Final Report

Organization Name: Transitions Global
Program Title: Dream Home
Grant Amount: $50,000
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Goals:
To serve 28 young Cambodian and Vietnamese girls rescued from sex trafficking through the Transitions’ Dream Home Program. The Dream Home is a unique and holistic shelter aftercare program focused on helping girls rescued from sex trafficking to heal from their trauma and to discover a new future. Transitions focuses on empowering girls to go beyond learning menial skills and helps them to attain a dream for their lives – finding girls opportunities to pursue 21st century careers and become world changers.

Transitions has made some positive strides with its programming for survivors of sex trafficking. We have reintegrated 7 girls since October 2013: 5 clients went to our STAR House program, one client to her home/community and one client to a long term housing program for adults. 5 of our clients have entered 9th grade public (ministry) school. 9 of our clients are in our intensive 9th-grade tutoring program that will prepare them to take the 9th grade promotion exam in July.

Merry Stricker, former Transitions Country Director, joined the Transitions Board, she and another board member came to Cambodia to observe our program and speak with our staff and clients about program progress. Merry has already become an asset, introducing Transitions to a larger potential donor pool and corporate sponsors.

We also welcomed Tracy Evans, former Olympian and founder of Kids Play International along with 3 other former Olympians and supporters who provided yoga and soccer equipment for our clients. We had a visit from a US-based dental team from Oregon in September who did cleanings, as well as, extractions and fillings for all of our clients and staff in our Shine Career School, which we turned
into a mobile clinic. Yvonne Rafferty, PhD a researcher from Pace University in the US who is doing research for the United Nations on aftercare best practices met with COO Athena Pond, Country Director Sara Nadelman and Clinical Director Jo Snapp. She had extremely positive things to say about the Transitions program and feels that our program needs a broader base of professional and public sectors being aware of the work we are doing. She plans to document this in her upcoming report to the UN.

**Dream Home Update:**
The Dream Home has provided aftercare services to 22 girls.

**Phase Movement:**
- Phase 4 to reintegration/graduation: 7 clients
- Phase 3 to Phase 4: 3 clients
- Phase 2 to Phase 3: 7 clients
- Phase 1 to Phase 2: 3 clients
- Phase 1: 2 clients.

5 of our graduates have entered STAR House, 1 reintegrated to her family/community and one was transferred to an excellent adult program, CCPCR.

1 new client joined the Dream Home in September. She came to us as a lateral transfer from another shelter that was losing funding. She is a very smart and caring client who dreams of becoming a teacher.

We have continued to develop our online case management system and further develop our M&E program. After careful consideration, we felt that our current psychological scales were remedial and did not provide enough pertinent information. The CEO and clinical team decided on a more aggressive set of scales, which would provide more usable information to the M&E program. We are using 3 new scales for our M&E:

1. PTSD-RI (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder-Reaction Index) – this measure is a more comprehensive and appropriate scale for the population of survivors we are working with. This will give an accurate baseline measurement of our girls and is a more workable treatment tool.

2. CBCL (Child Behavior Checklist) and CBCL YSR (Youth Self Report) – this is a dual scale – both the clients and staff report behaviors and moods of the client themselves. This allows for a more holistic view of the clients, as well as, a crosscheck of how client perceive themselves and how caregivers perceive clients.

3. PHQ (Personal Health Questionnaire) – This is a simple 9 item inventory that measures several aspects of the client’s mental health status. This is a more concise and provides information that will assist in developing care plans and medical treatment.
These will serve as a supplement to our mental health assessment and will be administered on a regular basis. The CBCL has a portion that allows caregivers to assess each client. Our Direct Care team will be filling out the CBCL to help give a more holistic assessment of the clients’ behavior and mood.

We created an accelerated reintegration curriculum for those girls who were entering STAR House that covers in brief all of the important topics for safety and money management prior to independence. This will be supplemented by life skills lessons continuation at STAR House as part of the Independent Living Skills curriculum.

Our clients had their regular twice-yearly home visits. They enjoyed seeing their families and visiting their communities. This is a costly endeavor for Transitions, because we accept clients from all over Cambodia. We have looked for ways to decrease the cost of doing this, but family visits are both mandated by the Cambodian government and critical for care planning.

Clients continue their weekly skateboarding at Skateistan and really enjoy this program. They also have Saturday self-defense/boxing classes at a local fitness facility. They are enjoying the chance to get exercise as well as learn important self-defense skills.

A Dream Home star at Skateistan.

We are also planning our annual Christmas party and a possible trip to Bokor mountain. One of our volunteers is sponsoring a trip to Kid City for the clients to go ice-skating. They are excited about all of these upcoming events!
STAR House Update

In the last 6 months, 5 new girls – graduates from the Dream Home – joined the Star House. Currently we have two girls finishing high school, one girl in the Shine education program ½ day and ½ day in a chef vocational training program, two girls in high-end hair styling vocational training, 1 working full-time as a chef and 1 in university.

