



**VIETNAMESE
OUTREACH
INTERNATIONAL**



The Basis for Children's Lighthouse Refuge

More than one million Vietnamese live in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Vietnamese are often slurred and not allowed the same opportunities and public services as the Cambodians. Coupled with a very high poverty rate, many Vietnamese live with barely enough food from day to day and with poor housing for their families.

Feeding and clothing children cost money, and if parents cannot earn enough money to take care of their children, they may make their children go to work begging, scavenging, or selling goods. In extreme cases, parents will sell their children to pay off debt or to obtain money for other needs (or wants). One of the ways children are sold is into prostitution. A brothel owner could offer the parents a few hundred dollars for their daughter to come to work. The girl goes to "work" only to find out that it's not a coffee shop or restaurant, but a prostitution house.

If these at-risk children can be provided with some of the basic necessities such as food and clothing, then the parents are relieved of that financial pressure. As a result, the children are less likely to be exploited to provide an income for the family.

Children's Lighthouse Refuge is a shelter from the poverty and exploitation so prevalent in the Vietnamese communities in Phnom Penh. Children's Lighthouse Refuge is also a beacon of hope for a better future. It meets the physical needs of the families by providing food, clothing, and education to the children in the communities.



Will my Donation to Children's Lighthouse Refuge Really Make a Difference?

Your financial partnership with the Refuge goes directly to support Refuge operations and to provide food and schooling for the children. The financial contributions of partners and donors ensure that Refuge is able to purchase the food and school materials for the children, to pay the salaries of the teacher and the director, and to rent the facility. When you support Children's Lighthouse Refuge, you are literally extending hope for life to children in otherwise hopeless situations, one child at a time.

Contact:

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