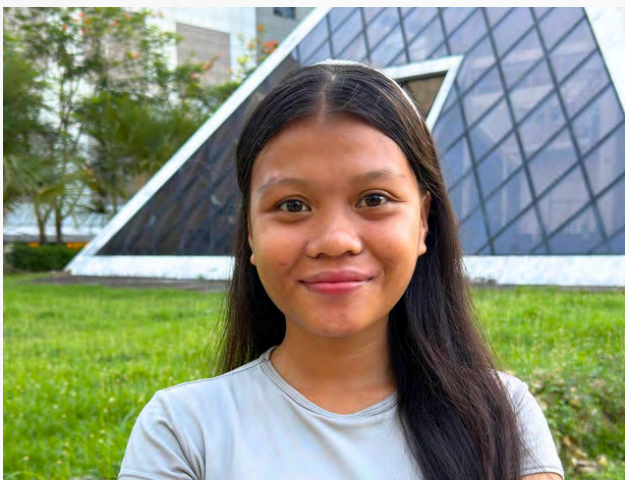




**SHELTER. HEALING. HOPE.**



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**2024**  
ANNUAL REPORT

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# KIMBERLY SHIELDS

SGI DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of Solid Ground International,

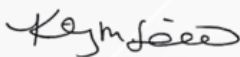
In 2024, Solid Ground International served 28 residents in our homes. We continue to marvel at their growth and perseverance in reaching their goals. This was a significant year in which four residents graduated from senior high school and six graduated from college. The college graduates had been with us for more than four years, so it was bittersweet to bid them farewell.

Amaya, who graduated magna cum laude from a top university, expressed her thankfulness for having the support of SGI as she completed her college education: "During my time here, I've cultivated independence, resilience, and accountability, thanks to the challenges I've faced. SGI has played a pivotal role in propelling me toward my aspirations. The staff's support and generosity have been invaluable."

Our greatest hope is that, like Amaya, every resident who enters our doors finds a supportive place to heal, grow, and flourish. Amaya's college application was declined the first year she applied. Undeterred, she worked for one year, applied again, and was accepted. Four years later, she is thankful she did not abandon her college dream.

Your generosity and encouragement shine light through the brokenness and bring hope. Your support reminds our residents they are not alone and that you see and value them. We consider it a privilege to partner with you in this life-changing work.

With Sincere Gratitude,



Kimberly M. Shields  
SGI Director

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

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



## ASSISTING SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SINCE 2013

### VISION



Solid Ground International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration of individuals exploited by human trafficking and gender-based violence.



### MISSION

The mission of Solid Ground International is to provide housing, healing, and hope through the establishment and maintenance of transitional housing. We create safe environments and provide supportive services to enable residents to overcome their trauma and flourish in their independent lives.

### PROGRAM DETAILS



Family-style housing near employment and educational opportunities



Educational financial assistance, academic tutoring, and job onboarding support



Financial assistance for residents who need medical, dental, and mental health care



Individualized case management support from a full-time, registered social worker



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



Social and spiritual development activities



## OUR IMPACT TO DATE

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED: **81**

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SERVED IN 2024: **28**

## MOST MEMORABLE ACTIVITIES IN 2024

- SGI CHRISTMAS PARTY
- MEDITATION IN SOUL SIERRA
- OVERNIGHT BEACH OUTING
- MONTHLY FELLOWSHIPS

## EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COLLEGE GRADUATIONS: **22**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS: **26**

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: **23**



## FAVORITE SNACKS OF RESIDENTS AND STAFF IN THE SGI HOMES

- MANGOES
- PUTO CHEESE (STEAMED CAKE)
- CHICHARON (FRIED PORK RINDS)
- PIZZA
- FRENCH FRIES



*Guinevere was rescued from the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children in 2013. She has been a resident of SGI for approximately three years. She is currently in our Aspire program and will graduate from college in July 2025. These are her own words.*

One vivid childhood memory is when I was 7 years old. I am holding a bag full of purple and pink beads to make jewelry. I was attracted to the different shapes and even the deformed beads. If I put the beads in the right places, it will make a beautiful creation. When the pieces are put together, it makes something new.

My other childhood memories are that I didn't stay in one place. If we didn't have food, I would go to my grandmother. We would sleep without eating sometimes. I was vulnerable to trafficking because of my family's situation.

When I was 12 years old, my neighbor invited me to her house to talk to foreigners online. She offered me money so I agreed. I didn't know she got money when I performed online for foreigners. I also didn't know the authorities had begun to investigate my neighbor, who had become known to them because of her illegal activities online.

During the rescue, I was sleeping in my school. I heard someone looking for me and saying my name because International Justice Mission was at my school. My teacher took me to the computer room where the IJM interviewer was. I was nervous. Until that day, I wasn't thinking about getting rescued. No one told us that it was wrong of our trafficker to traffic us online.