In September of 2013, our STAR House location moved to a beautiful new pateya levang (long house) style home. It has 6 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms. The new house has a beautiful balcony and lots of light. It is in a neighborhood not far from Dream Home that has its own security guard. Our STAR House security guard also provides overnight oversight of the STAR house as well as doing maintenance and any repairs. He works closely with our Case Managers to ensure the highest level of client care. The entering and current STAR House clients and TG staff spent 2 days over a weekend cleaning and painting the new STAR House as well as choosing rooms. All of the residents are enjoying living and cooking together. They provide excellent support to each other and say it is like having sisters living with them.

A new room at STAR House.

From October through December we have had Sofia Karim, MSW join us as a Social Work Fellow. She further developed and refined our STAR House programming and administration. Ms. Karim developed a comprehensive operations manual and forms that will be used to
strengthen the STAR program. The STAR House program is growing and expanding as our clients needs demand. The clients feel really excited about STAR as an option for reintegration and are well-versed in their rights and responsibilities as part of living independently. It is a great, supportive next step towards living on their own.

We have also reconfigured staffing for STAR to ensure appropriate support for our clients. Our Reintegration and Family Assessment Social Worker, Puthika Heng will be working with the clients on Career and Education planning as well as doing continued family and community assessments. Our 2 case managers to ensure continuity of care upon reintegration will follow our STAR clients. These Case Managers will provide weekly case management and supportive counseling as necessary as well as administration of life skills independent living curriculum.

Sofia and Phutika working on reintegration strategies.

**Shine Update**

During the last 6 months, 22 girls were enrolled at Shine. Clients attended the following classes: Khmer literacy, math, English, computers and had supplemental tutoring in the evenings.

We signed an MOU with the Ministry of Education in November 2013 that will allow us to continue our close collaboration with the Ministry as our Shine Career School program continues to grow and develop. The goal is to have a high school completion program and be able to issue tests and diplomas for 12th grade.
One of the major program developments over the past 6 months has been the establishment of our intensive 9th-grade tutoring program. 11 of our current clients have expressed interest in getting their high school and potentially university education. Two clients are in full day courses at the ministry school preparing for their 12th and 10th grade exams. 5 of our clients were evaluated to be safe to attend 9th grade offsite ministry school ½ day and ½ day in our intensive tutoring program. 4 clients are in ½ day Shine education programming and ½ day intensive tutoring.

Intensive tutoring for High School Classes

Highly qualified educators, most whom also teach in the local high school, staff our intensive tutoring program. Each weekday our clients get intensive tutoring in: chemistry, physics, math, Khmer and English. They also get supplemental courses in computer over the weekends. This tutoring allows our clients, many of who had very little formal education to achieve their dream of getting their high school diplomas. They are able to learn in small classes with trauma-informed tutors.

Additionally, any STAR House clients who want to, is able to come back and participate in on our basic education classes (English, math, Khmer and computer). We also provide after hours tutoring for those clients whose schedules do not allow them to take classes during the workday.
Another program development project we have undertaken is the creation of education/vocational tracks.

**ASSESSMENT:** All clients are continuously monitored by our Career and Education Social Worker (CESW) for academic and vocational training progress. All clients are assessed for Khmer, English, Math and Computer literacy and placement upon arrival at Dream Home. Their progress is tracked by the CESW, Shine staff and teachers.

**TRACKS:**

*Basic Education:* All of our clients participate in our Basic Education Curriculum that includes Khmer, English, Math and Computer in small classes with supplementary tutoring in areas that they might need extra attention.

*High School/University/Higher Education:* If a client identifies that she wants to pursue her high school education, she is assessed for readiness and safety. She will then attend a ½ day at ministry school and a ½ day in our intensive tutoring program or ½ day of ministry school and ½ day of extra classes at the ministry school. We will also assist clients with their university/associates application, financial aid application as well as readiness for entering university or associates programs.

*Basic Education/Vocational Training:* Clients who are enrolled in an approved half day vocational training program of their choice will spend ½ day offsite in said training and ½ day in our Basic
Education programming. This allows them to keep up with their education as well as build important vocational training skills.

**Vocational Training:** Clients who are enrolled in full day vocational training will have the opportunity to have tutoring in the evenings as needed as well as take computer classes over the weekend. Any support needed for success in vocational training will also be supplied.

**Special Education/Individualized Programs:** Clients who are not able to participate in our traditional vocational or educational programs for a variety of reasons will have a program created for them that will be supportive and develop their strengths and aptitudes to prepare for a successful reintegration.

Bridge Update:

The Bridge Project has assessed seven families, and served four of them with small business set up, advocacy with the police, short-term and emergency medical care, advocacy with village chiefs and connections with local community organizations.

Our Reintegration and Family Assessment Social Worker, Puthika Heng, continues regular follow up with all of our recent graduates. He speaks to them about their job and social situation and provides guidance and connects clients with resources as needed. He also accepts applications
for short-term and emergency assistance. Puthika has met with many of our former clients to help them in preparing their resumes as well as connecting them with job search assistance.

One of our clients is now an adult who needed additional supportive long-term care. Our Bridge social work team was able to find an excellent, supportive adult program that our client can transfer into. They provide the additional resources that an adult client would need.