

# THAI SAFEHOUSE #6

## THAILAND

As orphaned boys and young men leave their rural homes, they travel toward the hope of success. Thailand's tourist industry flaunts glamor and pleasure with flashy lights and busy streets. But as these boys search for dignified work, their dreams often end in dirty brothels. The very basic need for survival forces them to give up a very basic right—freedom. Night after night they sell themselves to travelers, often contracting HIV and other painful diseases. But not far from this darkness, a small community offers them hope. Safehouse staff welcomes these boys into a new life, training them with valuable skills, education, and the opportunity to heal. In the same city, staff members care for young women who seek escape, transforming the pain of sexual slavery into the hope of a bright future. When you buy the work of their hands, you fuel their passion for freedom and remind men and women alike that they are valued far beyond the red light districts of the world.



## STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: THAILAND • PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL SAFEHOUSE



### Sunan

Sunan lived in a place of safety, but his mind was still a dangerous battleground. After escaping Thailand's red light district, anger kept his heart from healing. At the safehouse's school, Sunan screamed and slammed doors, desperately trying to protect himself from more pain and disappointment. But his teachers stood beside him, praising his good behavior and letting the bad slowly slip away. As he stumbled through English lessons, Sunan's teachers clapped their hands and danced with joy, knowing that his past knew no kindness. Soon he was practicing English phrases on the weekends and asking for private classes on Saturdays. As he built confidence, he began to build a community of close friends around him. Today, Sunan knows that he is worthy of love and a precious part of his safehouse family.

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