

THISTLE FARMS

UNITED STATES

As the thistle plant grows, it bears a hard exterior to the world. Spiked leaves protect it from predators while sharp blossoms hide its inward beauty. But as the thistle matures, it slowly exposes delicate purple petals, reaching toward the bright sun. The women working at Thistle Farms extract healing oils from this plant. And as they work, they heal from broken pasts, revealing their own inward beauty. The scars of abusive childhoods and painful addictions are smoothed away in the comfort of a safe community. Together, they create and sell soaps, lip balms, creams, and candles while others pour tea and serve pastries in the nearby café. At the end of each work day they return home, continuing their journey of healing with counseling, education, and plenty of encouragement. When you use Thistle farms soaps or breathe in the aroma of their hand-crafted candles, you support a community of healing, hope, and revealed beauty.



STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: USA • PROGRAM: DOMESTIC SAFEHOUSE



Shelly

Little girls dream of being princesses. They dream of careers as doctors, teachers, veterinarians, explorers, and moms. No little girl imagines a life of prostitution. Shelly didn't either. Instead of dreaming about her future, she was sold to strange men by her own mother. At thirteen, Shelly was abandoned and then left in the hands of a

dangerous man. He too sold Shelly over and over and left her to be abused and arrested. Sitting in a jail cell, she broke down. Shelly felt worthless and desperately prayed for hope and healing. Two months later, her prayers were answered. She pushed open the front door at Thistle Farms and was instantly welcomed into a place of new beginnings. Shelly now knows that she is valuable, encouraged by a community of women who won't abandon her and understand the abuse she's endured. Today, she dreams of leaving a legacy of hope and healing for future Thistle Farmers.

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