INTERGENERATIONAL FREEDOM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

embers INTERNATIONAL

Embers International Inc.

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Embers International Inc. is a global organization that seeks to (i) protect, restore, and empower victims of injustice, and (ii) catalyze sustainable transformation by creating access to opportunities and resources.

We strive to break intergenerational cycles of exploitation and prevent human trafficking by uplifting the marginalized through our programs and advocacy.

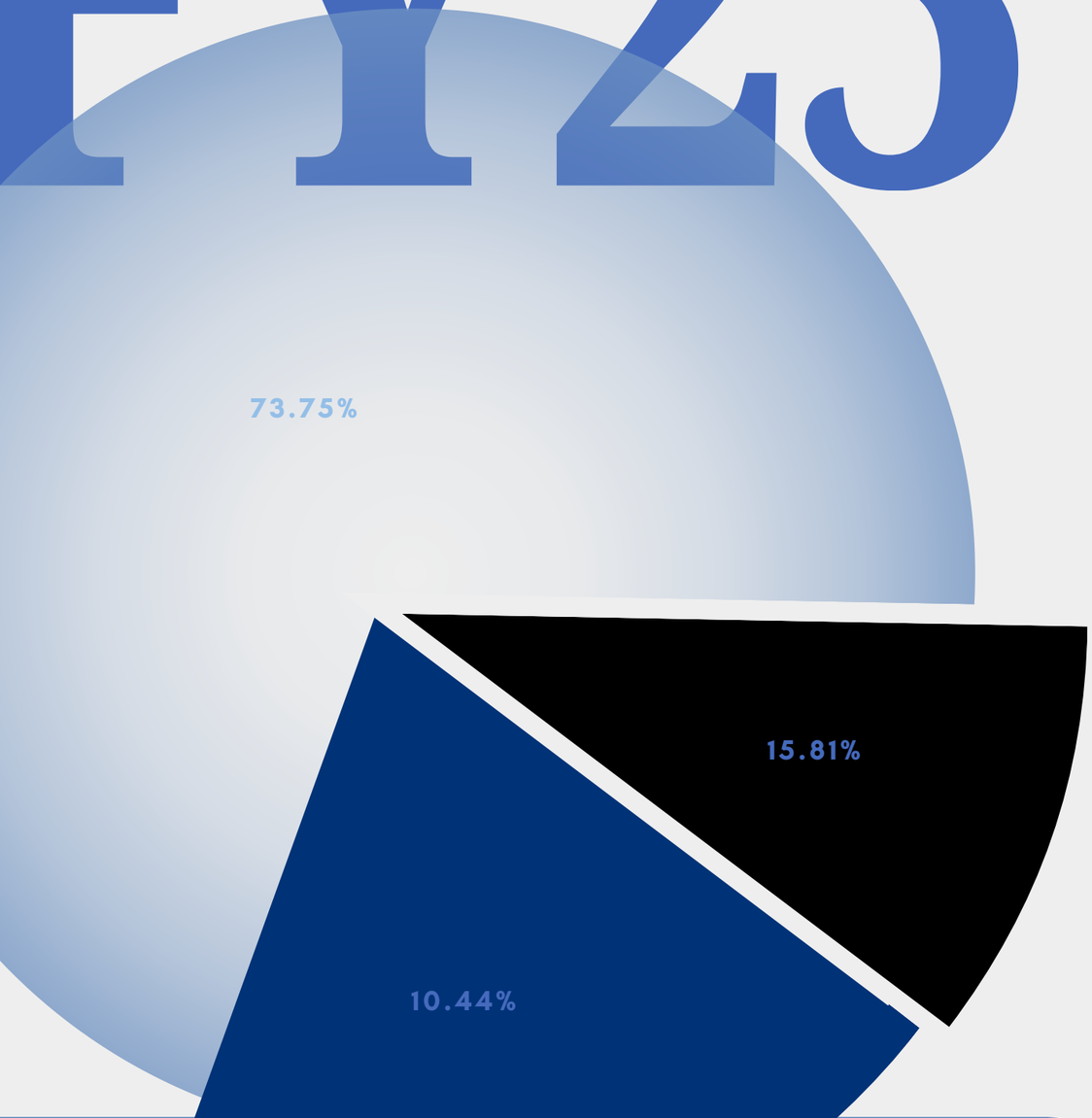
**Pseudonyms have been used and some photos are stock imagery to protect the identity of Embers' clients.*

