



**One morning last November** while sitting on our balcony, I saw a pigeon whose wings were pinned by kite strings, hanging from a tall tree, far out of reach. The more she struggled, the more entangled she became. Our children looked on in tears, not knowing what to do. Watching this hopeless scene, I was reminded of the hundreds of girls trapped inside brothels in our city, unable to get out. “At least we can try calling our apartment security,” Roger said, “Maybe they can do something.” Before long, a guard came to assess the situation and he was soon joined by two joggers in the park. They put their heads together and came up with a solution: Using a long bamboo pole lying in a corner of the park, they cut the string midair. The pigeon dropped to the ground with a terrified flutter. One man held it gently in both hands, while another carefully applied traditional medicine made from powdered spice. To our amazement, in front of everybody’s gaze, the pigeon flew away, free. We all clapped and jumped with joy. As we climbed the steps to go back into our house, our oldest son (11 yrs) said, **“I think God is telling us something.”**

Indeed, God was speaking vividly: Even if it looks impossible, and you might not know what to do or how to go about it, I have people out there who can help you. Together you can do it. Just involve those who will care, tell them about the situation, and call them to join you in this work. The “Pigeon Rescue” seemed even more like a sign, since only a few days earlier, we had met an official who sits on the Child Welfare Committee (the government body responsible for assigning custody for children at risk).

Speaking of the desperate need for a Transition Home for girls, she had explained that there are only three such homes in our city, all over-crowded. “If anything,” she implored, “please start a Transition Home. I will help you to get your license.” This was an amazing offer, since we’d been told it is next to impossible to get a proper permit unless you bribe.

Having prayerfully considered this open door in front of us, we decided to step through by faith: We will start a Transition Home for girls who have survived sex trafficking. Physical rescue from enslavement is only the start of a process. We’ve chosen the name **“Courage Homes”** because it will take great courage for the girls to choose to move through the many aspects of healing. Caregivers will also need courage to offer consistent love and structure despite the often-messy work of trauma recovery. As we step forward, we have an overwhelming sense that God is in this. Just as God heard the cry of the Israelites’ slavery in Exodus 1, God hears the cries of many girls in brothel slavery right now. We are also so aware that we cannot do it alone. As Roger called others to intervene for the hurt pigeon, we are now inviting people around the world to help us. You can play a part for the girls who have been trapped.

**Would you join in what God is doing in their lives and ours?**

The Indian government states there are 2.8 million prostituted people in India, but a human rights organization claims it is closer to 15 million.

Each day, 200 women and girls enter the sex trade in India, of which 160 do so under force.

As the demand for younger and younger girls increases, children as young as 8 are being sold into prostitution.



**Hiroko & Roger**

## FAQs about Courage Homes

### What is a Transition Home and how is it related to rescues?

When a girl is rescued from a brothel, she is legally under the care of the CWC (Child Welfare Committee), equivalent to Social Services in the USA. The CWC assigns her to a Transition Home, which offers therapy and conducts a “home study” on the girl’s family-of-origin to determine if she’s likely to be re-trafficked if sent home. After 4-6 months, the CWC decides where she should be placed long-term.

### How is a Transition Home different from a typical “orphanage”?

These girls will have endured extensive abuse, and many will suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, displaying symptoms such as disturbed sleep, angry outbursts, withdrawal, inappropriate sexual “acting out,” violence and suicidal tendencies. Our Transition Home will seek to help girls begin the healing process physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and socially—a journey which will likely need to continue on long after they leave our home. Does this mean you can’t keep the girls for the long term? Yes...for now. We carry the faith and hope that once the Transition Home is established, God will help us open a long term Aftercare Home in the near future, our long-term vision. When are you going to? As soon as preparations are complete. We’re aiming for early 2011.

### Four crucial milestones in order for us to open:

1. Raise set-up costs & monthly support.
2. Rent and outfit a house. (After three years in operation we will be able to buy our own property.)
3. Hire & train the staff team.
4. Obtain the permit that allows us to take in girls. (A government inspector will check the home site, staff roster, and plan of services.)



