

rapha.org

### CREATING A CULTURE OF CARE

As we bring this 2020 Annual Report to you, we are filled with gratitude for your generosity and faithfulness to Rapha during a season of incredible challenges and great uncertainty. You continue to make it possible for us to serve the children who have been entrusted to us with a high standard of care, which is incubated within a broad and intentional "culture of care."

Continuing to develop this culture of care is of paramount importance to our board of directors and those in leadership of Rapha International. The foundation of Rapha's organizational culture is the belief that each child, each staff member, each partner of Rapha bears the Imago Dei and we take the weight of that very seriously. We want you, our partners, to know that we are firmly committed to continuing to build and ensure a culture of care.

Upon this foundation of recognizing the importance of each individual, we have built strong accountability and transparency measures into the policies and procedures of Rapha International to create an organizational culture that provides a voice and responsibility to everyone. Unfortunately, misconduct within organizations and by leaders—whether faith based or not — is not uncommon. When we hear reports of organizational misconduct, we lament the hurt and damage done to those who have been affected, while galvanizing ourselves to move beyond lament and criticism to ask a critical question: "What can we learn from the misconduct that took place within that organization, that can help us strengthen our own policies and better protect those we work alongside and those we serve?" Reporting and whistleblowing mechanisms are important measures in combating personal and organizational misconduct, but if a culture of care is not foundational, these mechanisms and policies are a hollow shell, and the most vulnerable pay the heaviest price. We want you, our partners, to know that our culture of care is genuine and foundational.

Rapha is serving vulnerable children in multiple international locations, and our culture of care compels us to continually identify threats to child protection specific to each region. The dynamics of power can be especially complicated and easily manipulated in an honor/shame culture, especially where the vulnerable do not understand that they have rights. In each of Rapha's aftercare campuses, we post illustrated signs in multiple locations detailing each child's rights. Our staff often talk about these rights with the children in our programs. We want the girls we serve to know that they have intrinsic worth, value, and dignity — that they are bearers of the Imago Dei.

Developing a culture of care means truthful messaging to the public and to our partners. Throughout 2020, false information concerning child trafficking and exploitation went viral on social media, distracting from the work and credibility of organizations which had long been fighting the horrors of real human trafficking. Some organizations have used this false narrative about human trafficking to raise millions of dollars - funds that may never actually support survivors or vulnerable children. When accounts of trafficking, abuse, and exploitation are dramatized or fabricated, time and resources are wasted and community members with a sincere interest in protecting children may be unable to identify actual victims in need of their help. We want you, our partners, to know that Rapha International is committed to truthful messaging and to ensuring that your gifts accomplish what you intend.

Our financial and compliance policies are critical components of our culture of care. You can learn more about our commitment to financial integrity and transparency on page 14 of this report. You have entrusted us with your financial support for this work of healing, hope, and freedom, and our goal is to prove ever faithful in carrying out this mission in a way that honors your intent and honors the Lord. We want our partners to know that you are a critical part of this culture of care.

In this report, you will learn of challenges, highlights, and opportunities experienced this past year directly from our International Directors. You will hear how each of these teams grew stronger and more unified through adversity. We hope that you will be encouraged by the creativity, commitment, and resilience of our international team members and celebrate their efforts and victories alongside us.

Desmond Tutu once said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." At Rapha International, we are full of hope because we see so much light shining through this critical work. We are full of hope because you continue to stand beside us in relentless pursuit of healing, hope, and freedom.

With Gratitude,



STEPHANIE GARMAN FREED

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER

# **BUILDING BRIDGES FOR SURVIVORS:** A COMMUNITY MODEL FOR AFTERCARE

Rapha International's vision is to see children living in sustained freedom in their communities. We know children typically fare best when they grow up within their own families and among their own community members. We also know there are times when it is necessary for children to receive extra help and support in response to trauma. Rapha aims to provide that support when it is needed, but always with reintegration as the ultimate goal whenever possible. Those who have been sexually exploited have been wounded in relationships. Their healing, therefore, must also be rooted in relationships. To that end, Rapha intentionally creates safe physical and emotional environments that cultivate this healing at each of our aftercare campuses. Upon a survivor's arrival at Rapha, they are assigned to a Social Worker, Counselor, and House Mother. These key staff members all play integral roles in the survivor's healing journey that will ultimately take them back home to their families and communities.