Annual Report Design and Illustration by Artist Advocate Bianca Valencia Criscuolo

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EIN 81-4644695

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FY25



TOTAL REVENUE $1,071,638
EXPENSES $655,729

OUR 2025 REVENUE REVEALS AN ORGANIZATIONAL MOMENT BUILT THROUGH YEARS OF FRUITFUL LABOR. IT NOW OPENS THE WAY FOR THE NEXT STEP: REFINING AND STRENGTHENING OUR PROGRAMS TO MEET THE TRUE SCALE OF THE MISSION.



VISION

WHY WE SERVE

Embers International envisions a just world where **all are free to flourish.** Our programs are designed to foster generational freedom and prevent human trafficking.

MISSION

WHAT WE DO

Embers International protects, restores, and empowers victims of injustice and catalyzes sustainable transformation by creating opportunities and resources.

PROGRAM EXPENSES
73.75%

DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES
10.44%

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
15.81%

CEO LETTER

Dear Embers Community,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the remarkable ways God has continued to grow and mature the Embers community. This year has been marked not only by measurable expansion, but by a deepening of trust, of partnership, and of shared commitment to the long journey of intergenerational freedom.

In 2025, Embers experienced significant growth in both financial support and volunteer engagement, a testament to the faithfulness of this community and to the clarity with which our mission is being carried forward. Alongside this growth, we refined our programs and strengthened our Theory of Change, listening closely to our local teams and the families we serve. These refinements have allowed us to respond with greater wisdom, humility, and sustainability to the complex realities facing women and children emerging from trafficking and exploitation.

One of the most life-giving moments of the year came through our **Legacy Education Career Fair**, hosted in partnership with a local church—a true companion in this work. What we experienced that day felt like loaves and fishes multiplied. In order to serve **15 of our college students**, many of whom are the first in their families to imagine professional vocations, more than **50 professionals**, spanning a wide range of 14 industries, generously offered their time, stories, and wisdom. It was a powerful picture of God's abundance—of what becomes possible when the wider community shows up to say, *You belong. Your future matters.*

This year, Embers served **552 individuals, including 9 whole families journeying toward reintegration, 108 children** and their families, **40 individuals through our Legal Aid Clinic**, and **16 mothers and their newborn babies receiving maternal health care.** Through our outreach efforts, nearly **2,900 people were reached with care, prevention resources, and support.**

We also continued to take small but meaningful steps toward economic restoration, with individuals participating in job training and securing employment—quiet victories that signal restored agency and hope.

Behind every number is a sacred story. Mothers choosing safety and dignity. Children growing in health, education, and imagination. Young people beginning to envision lives marked not by survival, but by calling. As in years past, our daily prayer rhythms—marked by gratitude, intercession, and tears—have grounded this work in the presence of God, who continues to meet us faithfully in the midst of both joy and burden (Psalm 127:1).

Every initiative at Embers is born from a daring dream—one that refuses short-term solutions and instead commits to long obedience and generational healing. From continued investment in education and maternal care to whole-family restoration and community reintegration, we remain steadfast in our calling to walk alongside those whom Jesus loves so deeply.

From the depths of my heart, thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and trust. This work belongs to all of us, and it is a privilege to journey together.

Coram Deo,
Haejin Shim Fujimura



Co-Founder & CEO
Embers International



$236 BILLION

Illegal annual profits from forced labor.

73% of total illegal profits are from forced commercial sexual exploitation **($173 Billion)**



Embers History



1998
PROGRESS/ TRANSFORMATION

A recent college graduate **Haejin Fujimura** receives a clear and enduring calling: to protect children from violence and to stand with those whose lives are shaped by injustice. This moment marks the beginning of a lifelong vocation—one that would require patience, courage, and unwavering faithfulness.

2002
LEARNING THE WORK OF JUSTICE

Haejin interns with International Justice Mission, where she helps support the launch of IJM's Cambodia office. Immersed in frontline justice work, she gains firsthand experience in anti-trafficking advocacy, legal intervention, and survivor care—forming the foundations of a future vision.

