has participated in our newly established SGI alumni program. Through our two alumni gatherings this year, we have begun to build a network of support that endures beyond the residents' stay in SGI. We are thrilled that our alumni are staying involved in our program and are interacting with our current residents.

Rumi provides further testament of Aspire's effectiveness. After four years in our transition home, she transferred to Aspire during her fourth year of college. Rumi shares this reflection: "Aspire didn't just help me finish my studies but also helps me to be prepared for my career stage. I believe that living here makes me be a person I always dream to be, a woman who will wear a black toga and a woman with much confidence to have a good and stable job someday."

We are thankful that after nine years of operations, SGI continues to support our residents through meaningful and sustainable programs. Though residential care can be challenging at times, seeing our residents flourish beyond their time at SGI gives us tremendous hope for the futures of the residents in our care. We are truly grateful for your partnership with us.

With Sincere Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Shields".

Kimberly Shields
Director

Board of Directors

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

Our Impact to Date



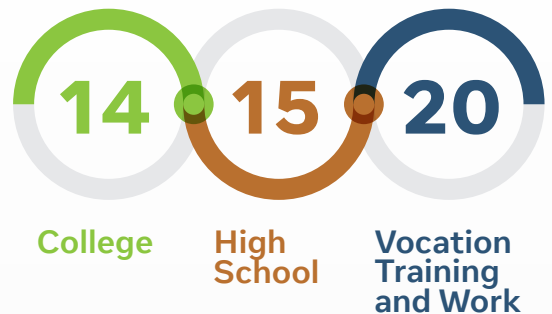
Total number of residents served:

68

Total number of residents in 2022:

26

Educational Accomplishments



Total number of nights of safe housing provided in 2022

6,769 nights



Meadow's Story

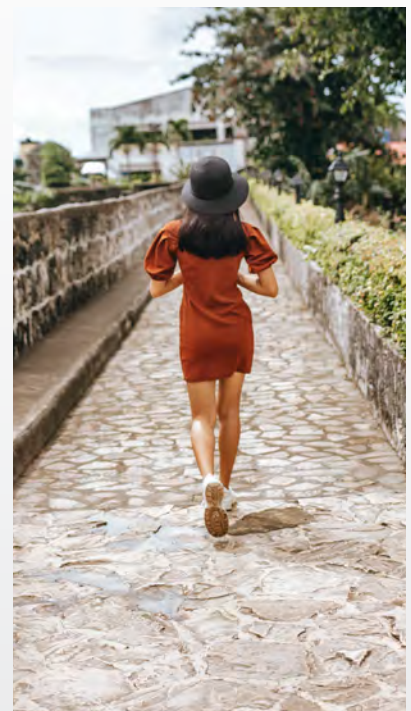
"I discovered my wish to have freedom and my happiness." – Meadow

At the age of four, Meadow's parents left her under the care of a friend so they could pursue work on other islands. Her childhood was tumultuous and she recalls having no permanent caregiver, no place to sleep, and little food to eat. In addition, this friend repeatedly abused her. Meadow could no longer endure the constant abuse and threats to her life. "Every night I prayed I would be okay and happy," she says. His former wife, who Meadow regards as her foster mother, helped her to file a case against him.

Upon filing the case, Meadow was placed in a government shelter for one year before transferring to a nongovernment organization for six years. Meadow's social worker referred her to SGI when she turned 18. She could not return to her foster's mother home because the home environment was not safe.

Meadow completed her junior high school equivalency exam while in SGI and then proceeded to senior high school. She will graduate from grade 12 in 2023 and plans to enroll in college to study social work. She cares deeply about others who have been abused and wants to help them to grow and overcome their difficulties in life.

She says, "From the start, I discovered my wish to have freedom and my happiness. SGI helped me to move forward and to not give up. Before I didn't want to share my story. And now I have the confidence to share it."



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

Resident Achievements and Life Skills Activities

Education and Vocational Training

- Sixteen residents pursued college degrees in these majors: Psychology, Development Communication, Tourism, Elementary Education, Secondary Education in Values Education, Mathematics, Information Technology, Industrial Technology in Food Preparation, Social Work, and Graphics and Design.
- One resident graduated from college with a degree in Early Childhood Education.
- Seven residents pursued senior high school education in grades 11 and 12.
- One resident became a full-time employee as a housekeeper after completing her vocational training certification.
- One resident became a regular employee as a head administrative officer at a medical laboratory.
- Two residents gained employment at business process outsourcing companies.
- Three residents completed a Skills Training Empowerment Program through a partner organization.

