



SUMMER 2023

Freedom Newsletter

THANK YOU FOR SENDING
RESTORATION!



ZOE Thailand youth gather on the front lawn in their Karen hilltribe outfits.



A Personal Letter to You from ZOE's USA West Coast Clinical Director—Lawrence Franklin!

Dear Friend,

As ZOE's USA West Coast Clinical Director, I have the privilege of working alongside our team as we care for our youth at our ZOE Home for Youth (ZHY) and through our Advocacy program. I've seen firsthand the healing and restoration that happens and ZOE's goal is to always reflect the heart of Jesus in everything we do!

Overseeing ZOE's West Coast program and services with a clinical perspective, I work with our team to cultivate a safe, healthy, and therapeutic environment for the child trafficking survivors in our care. We do this by providing training, clinical consultation, crisis support for staff and youth, therapy (as needed) for the youth, and therapeutic support for our ZOE team.

Growing up in Inglewood, California, I'm aware of the challenges that youth face in the inner cities. Raised by a loving family and having a close relationship with my father, I evaded a lot of the crime and drugs that my peers fell into. Family means everything to me and I'm supported by my wife of 13 years and children (ages 5, 8).

As I engage with the youth at the home and listen to their stories, the reality is that a lot of these girls come from broken homes. Many of them have experienced severe forms of trauma and have engaged in harmful activities to numb themselves and cope with their pain and stress.

ZOE's Home for Youth (ZHY) in Los Angeles is just one of many homes in the United States that we hope to build for young survivors of human trafficking. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support to one day make this dream a reality. Thank you for joining us as we walk alongside these young girls in their healing.

R. Lawrence Franklin, LCSW
ZOE USA West Coast Clinical Director

“I work with our team to cultivate a safe, healthy, and therapeutic environment for the child trafficking survivors in ZOE's care.”

—Lawrence Franklin
ZOE USA West Coast Clinical Director

ZOE's Home for Youth to Expand Its Restoration Services to Provide Mental Health for Youth Living in the Home



Thank you for supporting ZOE's New Mental Health Program!

Many youth who are in our care at ZHY have experienced severe forms of trauma and have engaged in harmful activities to numb themselves and cope with their pain and stress.

Having a mental health team on-site at ZHY allows timely crisis intervention to reduce the risk of harm.



The issue of child trafficking in Los Angeles demands comprehensive, well-informed, compassionate, evidence-based solutions. Multiple experts have reported that youth who need healing from the trauma of being exploited and trafficked requires caring and flexible service providers who will tailor services to meet the individual needs.

At ZOE, we've found love and flexible support to be absolutely essential to the healing process. The prevalence of child trafficking in our nation is deeply troubling. The harm to vulnerable youth is tragic. Through years of collaborative work in both Thailand and the U.S., though, we've learned that children can experience safety, hope, and lasting restoration.



Counseling room at ZHY pictured above. When youth arrive at ZHY, each of them receives a comprehensive care plan that includes mental health services, if needed.

Want to support ZOE's Mental Health Program? You can today!





ZOE Advocates become mentors and safe people for the youth we serve who've been impacted by human trafficking in Los Angeles.

ZOE Advocacy Program Impacts 115 Youth Annually

Thank you for Being Part of the Healing Journey of the Youth ZOE Serves.

Through ZOE's Advocacy Program in Los Angeles, we serve children and families who have been impacted by human trafficking or highly at-risk of being trafficked.

ZOE Advocates provide victim advocacy support to children recovered from human trafficking in North Los Angeles County. The youth feel safe emotionally and physically. Many times, these youth are in the midst of being controlled, influenced, threatened by traffickers so ZOE Advocates learn about the youth's current circumstances; immediate physical, emotional, social, and other needs; and help the youth problem-solve their very dangerous situations.

Through weekly in-person meetings, meals, healthy activities, and simply doing life together, ZOE Advocates become a mentor and safe person for youth to reach out to in times of need.

As part of a youth's restoration journey, we host a graduation with friends and family to honor the youth's achievements and strengths.

At the graduations, each youth shares words of reflection from the past year while ZOE Advocates praise them for their accomplishments and encourage the youth to succeed and be all God created them to be.

Did You Know? Quick Facts About ZOE's Advocacy Program

- ZOE partners with law enforcement when they recover a child from human trafficking in the North LA County area. A ZOE Advocate will respond within 90 minutes to provide victim advocacy support alongside a social worker.
- Children who are victims or at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking desperately need an Advocate to walk alongside them.
- ZOE Advocates become mentors and safe people for youth to reach out to in times of need.
- ZOE provides formal support for up to a year and a half.
- ZOE serves approximately 115 youth a year through the Advocacy Program.

Human Trafficking Survivors are Thriving at our ZOE Home for Youth (ZHY)

Thank You for Giving the Gifts of Healing and Hope to Our ZOE Youth!

Since opening in August 2021, ZOE has been serving youth at our home in Acton, California. ZHY is a safe haven to the girls that we come alongside and serve and you are part of their healing journey through your prayers and support! Located on a 50-acre property in North Los Angeles County, ZHY is a state-licensed short-term residential therapeutic program for girls 12-17 years old who are survivors of labor and sex trafficking.

The girls living at ZHY comment frequently about the ZHY staff. One of them shared, "I know that the staff really care about me." The ZHY staff could be doing any other job, but they are passionate about these youth and want to see them win.



Recently, **ZOE's Assistant Western USA Regional Director, Ester Yu**, shared an update about the youth living at ZHY.