2002–2013
YEARS OF PREPARATION

Over the next decade, Haejin supports and collaborates with multiple anti-trafficking and justice initiatives locally and globally. These years are marked by listening, learning, and humility—discerning what works, what fails, and who is too often left behind.

2014–2017
SEEING WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND

Haejin, alongside Nelli Kim and Brianna Johnson, travels repeatedly to Asia. There, they encounter women trafficked as children who had become mothers—and the children born into brothels alongside them. It becomes clear: while many organizations focused on rescue, **entire families were being left behind.** A new vision begins to take shape.

2017
EMBERS IS FOUNDED

Embers International is formally founded with a bold, generational vision. In the same year, the dream of transforming an abandoned former brothel into a place of beauty and healing is born. Embers launches its first collaborative initiative, the **Christmas Project**, restoring dignity and joy to trafficking survivors through shared celebration.



2018
A CENTER OF COURAGE IS BUILT

A center on a hilltop, once a place of exploitation, becomes a life-giving place for healing, education, and community restoration. What was broken begins to bear beauty. What was broken begins to bear beauty.



2019
EDUCATION, JUSTICE, AND PARTNERSHIP

Embers launches **Legacy Education**, opening pathways to higher education and vocational training for trafficking survivors and youth at risk. That same year, Embers co-creates:

- **Celebration of Freedom & Success** with IJM, honoring survivors' milestones
- A **Legal Aid Clinic**, officially authorized by the **District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)**, expanding access to justice at the community level



Embers Legacy Education students in nursing, hard at work during the Covid Outbreak.

2020
LOVE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Embers responds at scale—serving **1.7 million meals** and helping build an **oxygen plant** at a hospital. In the same year, Embers launches the **G.R.A.C.E. Initiative,** providing long-term quality education with wraparound services for children ages 2 through high school.

2023
STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY

Embers launches Roots & Wings, its intergenerational family-strengthening program—designed to keep mothers and children together while restoring identity, agency, and belonging within healthy community.

2021–2022
A GENERATION TAKES ROOT

- **120 children** are enrolled in the G.R.A.C.E. Initiative
- The **first graduates of Legacy Education** complete professional programs of nursing - seeds planted years earlier begin to bear visible fruit.

2024–2025
INTERGENERATIONAL BREAKTHROUGH

- **9 families** formally enrolled in Roots & Wings
- **15 students and graduates** in 10 different industries in Legacy Education
- **First G.R.A.C.E. graduate** enrolled in junior college
- **First child born into the Roots & Wings program**—in a hospital, not a brothel
  - For the first time, a child begins life outside the cycle of exploitation.

2026
A NEW SEASON BEGINS

Embers appoints its first full-time CEO, marking a new chapter of organizational maturity. With a 24-year vision for the child born into Roots & Wings, Embers commits—not to short-term relief—but to a full journey from birth to adulthood, alongside families and the global community.

The Road Ahead

What began as a calling has become a covenant—one lived faithfully over decades and now entrusted to a growing community. Together, we envision the next milestones: children walking into adulthood with freedom, families flourishing as secure bases, and communities transformed from the inside out.

THIS IS EMBERS.
THIS IS THE NEW WINESKIN.
AND THE JOURNEY HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

FACTORS OF TRAFFICKING

RISK

Risk factors are not isolated; they are systemic and generational. In the communities Embers serves, vulnerability is not simply a present condition; it is formed over time through entrenched social hierarchies, poverty, and exclusion, and it is passed down to the next generation.

EXAMPLES

- **Illiteracy and limited access to educational pathways**
- **Food insecurity**
- **Housing instability**
- **History of abuse, particularly sexual abuse**
- **Substance dependence**
- **Family or social networks already caught in trafficking**
- **Undocumented immigration status**

PRO-TECTIVE

Protective factors are active and relational and must be intentionally built. They often begin with the simple but profound act of being seen and known.