Social workers provide the bridge between the survivor and their community, both in assessing and equipping the community in terms of safety and preparedness to receive the survivor upon reintegration, as well as providing legal advocacy in the pursuit of justice. Social Workers are survivor advocates with the outside world, clearly communicating to the survivor that they are worth fighting for. Counselors provide the trauma tools necessary for healing and recovery, empowering survivors to identify and express their feelings in healthy and constructive ways. They help survivors learn ways to regulate feelings of being overwhelmed and out of control that so often accompany trauma. Counselors also help rebuild each survivor's self-esteem and belief that their trauma was not their fault. House Mothers provide a familial-like presence of someone who guides survivors through their day and routines. They ensure basic needs are met, like rest, nutrition, and hygiene. They plan fun activities, help manage relational challenges and other typical youth frustrations, and provide emotional support. House Mothers instill the message that survivors are valued and beloved. Finally, Rapha thoughtfully creates spaces of beauty designed to provide a warm and welcoming environment that is culturally and developmentally appropriate. We purposefully utilize a community model approach to inform building structures for our aftercare campuses. In the construction of our last three aftercare campuses, Rapha has implemented cottages instead of dormitories for the living quarters of survivors. Smaller dwellings provide a home-like atmosphere, as does maintaining a low caregiver to survivor ratio through our staff of Social Workers, Counselors, and House Mothers.

Perhaps you have heard of the adage, "hurt people hurt people." In our work at Rapha, we have seen this truth borne out. However, we have also found the inverse to be true - "healed people heal people." When survivors leave our care and return to their communities, they are taking with them the hard fought lessons of dignity, worth, and redemption. The investment your partnership allows us to make in these survivors' lives not only impacts the individual girls we serve, but also their families and communities. We may never fully know the extent of this impact, but you can be assured that through your partnership, you have played an integral role in a survivor's healing journey home.

Note: At the time of this report Angie Brower, LCSW, MSW, is serving as Rapha's Aftercare Director as Dr. Robin Blair is now the Director of the Clinical Psychology Program at Pittsburg State University and continues in a consulting role with Rapha International.



MEDICAL VISITS

HOURS OF CARE PROVIDED

**COUNSELING VISITS** 

901

1,012,510

2,408



ROBIN BLAIR, PHD AFTERCARE DIRECTOR



## CAMBODIA

As we consider the extensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic around the globe, our corner of the world in Southeast Asia has not gone untouched. However, in the midst of the trials the faithfulness of God shines bright.

In Cambodia, specifically Siem Reap where one of our aftercare campuses is located, the economy, heavily dependent on the tourism industry, was devastated. With flight and travel restrictions implemented as part of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, billions of dollars have been lost. Thousands of people have lost jobs and livelihoods. Businesses and organizations have closed their doors or reduced operations.

This has caused fear and worry and many people have become more vulnerable. We thank God for His provision through our generous partners and that critical support was maintained to provide care for the children we serve.

We had a number of girls who, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, had reintegrated into the community with jobs and vocational training programs — all of which were closed down. Our social workers tirelessly created options and innovative solutions to help our girls continue to earn income and live safely in the community, such as operating fruit and coffee/beverage carts around town.

When schools closed due to the pandemic, Rapha girls had to attend school remotely at the aftercare campuses. **Our staff** worked hard to learn new technologies to support our girls through online learning. Staff from across departments helped each other work through these challenges to make sure our girls could still make the most of the school year. Despite the challenges, all of the girls passed their respective grades. Several passed the 9th grade exams— a big milestone in Cambodia. Several more completed 12th grade, and two even graduated from university with accounting degrees. We were thrilled to be able to hire one of these recent graduates as a full time assistant in our accounting office!

Throughout 2020, despite the incredible challenges, we can see the faithfulness of God everywhere— sustaining and blessing us. It has not been easy, but we are stronger today because of what we have overcome together.