"The population that ZOE serves at ZHY has the highest level of needs for children in the care of the County's child welfare system," shared Ester. "Most have experienced the effects of trauma from domestic violence, substance abuse, being sold for sex or labor, sexual, physical, emotional, and verbal abuse, and more.

Since we opened the home in August 2021, we've seen encouraging success and restoration with the youth living at ZHY.

Overall, all the youth have improved healthy self-awareness that has led to an understanding of their strengths, needs, and trauma reminders. Daily youth are learning to love themselves as they receive encouragement and love from the ZOE staff. Additionally, all youth living at the home have increased their capacity to regulate their emotions and develop new coping skills to navigate their trigger reminders successfully. Other youth are working on getting their IDs, driving permits, interviewing for housing after they turn 18 years old, and applying for jobs.

The ZHY staff work every day to show the youth what it means to have healthy relationships. They truly desire the best for them and their future.

Please continue to pray for our ZOE staff and the youth we serve at ZHY.

What Your Financial Support Provides for the Youth on Their Restoration Path:

- Physical and emotional safety
- Housing
- Sensitive medical care
- Mental health care
- Advocacy
- Well training, supportive caregivers
- Individualized services
- Life skills training
- Customized educational services
- Vocational training
- Support for families
- Bridges to supportive community relationships

Discovery Street—A Future Vocational Training Center in Thailand

We wanted to share some updates about this exciting project with you! We're moving forward with the planning and architect/land prep stages. To date, we've raised \$924,790. Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to invest in a child's restoration and future!

Discovery Street will be built on our 33-acre campus in Thailand. A little town filled with whimsical front-facing facades with real businesses/vocational classrooms. There, ZOE's children and youth will receive training and skills for their future careers and have the opportunity to heal in a therapeutic and fun environment!

Discovery Street is a vocational training center for survivors of child trafficking, orphans, and vulnerable children and will complete a child's restorative journey, empowering them and giving them freedom, autonomy, and choice.



ZOE's Restoration Program in Thailand – Made Possible by You!

ZOE provides innovative restorative services for *spirit, soul, mind, and body* to rescued child survivors of human trafficking and exploitation. We offer educational, vocational, and transitional programs into adulthood to prevent victimization and will help train and restore families of survivors for reunification and repatriation. We also assist survivors and at-risk orphans in finding safe and loving homes as they begin a new chapter for their lives.

The Problem

Thailand is a well known sex trafficking destination and is considered Tier 2 on the U.S. State Department's TIP (Trafficking in Persons) Report. Because of a significant illegal migration to Thailand, this gives traffickers opportunities to coerce or defraud undocumented migrants into involuntary servitude or sexual exploitation.

Our Work in Thailand

Our Thailand campus is our main site and is located in a private undisclosed area. There we have our Children's Home, Boy's Home, Child Rescue Center, Vocational Center, Recreation Area, and the future site of Discovery Street.

Vocational and Life Skills Training

Part of the restoration process for the older teens in our care is giving them tools to be able to live a life outside of our home. At our Vocational Center is where they learn life skills that will provide them with the ability to not only survive, but thrive as they step out into the real world as adults.



SCAN ME

Make a donation to Discovery Street.

A Word of Thanks to You from a Rescued Girl at ZOE Thailand!

Recently, a young ZOE youth shared a note to ZOE wanting to express her heartfelt gratitude. She shared...



"To all my older brothers and sisters, thank you so much for the time that I have had here. I have had so much happiness. Even though my time here was very short, I have felt so warmly embraced and loved.

Sometimes when I was stressed and discouraged, you always encouraged me. Also thank you to those who prepared such fun activities for all of us. If it were not for these activities, I would not have come to know my greatest friend from above. I am thankful for the story of God. Lastly, I ask God to bless you all. May He protect you and give you new strength each day."



ZOE Race Across America Team Finishes in Second Place!

Our ZOE team of cyclists and crew traveled 3,000 miles, through 12 states, in 6 days, 2 hours, and 21 minutes, and despite the challenges we faced along the way, we managed to secure second place!

It was an incredible journey, and we couldn't be more grateful for your generous contributions and prayers that made it all possible.

With your support, we raised over half a million dollars to further ZOE's crucial efforts in preventing child sex trafficking, as well as rescuing and restoring child victims.

The impact of your generosity and prayers will have a ripple effect, reaching far beyond the finish line of our race. It will touch the lives of countless children, giving them the chance to dream, heal, and thrive. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE!

ZOE Rescue Walk
October 1-31, 2023

Register today!
ZOERescueWalk.com

Children's Hunger Fund Visits ZOE Thailand!



Children's Hunger Fund (CHF) Founder and President, Dave Phillips, and his team visit ZOE Thailand for a time of fellowship. Children's Hunger Fund and ZOE International have been partners since 2008.

Recently, Children's Hunger Fund (childrenshungerfund.org) Founder and President, Dave Phillips, and a CHF team visited our ZOE team in Thailand! Since 2008, Children's Hunger Fund (CHF) has closely partnered with ZOE as a chief distributor in Thailand for a food distribution program called Mercy Network. Through this program, ZOE Thailand and CHF partner with local pastors to supply food and resources to vulnerable communities and share the gospel.

ZOE has been blessed to work with CHF throughout the years, and we've seen God's hand of grace moving in our work together. One of our greatest joys is to share God's abundant overflow with others who are doing His work to feed the hungry and care for the poor.



Thank you Dave Phillips and Children's Hunger Fund for your continued prayers and support of ZOE International and the work that we'll continue to do together!

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