#### **Summary**

Thailand is home to a rich culture of almost 70 million people, many of whom have pressure to support parents, children, siblings and grandparents. This pressure often forces women to jobs in the sex indistry they would not otherwise consider.

#### **Challenge**

Prostitution is rampant in Chiang Mai due to diminishing job prospects, lack of sufficient education and perception the money would be good. A recent city-wide survey showed 22 different massage shops EXCLUSIVELY focused on sexual services who employ over 200 different women. Including Thai only/underground clientele, online or focused on apps, long term, freelance bar girls and Karaoke bars over 2,000 girls in Chiang Mai alone have income based on sexual related services. The concern is not morally based, but if you REALLY know the girls’ heart’s they do not WANT to continue doing this job. The need for the job is based on many factors including lack of education, need to support family and lack of other qualifying skills.

A vast majority of these girls are freelance. Even when the bars are open, the girls ONLY make money if they sell a “lady drink” (overpriced alcoholic beverage they consume) or themselves. With little foreigners in Thailand currently, girls can go *work* at the bar everyday and still take home nothing. We know many who have gone months without pay as there are many girls but no clients.

The girls we serve are desperate for work, pushing some to increasingly risky behavior where they sell themselves online without the safety provided working in bars with friends and colleagues.

#### **Solution**

We do not seek to eliminate prostitution, but we do seek to find and mentor the many girls who wish for something better for themselves and their families. Our team is passionate about building trusting relationships that lead to opportunities to equip women who choose an alternate path. By offering training in personal finance, job skills, parenting and other relevant topics, we hope that our beneficiaries will have stronger families and empowering careers.

The Community Center is a safe place where those who work in the red light districts can receive food and necessities while engaging with our team.

**Long-Term Impact**

1. Beneficiaries transition successfully from employment in red light establishments to employment that supports their families and demonstrates that they understand their self-worth.
2. Beneficiaries complete life and job skills training that equip them to strengthen their families and gain alternative employment.
3. Beneficiaries who suffer from health issues, addictions or economic distress will receive advice and care that will encourage them to live wisely.
4. Beneficiaries will understand the value of education and obtain a high school diploma or continue their higher education.