### THEARA

COUNTRY DIRECTOR - CAMBODIA

### **JENNI**

ACTING DIRECTOR - SIEM REAP

Note: The last names of international staff are omitted for confidentiality and security.

# **OUR MISSION:**

TO END THE TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN — ONE CHILD AT A TIME — THROUGH AFTERCARE FOR SURVIVORS, PREVENTION FOR THE VULNERABLE, AND ENGAGEMENT FOR ALL.



At Rapha, I heard other girls tell their stories; they had experienced trauma like me. My heart began to come alive again and I knew that I mattered.

**BOONSIRI, THAI SURVIVOR** 

### **THAILAND**

2020 was a year that none of us will ever forget, not only for the challenges it forced us to navigate, but also for the many lessons it taught. We learned so much about our personal and team resilience, and we learned how to serve and care for each other more compassionately and deeply.

It was a year of unexpected hardships. The global pandemic of 2020 took a toll on people's mental, emotional, and physical health in Thailand. When the outbreak arrived in April, the infection quickly spread across the country and resulted in a full lockdown that lasted almost two months. Government offices, businesses, shops, restaurants, and department stores were closed. However, in the midst of the crisis, we are thankful for the advancement of technology that allows Rapha staff members to continue our critical work and also enables us to continue providing high quality education and care to the girls at Thailand's Aftercare Campus.

It was a year of providing true love and care. As a licensed Child Protection Center for underage survivors of trafficking, our staff found creative ways to continue providing counseling, social work, legal assistance, life skills training, and internal vocational training to the girls in our care. We are especially grateful for our dedicated team of house mothers who were willing to serve extended periods of time for the first few months of lockdown.

It was a year of protection and partnership. In 2020, crimes against children increased in Thailand. In cooperation with the Thai Royal Police, the Thai Social Development Department, and our non-government partners, Rapha International Thailand continued to receive child survivors of trafficking and exploitation referred to us for immediate protection. These critical partnerships also provided the opportunity for Rapha social workers to take part in monitoring the anti-human trafficking hotline for Northern Thailand.

COVID-19 has brought economic and social difficulties, increasing the vulnerability of many children. A number of children have been victimized through the internet and social media. We are honored and thankful to be part of a strong network of organizations in Thailand that work together to help children who are victims of such crimes.

We know that there are many children still waiting for help. They want to be free from the evil they are facing. They deserve to live life in freedom. They deserve to dream about their futures. **Our investment in their lives impacts their communities and changes the world.** Thank you for continually supporting and praying for us. Despite the pandemic, you have proven your faithfulness, courage and willingness to stand with us.

## **TASANEE**

COUNTRY DIRECTOR - THAILAND

Note: The last names of international staff are omitted for confidentiality and security.

# CORPORATE PARTNERS OPENING DOORS FOR RAPHA

Rapha International is grateful for our corporate partners who work alongside us to protect young survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

Schuber Mitchell Homes — one such partner — is a homebuilding company founded and headquartered in Joplin, Missouri. Schuber Mitchell Homes works to honor God and to enrich the lives of others while creating beautiful and attainable homes and communities.

Schuber Mitchell's mission is clear in their work with Rapha International. The company has underwritten many important projects for Rapha, including building a security wall at the aftercare campus in Chiang Mai, Thailand and constructing a playground for Burmese migrant children at Rapha's Kids Club prevention center in Mae Sot, Thailand. In 2020, Schuber Mitchell Homes funded the purchase of new video equipment for the media team at Rapha International. During a season when travel was extremely limited, this gift empowered Rapha to continue to tell our story through high quality media.

Sharing Rapha's work, and the great achievements of the young people we serve, is essential. Through the generosity of the team at Schuber Mitchell Homes, countless doors have been opened for Rapha to communicate with our partners and advocates and to bring new supporters into this critical work.



### HAITI

Throughout 2020, Rapha Haiti witnessed the pandemic trigger a decline in socio-economic opportunities, which in turn led to the proliferation of organized criminal activities and undermined the tenets of good governance. Organized crime further destabilized the already fragile social fabric that once held communities together and sent shockwaves through vulnerable groups. Armed gangs now control large populations across Haiti and produce an increase in sexual exploitation, trafficking of minors, kidnapping, and illegal arms trafficking. Women and children bear the brunt of heinous crimes as they are disproportionately targeted for sexual exploitation.