## Courage Home Expenses

Each girl who enters the home will receive a "**Welcome Box**" with new clothes, personal toiletry items, a teddy bear and a box/trunk (which she could then decorate) to store her personal effects.

Here's a rough estimate of the cost breakdown for a Welcome Box:

- |                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Two sets of clothes @ Rs. 250 each | = Rs 500 |
| 2. 1 Teddy Bear                       | = Rs 400 |
| 3. Mirror/brush/hair bands            | = Rs 300 |
| 4. Trunk & decorating items           | = Rs 400 |



<b>TOTAL (per girl)</b>	<b>= Rs 1,600</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>TOTAL needed for 50 girls in Year 1</b>		<b>\$1,750</b>

### EXPENSES FOR GIRLS FOR 1 YEAR

	Cost/50 girls for 1 month	Cost/50 girls for 1 year	US Dollars
<b>Medical care for girls</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>288,000</b>	<b>6,240</b>
Medicine	10,000	120,000	2,600
Toiletries	8,000	96,000	2,080
Hospital Visits/Fees	3,000	36,000	780
Dentist Fees	3,000	36,000	780
<b>Personal Items for girls</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>114,000</b>	<b>2,470</b>
Clothing	6,000	72,000	1,560
Personal effects for girls	2,000	24,000	520
Gifts and special occasions	1,500	18,000	390
<b>Education/Therapy Costs</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>2,730</b>
Craft Supplies	3,000	36,000	780
School Supplies	2,000	24,000	520
Other Therapy Supplies	2,000	24,000	520
Outings and Vacation	1,500	18,000	390
Sports/Games Therapy	1,000	12,000	260
Library	1,000	12,000	260
<b>Total Cost for 50 girls for 1 year</b>		<b>528,000</b>	<b>\$11,440</b>
<b>Total Cost per girl for 1 year</b>		<b>10,560</b>	<b>\$229</b>

### HOUSE EXPENSES

Beds (25 girls +3 staff)	28	Rs 28.000	\$607
Linens (sheets, blankets, towels, etc.)	28 sets	Rs 19.600	\$425
Curtains and decorations		Rs 10,000	\$217
Cupboards for girls (dressers)	25	Rs 12,500	\$271
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Rs 70,100</b>	<b>\$1,520</b>

# Courage Home Project Summary

May 2010

## Project Concept:

Establish and operate a “Transition Home” for minor girls rescued from brothel slavery. The home’s environment, program, resources and staff tasks will be designed to help each girl get started on the path of healing and growth for the future. This will include holistic inputs in many areas of life: physical, emotional, educational, social, relational and spiritual

## Country Profile:

**India:** Home to 1.2 billion people, India is a diverse collection of religions, cultures and languages. In addition to great cultural, intellectual and economic wealth, India has a great number of people at risk.

**Consider:** India has 456 million people living on less than \$1.25 per day (according to the World Bank); it has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest population of HIV+ people in the world; and it holds 10 million of the world's 27 million slaves.

## Country Context as it relates to this project:

India is a large source and destination point for human trafficking, with an estimated 2.5 million prostituted people in over 1,000 red light districts. Between 1/3 to 1/2 of these are believed to be minors, either born into brothels or trafficked.

**Project Location:** Delhi/National Capital Region, home to around 16 million people

## Activities of Courage Home:

- Receive girls who have been brought to us by local police or NGOs which specialize in investigation and rescue.
- Assist in the girl’s initial medical exam, logging of her name at the local police station, meetings with the Child Welfare Committee and preparation for giving testimony in court.
- Provide a safe, loving home environment where each girl will receive nutritious food, be given necessary medical & dental care, and be challenged to take part in chores, exercise and play.
- Coordinate a program of counseling, creative therapies (involving art, music, dance, drama, gardening, games and possibly pets), life skills training and education for each girl. “Trauma Focused – Cognitive Behavior Therapy” as developed by Dr. Rebecca Johnson will be taught to all staff of the home and utilized in-depth by counselors.
- Conduct home studies on each girl’s family-of-origin, as mandated by the Child Welfare Committee.
- Prepare each girl for moving on to wherever the Child Welfare Committee will assign her next.

