

# Friendship Home THAILAND

September 2018 Update



## This year has been unlike any other for Destiny Rescue.

Through a combination of rescue efforts, restoration and reintegration, we have reached more girls than ever before! We are so happy with the results that we have been seeing and as a supporter, we would like to share with you how Destiny Rescue has been doing across the board, and provide you with an update on the year that's been!

In your August Home update last year, you might remember that we shared with you the changes our Aftercare Department would be making when it comes to Destiny Rescue's approach to residential care. Our specialists had

found that placing rescued children with their family following their rescue, whenever safe to do so, had seen far more success in the life of the child in comparison to providing the child with short-term residential care. With a heavier focus now placed on community care, our staff have been able to work with the children we rescue alongside their families and help create care and reintegration plans with the family unit as a whole. This has opened so many more doors for us to identify the needs of the family at a community level as well as providing us with the opportunity to equip and empower lives to live safely

and sustainably, free from vulnerability of exploitation in the future.

Residential care continues to remain as an option for the children we rescue who do not have a safe environment to return to. For these children, we have reviewed the ways we can improve the level of care they receive while in our homes. The changes made within our residential program enables our staff to help each child identify areas of potential growth including experiencing strengthened relationships, gaining a sense of personal strength, and developing a greater appreciation for life.

# 935



**935 beneficiaries were safely reintegrated into their community.**

# 741



**741 beneficiaries were in safe employment, vocational training, living with families and continued their studies.**

# 47



**47 beneficiaries were studying at a higher education level.**

By the end of this year, we have set a goal to have 80% of children in community care. At this stage, across Thailand, Cambodia and the Dominican Republic, we currently have 60% of children in community care. This means we are well on track to reach our 80% goal which means more children are being returned to their families and communities than ever before!

So, what do these statistics look like in practice?

Above, is a snapshot of the prevention and rescued children that were in our care from all of our projects in Thailand, Cambodia, India the Dominican Republic and one other Southeast Asian undisclosed nation, between the period of the 1st of April 2017 to the 31st of March 2018

It has been a privilege to have you journeying alongside us with all of the work we do. Every child we reach, every family we get to know, could only have been made possible through your support, so from all of us here at Destiny Rescue

**Thank you!**



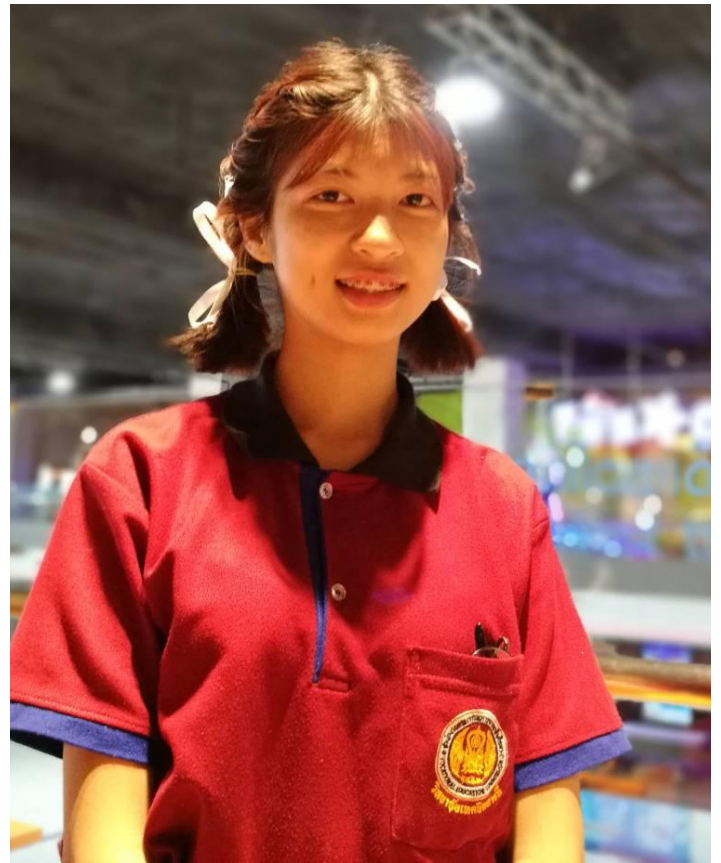
## MILESTONES

The journey to restoration is not a linear one. It's a path marked with milestones, big and small, for the girls in our care. There are also hurdles these girls face on this journey, but it's how these girls overcome these challenges that is worth celebrating! Though they may stumble at times, the decision they make to pick themselves back up time and time again is truly awe-inspiring. We would like to introduce you to Manee who, through strength and determination, has achieved a milestone that she would like to share with you in this update.

Living in the city, Manee, her mother, and her sister had to take care of themselves. Manee's parents had gotten divorced years earlier and because of this, her family struggled financially. To ease the burden on her family, Manee decided to take the financial responsibility of her education upon herself and she sought out a part-time job after school so she could support herself. Unfortunately, Manee wanted to earn more money because she wanted to be like her friends and wanted to have the same material things her friends had. Manee's friend told her that she knew of a work opportunity. It was here, that Manee was introduced to the karaoke bar. From this point, Manee would go straight from school at 4:30pm and work until 12:00am every night at a karaoke bar.

After one month, the hours Manee was working had started taking their toll. She was able to afford her schooling but at what cost? Manee was too young to understand the effects and potential dangers she was exposed to in working in this environment. She could no longer see her friends and found that she was too tired to pay attention at school and she began falling behind in her grades.

It's been three months since Manee was rescued from that karaoke bar. Now in Destiny Rescue's Outside Program, Manee is receiving a scholarship that allows her to solely focus on her studies instead of worrying about how she was going to pay for them. Manee is overjoyed at the fact that she no longer has to take on the responsibilities of an adult



but can now enjoy that she can receive an education that each and every child should have access to.

In her time with Destiny Rescue, our staff have observed that Manee has learned a lot about managing money and it's worth. The time she spent at the karaoke bar opened Manee's eyes to the realities of the job and her situation at the time. Being in the bar allowed Manee to see what was important in her life and the scholarship has freed Manee to practise responsibility and personal decision-making. She now helps her Aunt and earns money by working for her on the weekends. Now, Manee is far more careful about how she spends her money and is aware of the difference between wants and needs.

Today, Manee isn't too sure what her specific plan is for the future - and that's okay! She knows that she would like to work in an area that focuses on caring for others and is considering studying nursing but for now, her immediate goal has been to focus on her studies. Manee understands her priorities in life a lot better now and she can see that her education is a fundamental building block for her to achieve her goals - whatever they may be.

At just 17, Manee has a whole new lease on life and her new understanding of finances and the management of money has been a mini-milestone for her! For Manee, being strong and making the brave choice to leave the karaoke bar is what she considers to be her big milestone - the event that marks a significant change in her life today.