EXAMPLES

- **Supportive adult relationships**
- **Positive self-image and strong self-esteem**
- **Understanding of healthy relationships**
- **Consent and refusal skills**
- **Awareness of trafficking**
- **Perception of legal rights**
- **Knowledge on how to keep safe**
- **Having basic needs met**
- **Community connections**

NOTE: Traffickers target the convergence of poverty, social exclusion, illiteracy, and isolation — where vulnerability has been shaped over generations. Breaking that cycle requires more than rescue. It **requires consistent and long-term commitment.**

OUTCOMES

240

Is the number of home visits made in **2025** to support child safety and family

88%

88% of G.R.A.C.E. Initiative children are accessing formal education for the first time

9 whole families (**20 children**) who are on restoration journeys with Embers through Roots & Wings Program **9**

100%

Of Embers students are employed post graduation

79%

Of G.R.A.C.E. Initiative students demonstrated passing grades or higher in Reading, Writing, and Math

94%

of students observed to have had positive changes in their self-confidence.

This is an important factor which significantly contributes to the protection of our children and the prevention of trafficking.

100%

100% increase in literacy levels in mothers enrolled in our literacy training



Artists imagining' of Mina "....before a government child protection agency **- July 2025**

Breaking Three Generations of Darkness

HOW A THIRD-GENERATION SURVIVOR IS REWRITING THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN BORN IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT

> **In Asia's red-light districts, exploitation is often passed from mother to child, like a cruel inheritance. Children born in brothels face alarming rates of exploitation, especially girls. Yet even in places where hope seems extinguished, restoration becomes possible when sustained care takes root.**

In 2019, six-year-old Mina* stepped through the doors of our community-based safe haven where Embers' programs come to life. She was the third generation of trafficked women in her family. Her grandmother Sama* had been...

trafficked across borders as a child and forced into a brothel. Mina's mother Rashmi* was born there and set on the same path. Fragmented documents across countries left them legally invisible. Mina's father vanished early, leaving Rashmi to raise baby Mina alone.

Determined to break the cycle, Sama enrolled Mina in **G.R.A.C.E. Initiative—Embers'** comprehensive education program—in an effort to change the course of her granddaughter's fate.

The G.R.A.C.E. Initiative

The G.R.A.C.E.(Generational Restoration and Children's Education) Initiative is built on an integrated approach that serves both trafficked mothers and their children together; a departure from the models that treat them in isolation. The program provides English-medium private school education to children born into and living in the red-light areas alongside sustained family support, recognizing that child's restoration must address the whole relational ecosystem.

Because exploitation is intergenerational, restoration must be as well.

At the Center, Mina began to thrive. With Sama as her steady attachment figure, Mina received education, care, and the steady reinforcement that she could have a different future. When Sama fell seriously ill, Embers' team nursed her back to health, recognizing that Mina's hope was deeply tied to her grandmother's presence.

Mina blossomed into a bright, curious, polite child. She gained fluency in English, met national academic benchmarks (rare for children in her circumstances), and overflowed with dreams and joy.

For six years, hope continued to grow.



THEN THE WORLD BROKE

In June 2025, a massive immigration enforcement sweep hit the district. Without legal documents of entering the country (an absence directly tied to their trafficking), Rashmi and Sama were detained and forcibly repatriated. Their already precarious status collapsed overnight.

Eleven-year-old Mina was left alone at a police station, soon to be separated from her only family across national borders.

In that moment, she did not withdraw or freeze in fear. Instead, she courageously demanded a phone call—to Embers' local team.

What followed was a complex, cross-border effort navigating systems not designed for children like Mina–caught between immigration enforcement and child protection frameworks.

Embers' local team mobilized lawyers, NGOs, government child protection agencies, and anti-trafficking units in two countries. They located Rashmi and Sama, connected them with local partners, gathered documentations, and worked through processes that too often separate families rather than reunite them.