In addition to our work with underage survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation, Rapha Haiti entered into partnership with UNICEF, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the Global Initiative Against Organized Crime, and private sector stakeholders. These partnerships enabled Rapha to launch additional projects in Haiti serving women and children internally displaced due to organized crime. While the current increase in socioeconomic vulnerability is driving trafficking and sexual exploitation at an unprecedented rate, these efforts aim to address the underlying inequality that grips marginalized communities.

The projects that Rapha Haiti has undertaken address the psychosocial and medical needs of survivors of exploitation, promote safe shelter for displaced families, create economic opportunities for women, and reinforce positive social norms in conflict-affected neighborhoods. Throughout 2020, Rapha staff worked tirelessly to provide services for internally displaced women and their families. Through strategic partnerships, we were able to help many families begin small businesses to provide a sustainable source of income that will help alleviate the socioeconomic vulnerability that leads to exploitation. An estimated 150 household members have received the direct or indirect benefits of this initiative, and it is projected that nine hundred household members will see the benefits of this initiative in 2021.

Another Rapha project — a relocation initiative — has enabled underage survivors of sexual exploitation and members of their households to escape the extreme violence brought on by armed gangs in their communities. Fourteen families who lost loved ones and property now have access to safe housing and a path to maintain that access with funds being generated by the small business initiatives.

Since last year, the capacity of Rapha's aftercare program in Haiti has increased to serve more adolescent girls and women, and to improve positive social norms in at-risk communities. However, the humanitarian and long-term aftercare needs far exceed the capacity of the actors on the ground to respond.

Identifying and supporting survivors from these gang-controlled territories remains a perilous endeavor for social workers and victims alike — as the presence of outsiders can be seen as a threat to those in control. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support for these communities and for Rapha staff who are caring for young survivors.

Note: On July, 7th 2021, after the drafting of this report, Haitian President Jovenel Moise was assassinated at his home. Gang violence and political unrest continue in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. The danger and uncertainty are compounded by a surge in Covid-19 cases. Please join us in prayer for peace, safety, and justice for the people of Haiti.

## **GERSON**

COUNTRY DIRECTOR - HAITI

Note: The last names of international staff are omitted for confidentiality and security.

## **BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES**

Local foundations are shaping communities all over the world. Investing in local organizations provides access to truly essential services that may otherwise be nonexistent.

Rapha International is headquartered in Joplin, Missouri where the Joplin Regional Community Foundation is doing just that. In 2020, the Joplin Regional Community Foundation's Philanthropic Society provided the funds needed to establish the Hope and Healing Center, a trauma-focused therapy program serving children, teens, and adults who have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation. Rapha shares the Community Foundation's passion for serving the region where we are headquartered and we are so thankful for their support.

Because the demand for trauma-focused therapy has already outstripped our capacity, the Center is planning to expand this year. Without support from partners like the JRCF, the Hope and Healing Center would be unable to provide life changing and life saving support as people heal from trauma.





After I came to Rapha, the staff provided extra tutors to help me catch up. They told me I was smart and that they were proud of me. It was the first time I had ever heard that. Two years later, I decided I wanted to be a teacher so I can help other girls learn.

MIRLANDE, HAITIAN SURVIVOR



# WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESILIENCY: PREVENTION DURING THE PANDEMIC

Isaiah 61:1–3 says, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

A single act of kindness can change everything. Your faithfulness and generosity has meant the world to us at Kids Club and to thousands of families who have been impacted by your love – especially this year during a global pandemic.

Our Kids Club locations in Cambodia and Thailand have been profoundly affected by COVID-19. Additionally in Thailand, the military coup in Myanmar continues to force refugees to the Thai border. The economic desperation of Burmese migrants and refugee families living in Mae Sot has escalated, and we are continuing to create and provide the best possible support system and educational opportunities for these vulnerable children. Kids Club staff have worked tirelessly, encouraging families to send their children to Thai school where they will learn the Thai language and be trained and equipped for a better future, which will help break the cycle of generational poverty.



