



Cosmetology Scholarships

Wipa's Story

Responsibility weighed heavily upon Wipa's slight shoulders. Her mother was gone, her sister was sick, her little one was hungry. Her sister's cancer robbed them both of their physical and emotional strength. The lack of jobs in town only added to Wipa's discouragement, forcing her to the city in search of something to support her family and sister's treatment. Night after night, she sold her body for the money she would send home the next morning. When Thai safehouse staff met Wipa and offered her a way out, she left almost immediately. In this safe place, she began to make jewelry, support her family, and slowly start over.

When WAR, Int'l granted Wipa a cosmetology scholarship, she truly began a new life. Wipa is now a hairdresser, attending business classes with plans to open her own salon. With a smile on her face, she says that making others feel beautiful brings her great peace and happiness. The burden upon her has lifted. Wipa now lives in freedom, looking toward a new future for her and her daughter.

Cosmetology: An Answer to Risk in Thailand

Many women who are abused and misused have long forgotten their beauty or worth. Women in Thailand are often forced into lives of prostitution, others are tricked, still more sell themselves out of poverty and desperation. Cosmetology offers them an alternative— and a way to rediscover their beauty and value.

As the night approaches, they begin to make their way in. The salon is warm and welcoming, unlike their work in the brothels and bars below. The hair stylist leans forward as she gently applies the woman's make-up. "So, have you ever thought about going into cosmetology?" she asks with a kind smile. "You know, I used to do the work you do; there is another way...." Located above a street lined with bars and brothels, the little salon run by a local Thai safehouse stands as a beacon of light and hope. Here, rescued women trained as beauticians reach out those still trapped in sex work, offering them hope and a way of escape.

Cosmetology: An Answer to Risk in the Middle East

Honor killings, the taking of a young girl's life for a perceived moral infraction, claim the lives of over 5,000 girls annually. However, ninety percent of the autopsies show the girl is still a virgin. Since girls subjected to rape and incest are viewed as guilty, most do not report their attacks for fear of punishment. The shame brought upon a household is perceived as a greater harm than sexual abuse.

Many girls run away and go into hiding to either avoid an honor killing or being sent to jail for "protective custody." In these detention centers, the girls cannot leave until someone pays \$15,000 and promises that the family will not harm them.

In an attempt to protect and empower at-risk women, WAR, Int'l created a cosmetology scholarship fund. At the cosmetology school, women can escape dangerous home situations and learn valuable vocational skills. Within this safe environment, women can support themselves, invest in their future, and live in freedom.