Now as a soon-to-be college graduate, I am very happy, positive, and an overcomer. I survived and I am safe. Not all the broken pieces are ugly. Each piece has a unique beauty. Maybe my past trafficking experience could have destroyed my life, but God gave me hope to see my future. My future plan is to go abroad after working in the Philippines for 1-2 years in the hotel or restaurant industry. I want to have my own restaurant and be the head chef.

I am thankful for SGI. They helped me by checking in on me and supporting my mental health. That's what I need – the support and encouragement.



**GUINEVERE'S STORY**

## RESIDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITIES

### ● EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- Twenty-two residents pursued college degrees in these majors: Architecture, Furniture and Cabinet Making, Development Communication, Public Administration, Social Work, Psychology, Graphic and Design, Industrial Technology in Food Preparation, and Secondary Education in Values Education, and Technical and Vocational Teacher Education in Food Services Management Technology.
- Of the twenty-two college students, six completed their college educations with four students graduating with honors.
- One college graduate passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers.
- Four residents graduated from high school, two of whom graduated with honors.
- One resident completed a housekeeping course through the Department of Manpower Development and Placement.
- One resident worked as a cashier at a supermarket while waiting to enroll in college.
- 7-Eleven hired one of our college graduates to be part of their pilot program for management training.
- Our two psychology graduates landed HR jobs at a large construction company and an airport security office.

### ● RESTORATION

- One resident traveled to Bali to speak at an anti-trafficking conference for International Justice Mission (IJM). She spoke about the importance of financial literacy for trafficking survivors.
- Five residents participated in IJM's Philippine Survivor Network. Through leadership training, the residents learned how to share their stories, advocate for change in justice systems, and participate in research that rallies against the violence and exploitation of children throughout the Philippines.
- One resident continued to be part of the Survivor Leadership Council for Eleison Foundation. The Council members co-facilitate activities for new clients, provide mentorship, and ensure Eleison's programs and research are survivor-centered.
- Seven residents had active mental health engagements with our psychologist.

### ● LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

- Twelve residents participated in our Aspire program, our second level of service comprised of community-based housing.
- Our residents received free dental cleanings through a partner organization.
- A government health center midwife conducted a reproductive health seminar for our new residents.
- The residents attended life skills seminars on financial literacy and mental health.
- Residents secured summer jobs.
- Three residents participated in self-defense classes.
- Two residents were active members of the worship teams at their churches.



## PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION

In honor of our ten-year anniversary, we invited our partners, alumni, staff, and current residents to join our Board Chairperson, Dr. Lynette Hsu, to share our gratitude for a decade of transforming the lives of survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence. Our theme was "From Darkness to Light: 10 Years of Collaboration for Healing and Justice."

We are thankful for the presence of these partners: International Justice Mission, World Hope International, EverFree Philippines, Mercy In Action, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, The Society of the Divine Word, Happy Horizons Children's Ranch, Cebu Hope Center, Villa Maria Good Shepherd Sisters, and the Women and Children Development Center of Talisay City.

Through the courageous testimonies of our alumni, residents, and partners, the past ten years have shown us what is possible when we work together to heal and restore lives. Our mission must continue. Together, with our community of supporters, we are determined to continue building a future where every survivor not only finds freedom and hope but truly flourishes.

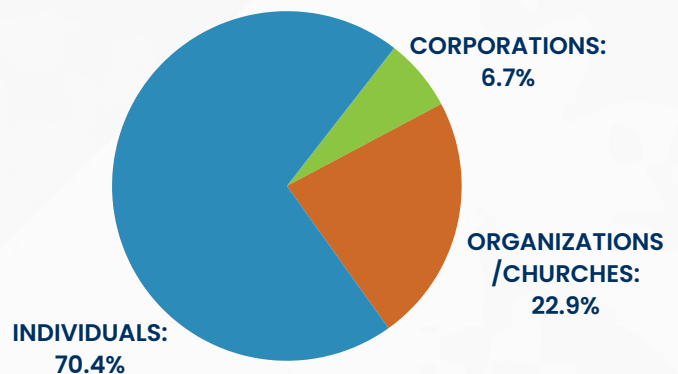


## FINANCIALS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

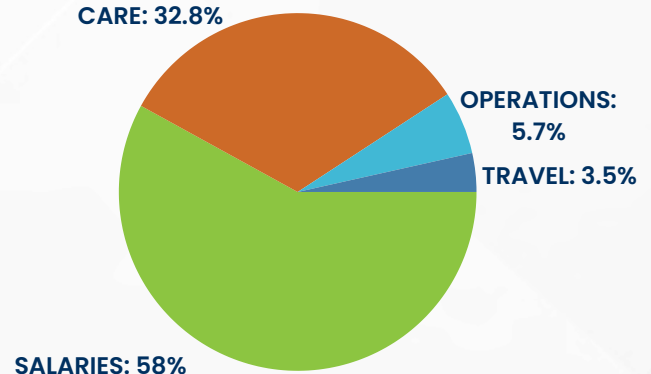
**\$159,355**

### SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS







### RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

HOUSING AND RESIDENT  
CARE: 32.8%



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INTERNATIONAL**  
**SHELTER. HEALING. HOPE.**

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