PATTY FANCHER
PREVENTION DIRECTOR



# 897 SPONSORED CHILDREN THOUSANDS OF FAMILY MEMBERS IMPACTED

In Cambodia, schools have been closed intermittently for many months due to COVID-19. The challenge of schooling from home has been overwhelming for many parents, especially those who have been unable to access education themselves. This challenge has created new and deeper opportunities for connection between Rapha's social workers and the parents of sponsored children as they navigate remote learning together.

Kids Club creates an environment of safety and belonging. It extends hope to the hopeless, empowerment to the vulnerable, food support for families, and a safe space for children to form friendships as they learn, play, and encounter the love of Jesus Christ. In response to God's call to care for the poor and oppressed, the needs are great and many more sponsors are needed. Your gifts in support of Kids Club allow us to continue and expand that work. **Your sponsorship is a connection to a child whose life you can profoundly impact, even from a world away.** 



rapha.org/financials

#### A WORD ABOUT FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

At Rapha International we are committed to financial accountability and transparency. Our team cares deeply about pursuing this mission with excellence.

Financial accounting plays a pivotal role in building trust and accountability. The meaning of "accountability" is literally being able to give an account. The balance of trust and accountability is even built into the framework of modern accounting itself. Luca Pacioli, an Italian mathematician and friar, became known as "The Father of Accounting" after pioneering a new method in the late 15th century. In his writings he described the method of recording debits and credits in accounting journals which is still the basis of modern double-entry accounting today. "Debit" which means "to owe" as in a debt, is used on one side of the accounting equation, and "Credit" which means "to entrust," is used on the other side.

When you support the mission of Rapha, or any such charity, you are crediting and entrusting to us with your hard-earned money. Accordingly, in maintaining proper balance, we owe you a debt of not only gratitude but also accountability.

For this purpose of accountability, we strive to provide reports to you, and also to receive accreditations from third-party entities. Rapha has earned the highest status as a Guidestar Platinum Participant in addition to receiving accreditation from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Every year we undergo months of detailed audits from independent auditors reviewing financials from our global operations, then we consolidate all this information into transparent reports for you, our supporters. You can find more than 300 pages of financial and programmatic information available directly on our website at rapha.org/financials.

Thank you for crediting Rapha with your support and trust in fulfilling this mission. We commit to remain ever trustworthy as we return our debt of gratitude and repay your trust with transparency and accountability. Together, we can end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children — one child at a time.



TRAVIS BUCHAN

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER





# CHURCH PARTNERS WENT THE EXTRA MILE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Church partnerships play an essential role in the stability and growth of Rapha International. Since 2003, these faith communities have been tireless encouragers and devoted financial supporters of this important work. Although churches faced so many of their own challenges throughout 2020, our partner churches were intentional about reaching out through letters, emails, and phone calls to encourage us and to pray with our team. "What is Rapha's greatest need right now?" and "How can we help?" were frequent questions asked — by people and congregations who were confronting their own (sometimes profound) needs.

Our national staff members in Haiti, Cambodia, and Thailand are dedicated professionals who directly serve the children entrusted to our care. They are our greatest organizational asset and retaining qualified staff is essential to Rapha's work.

Understanding this, at the end of 2020, the members of Christ's Church of the Valley in the greater Phoenix area underwrote all the salaries of our SE Asia social workers for 2021! Rapha social workers serve the families and communities of the child survivors in our aftercare programs. Through these efforts, families and communities receive training and empowerment with the goal of reunification — whenever it is possible and safe. Rapha social workers have "beautiful feet" — carrying the Good News to villages where it is often new news. (Isaiah 52:7)

When Tomoka Christian Church in Ormond Beach, Florida became aware of the escalation of trafficking taking place in Thailand due to the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, they helped Rapha fund a child friendly investigation unit on our Thai aftercare campus! Their gift also funded staff salary to aid in monitoring the human trafficking hotline as well as assist in investigation efforts in partnership with the Thai Royal Police. These opportunities to cooperate with local law enforcement and government agencies open doors to serve more child survivors and afford Rapha stronger working relationships with critical partners.

