



CAMBODIAN CAFÉ

CAMBODIA

Dressed in caps and gowns, the ladies walk proudly toward the stage. As they receive their diplomas, they can't help but smile and laugh together. Not long ago, this seemed impossible. Their home of Cambodia is known for its fierce trafficking industry, where whole villages of children are sold to predators. Every graduate had escaped this darkness and found unimaginable hope at Cambodian Café. A tight-knit community is complemented by leadership training, business experience, and highly respected skills. Towering cakes, exquisite desserts, and hand-crafted greeting cards are the everyday work of the waitresses and artisans. Their glowing reviews remind each girl that she has talent and value far beyond bars and brothels. Even the royal family buys and brags on the work of Cambodia Café. These empowered women go on to work in top restaurants, resorts, spas, and stores. When you buy the work of their hands, you enable them to leave a broken past and move excitedly toward futures of promise.



STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: CAMBODIA • PROGRAM: VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Serey

Serey peered through the bars on her window. Since she was six years old, she had known nothing but her prison home, the abuse of strangers, and the torture of her captor. Until age twelve, Serey's mother continued to sell her daughter's body, eager to make a profit from her pain.

When a local organization finally rescued Serey, a new life began. She moved to a safehouse and soon became the most determined and ambitious student in the school. Her love of learning brought Serey to the best training center in the nation, Cambodian Café. After she graduated at the top of her class, the café decided to keep her on staff, continuing to make lavish cakes and lattes as a manager and trainer. At the end of each workday, she welcomes young children into her own home. They all spend time reading and leave with new books in hand. She is determined to see other children experience the joy, freedom, and dignity she found at Cambodian Café.



*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at www.warinternational.org/story-gallery
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