

# THAI SAFEHOUSE #5

## THAILAND



Kay and her husband are from different parts of the world, but both of their hearts were broken for the women of her country. Together they began a ministry to offer hope and healing to Thai women trapped in the sex trade. Every week they reach out to the women in the bars, slowly building trust and relationships. They offer the women an opportunity to make a living in a safe place, free of abuse and debt bondage. If they join the program, they are offered counseling, child care, and vocational training. Safehouse staff is dedicated to walking alongside the women on the journey toward healing. As the women progress in the program, they become co-owners in the safehouse jewelry business, and they are empowered to begin their own micro-businesses, continue their education, and return to their villages to cultivate change. Today these women are no longer owned, but are independent, confident business owners. They work with dignity, provide for their families, and become ambassadors of hope to their own communities.



## STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: THAILAND • PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL SAFEHOUSE



# Thom

As the oldest child, Thom was expected to support her family—not just her own child, but also her mother, siblings, and grandparents, too. Thom desperately wanted to go to school, but her mother's debt forced her to work instead. On three different occasions, Thom rejected her mother's request for her to work in the bars. Finally, Thom was abandoned by her family in the red light district. With no other choice, Thom began working as a bar girl. She began drinking to numb the fear and pain. Thom hated her life. When staff from the safehouse visited her, she began to trust that they were good people. Thom finally found freedom when she joined the safehouse. She started learning English and discovered her talent for designing jewelry and clothing. Today Thom is the main jewelry designer and the "right hand" of the program director. She trains those at the safehouse and regularly reaches out to women trapped in the red light district. Thom is a woman empowered, working to rescue and empower women like her.

*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at [www.warinternational.org/story-gallery](http://www.warinternational.org/story-gallery)  
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