Churches like Lakeside Christian Church in Lakeside Park, Kentucky provided special gifts toward COVID relief needs — meeting basic necessities not only for staff and children of Rapha but for their families as well. Meeting basic needs during these times of scarcity and unstable conditions provided opportunities for the Gospel message to be shared and lived out.

Rapha takes seriously the scripture found in 1 John 3:18, which says — "Dear children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth." It is with compassion energized and sustained by love that we act on behalf of victimized and vulnerable children. We are faith-based, but we offer aid without requiring those we serve to embrace our faith. When Jesus fed the 5000, He did not withhold from those who refused to believe. He gave freely, and Rapha's partner churches stand with us in doing the same.

RAPHA INTERNATIONAL HELPS YOU COMBAT CHILD SLAVERY AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH HEALING, HOPE, AND FREEDOM.



ANGELA FOSTER
US OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

# ESTABLISH YOUR LEGACY OF HEALING, HOPE AND FREEDOM

What will your legacy be? When your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren look back at your family tree, what will they see when they look at your place in the tree? What will they understand better about themselves and those who came after you?

Rapha International has two great ways by which you can establish a legacy of fighting for the oppressed, the forgotten, the discarded, and the most vulnerable in the world.

The first is through our Freedom Forever Fund. Thanks to the generosity of a couple of legacy-forging partners in Rapha's work, the Freedom Forever Fund is an endowed fund that we hope to grow to be able to take care of Rapha's operational needs indefinitely. For that to happen, we need literally millions of dollars to flow into the Freedom Forever Fund. We have had a great start, but there is still a long way to go. If you want your giving to Rapha's work to keep giving and growing in perpetuity, the Freedom Forever Fund is a great way to give.

The second concrete way you can show up for the people and causes you love is to make a plan for them in your will. Rapha International makes this important task more widely accessible to those who need it through our partnership with FreeWill. If you don't already have an up-to-date will, use FreeWill, a free, online will-writing tool to create yours, and consider including a gift to Rapha in the process.

#### Why should I consider creating a gift in my will to Rapha International?

Your bequests speak to the generations that follow you of what you value. It gives your descendants a chance to value those great and important things too, and for them to be associated with the great work of which you were a part. A legacy of stewardship and tangible care for the children Rapha serves is one of the most powerful ways to end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. It represents your lasting commitment to the children Rapha serves, while costing you nothing today.

If an immediate cash gift isn't right or possible for you, or if you want a more concrete, long-term investment in the next generation of the children Rapha serves, consider a legacy gift in your will today.

Get started on your legacy at freewill.com/rapha today, or by giving to Rapha's Freedom Forever Fund.



DAVID PETERS

GENERAL COUNSEL/CPO







"

When I came to Rapha they taught me that my ideas and opinions were important, no matter what other people had told me before. I want to be a cosmetologist so that I can teach girls that they can take care of themselves. I will tell them no matter how they want to wear their clothes or makeup, they will always be beautiful.

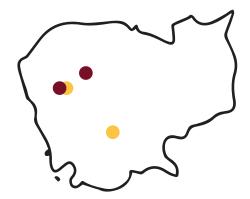
MAY, THAI SURVIVOR



# CAMBODIA

# **THAILAND**

# HAITI







- AFTERCARE PROGRAM
- KIDS CLUB PROGRAM

### **BECAUSE OF PARTNERS LIKE YOU:**

- We operate 4 aftercare campuses for child survivors
- We operate 3 Kids Club programs for at risk children | 897 total kids sponsored
- We employ a staff of over 200 | Less than 10% working in the U.S.

# THE KEYS TO FREEDOM



SAFETY & BASIC CARE

Foundational needs such as shelter, food, clothing, and security



COUNSELING & MEDICAL

Healing for wounded hearts and bodies



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Personalized education and vocational training



SOCIAL WORK & LEGAL ADVOCACY

Community social work and the pursuit of justice

THE FINAL KEY IS YOU. WILL YOU JOIN US?

