

From Rescue to Restoration.

*Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
Psalm 82:4 ESV*

Four years ago, Rick Baltzersen was on a trip to Southeast Asia but not to see the beaches or experience the food. Rick was traveling to Cambodia and Thailand to visit rescue homes for victims of human trafficking.

Rick had been involved in missions for years, but witnessing the reality of human trafficking firsthand, he was overcome by the sheer injustice of it all. Here, traffickers preyed on vulnerable young girls living in poverty who only wanted a better life. But when visiting the rescue homes, Rick saw how after years of trauma and abuse, these girls were finally able to come alive again with hope for the future. And he wanted to be a part of it.

Destiny Rescue

In 2017, Rick and his wife moved to Cambodia where they spent two years working with Destiny Rescue—an anti-trafficking organization dedicated to rescuing, restoring, protecting, and empowering victims of human trafficking and child exploitation. Since their founding in 2001, Destiny Rescue has saved more than 5,200 individuals worldwide. They are active in seven countries with 250 team members around the globe.

After two years in the field, Rick and his wife moved back to the United States to serve with Destiny Rescue's fundraising efforts, ranging from church visits to youth programs to monthly donation programs. The ministry's Rescue a Child program allows donors to fully fund the rescue of a young girl from a trafficking situation, which costs an average of \$1,500 per rescue. Rick specializes in working with businesses and major donors to connect their hearts for giving with the mission of Destiny Rescue. He uses a charity fund with The Signatry to equip donors with charitable giving strategies and allow the ministry to process major gifts.

"The difference-maker for us has been how The Signatry helped walk us through the process," says Rick. "They work closely with ministries like us to equip and empower them to succeed and have resources prepared for distribution. Instead of us trying to figure out how to explain these concepts to donors, The Signatry has one-pagers on how to do it. The Ministry Services team, in particular, has gone above and beyond by taking the time to meet with our team and explain how we could work together."

At the end of 2019, Destiny Rescue used their charity fund at The Signatry to accept and process a significant gift from a generous donor. “We were able to receive a unique complex asset gift at the end of the year that was possible because we had a fund with The Signatry. This particular individual wanted to maximize his giving and he was able to do that because we had a fund in place.”

Serving at Every Stage

Funds raised by Destiny Rescue go toward rescuing and rehabilitating victims of human trafficking. The ministry is unique because they serve at every stage of the rescue process—from extraction to restoration to prevention. Destiny Rescue’s undercover agents visit red light districts, bars, and clubs to seek out children who are being trafficked. In covert operations, agents build relationships with the victims and rescue them individually. In raids, they work with police to identify a trafficking operation to extract many victims at once and arrest those responsible.

After rescue comes the long and rewarding process of restoration. Destiny Rescue calls this their Aftercare Program. The process is catered to meet the needs of each individual, but they often provide safe housing, medical care, counseling, and help with reintroduction to school or vocational training. The final step is reintegration back into society, when the girls have what they need to be healthy, hopeful, and successful.

Destiny Rescue also leads preventative efforts like border interceptions aimed at rescuing children and returning them to their families before the trauma happens. Through preventative measures and awareness campaigns, the ministry is working to break the cycle of abuse and end human trafficking.



Making A Difference

Ministries like Destiny Rescue are making a difference in the world by serving on the front lines for the causes of Christ. The Signatry partners with these ministries in the belief that together we can solve the world’s greatest problems through the power of generosity. Learn more about how The Signatry equips and partners with ministries at www.thesignatry.com/ministries.

For more information, visit www.thesignatry.com.