Restoration

- Working with an international partner organization, two residents were Philippine-based officers and trainers for survivors of the Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children.

Life Skills Activities

- The residents attended life skills seminars on emotion regulation and self-defense skills.
- The residents secured summer jobs.
- The residents secured their voters' registrations and voted in the presidential and local government elections.
- All residents opened or maintained a bank account.

Physical Health and Wellness

- Local health center workers conducted a Reproductive Health Seminar for our new resident admissions.
- The residents learned proper oral hygiene through dental checkups.
- Nine residents maintained active mental health engagements.

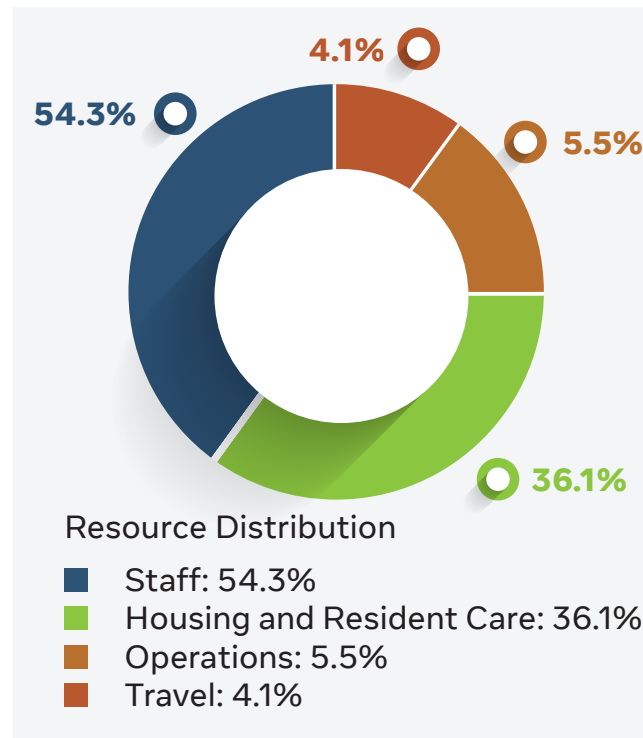
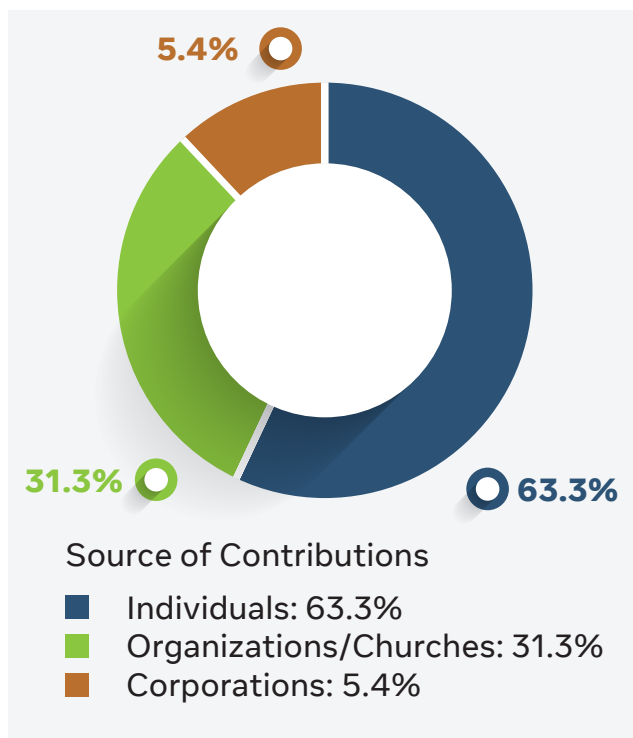
Alumni Highlights

- We hosted two alumni gatherings.
- Two alumni maintained their employment as government social workers, positions they have held since their successful SGI discharge in 2015.
- One alum graduated with a degree in social work and was employed by an educational foundation for under-resourced students.



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Financials



Total Contributions: **\$185,469**

Looking Forward to Ten Years of Restoring Survivors

As we reflect upon the 68 residents who have been a part of SGI's story, we look forward to our upcoming celebration of ten years. We opened our first transition home in 2013 with a strategic plan and model in place, but activating the plan required a leap into a new realm of aftercare work. Nearly a decade later, we are filled with gratitude for the residents whose lives have been restored, the staff who have remained committed, and the community of support that has upheld us. We are excited to share our ten-year anniversary celebration with you.



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