# HOPE, HEALING, AND COALITION BUILDING: RAPHA'S WORK IN THE US

When Rapha staff visit churches, community groups, and conferences throughout the United States, we are often asked, "What does Rapha do here on the homefront?" We want to share some of the exciting work Rapha is doing to serve survivors of trauma here in the United States. In addition to the work of franchising the operations across our international locations, we are engaged in combating trafficking, abuse, and exploitation in several critical ways in the US.

Rapha aims to come alongside churches as they navigate the sensitive issues of child abuse and exploitation within the church. The Culture of Care program — a suite of workshops, resources, and consultation — brings Rapha's unique perspective and expertise to planning for safety and responding to allegations of abuse or misconduct. As a gathering place for families and children, the Church is an invaluable part of the safety net that protects children and detects abuse. The Church also faces special challenges in this area. This program provides education about the dynamics of sexual abuse and exploitation, especially when they occur in a spiritual context, and recommendations for policy measures and — more importantly — cultural shifts that promote safety, transparency, and accountability for all.

Rapha serves in the US in partnership with the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance (NTSA). NTSA has undertaken the essential and monumental task of creating an accreditation program for shelters serving survivors of trafficking. Rapha staff serve on the committee that is creating standards of care for shelters and will assess programs that apply for accreditation. Rapha is thrilled to be a part of this groundbreaking program that unites research and best-practices with the passion and drive to serve young survivors of domestic trafficking.

Rapha staff members serve on the 'Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission' through the Missouri State Courts Administrators Office in Jefferson City. The committee develops community-based strategies and resources for preventing human trafficking, working with judges and others in the court system to promote awareness of the dynamics of abuse and exploitation. Aryn Crawford works with the local Jasper County prosecutor on criminal cases involving child sexual abuse and exploitation. In 2020, that work resulted in fourteen felony convictions and over 600 years of time to be served.

Rapha is committed to addressing the needs of survivors of exploitation and trafficking in Southwest Missouri. The Hope and Healing Center, located at Rapha's headquarters in downtown Joplin, provides trauma-focused therapy for children, adolescents, and adults who have experienced sexual exploitation and abuse. Two licensed therapists at Rapha's Hope and Healing Center provide trauma-focused therapy services for over sixty people every week. We've already seen incredible progress and positive outcomes for children, teens, adults and their families. Rapha's therapists receive referrals from local and regional children's welfare agencies, physicians, and the court system. Trauma-informed mental health care is limited in the Joplin area and Rapha is playing an essential role in combating the negative impacts of trauma. The need for quality trauma care is great and Rapha plans to expand services in order to provide care for more trauma survivors.

Rapha is proud to be a founding member of the RISE Coalition, a network of agencies, organizations, and individuals in Southwest Missouri working to combat domestic human trafficking. The coalition's mission includes increasing public awareness of human trafficking through community collaboration and education, identifying human trafficking cases, and connecting identified victims with comprehensive social and medical services. RISE brings expert training and a spirit of collaboration to communities in Southwest Missouri and beyond.





ARYN CRAWFORD

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR





## **ENGAGEMENT**

A key focus of Rapha's mission is engagement for all. When people learn of the injustices of human trafficking and sexual exploitation our desire is to empower them to move past awareness and into active engagement. We love to hear stories from across the US and around the world about how Rapha partners are using their resources, creativity, and unique talents to raise awareness and funding to serve young survivors. We are grateful to all of our partners and advocates. We look forward to forming new relationships with businesses, churches, schools, and others who will join us in Rapha's critical mission. Visit rapha.org/involved to get involved today!

# 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, 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.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

**STEPHANIE FREED •** Board Chairwoman and CEO, Rapha International

**BILL BLAIR •** Vice President, American Rehabilitation Ministry

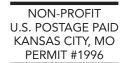
**DOROTHY PERCONTI •** Vice President, Perconti Data Systems

JAMES RICHARDS • CEO, Stronghold Data

MARK DAVIS • McKee Foods Corporation

LYNDA EUBANKS • Prairie Grove Christian Church

**DOMINICK JENKINS** • The Crossing Church





**PO BOX 1569 JOPLIN, MO 64802** 417-621-0373



**RAPHA.ORG** 









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 rescue and rehabilitate 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 end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children — one child at a time — through aftercare for survivors, prevention for the vulnerable, and engagement for all.