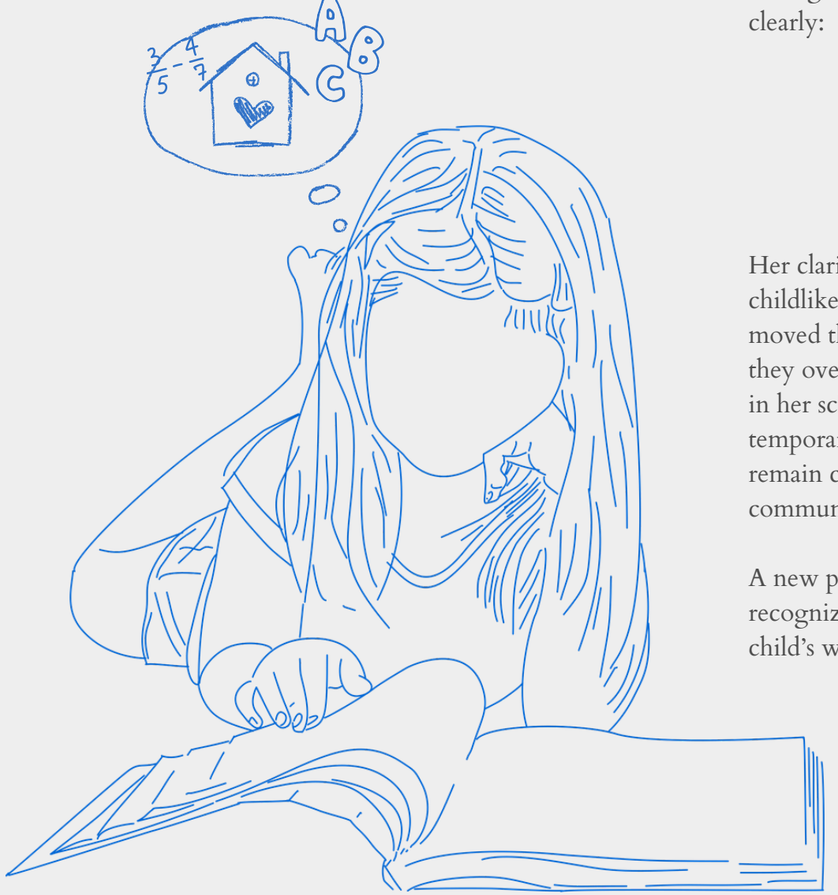
During this time, Mina was temporarily placed with the mother of another G.R.A.C.E. student–remaining within a familiar and trusted community while reunification efforts continued.

THE CHOICE NO CHILD SHOULD BEAR

Child welfare officials gave Mina two options: enter a government shelter (thereby losing her school and community) or return to her grandmother's village in a country and language foreign to her.



Most children in her position would become another statistic. But Mina had six years of formation with Embers–education, relationships, and a growing sense of her own worth.



In July 2025, before a panel of government child protection agency officials, this small 11-year-old did the unthinkable: she insisted on speaking for herself.

Facing a panel of officials, she stood tall and said clearly:

> **"I've been attending my English-medium school for six years,"** she said. **"I must go back to my school without any more absences. I can't lose my school."**

Her clarity and eloquent plea—delivered with childlike candor and unshakable conviction—moved the officials. In an unprecedented decision, they overrode standard policy: Mina could remain in her school. She would reside in the shelter temporarily, but continue her education and remain connected with the Sahasee Embers community while reunification efforts continued.

A new precedent was set–one that recognized continuity of care as essential to a child's well-being.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Today, Mina still attends school. She continues to learn, to grow, and to hope.

She misses her mother and grandmother deeply. Communication across-borders remains difficult, often entangled in **systems that fail to account for the realities of trafficking.**

And yet–**Mina is not alone.**

As we wait for Mina to be reunited with her family, Mina remains rooted in a community that knows her, where she is safe, seen, and supported.

Mina was expected to become the third generation of exploitation. Instead, she is becoming the **first generation to break the cycle**.

Her story shows what becomes possible when we view survivors not as isolated individuals, but as whole families on a path of restoration journey, and when we remain present long enough for that restoration to take hold.

It is **the testimony of a grandmother's fierce love, a community's refusal to accept predetermined fates, and one small girl's unquenchable fire.**

It is a flame that will not be stopped.

Until all are free to flourish.

**Names changed to protect privacy.*



EMBERS MODEL:

Embers' model of care delivers key **benefits tailored to the realities of the red-light district** : Why keeping familes together matters.

- Preservation of cultural and community continuity. **Children stay connected to their language, traditions, festivals, and social networks,** reducing the dislocation common in stranger or institutional placements.
- Greater stability for siblings. Especially vital in migrant families, where **siblings often face separation**; our approach keeps them together in familiar settings.
- Enhanced emotional resilience. Familiar caregivers offer comfort and trust, leading to better mental health and fewer behavioral challenges during crises.
- Support for family reunification. By providing temporary kinship care, we create space for advocacy (like bail efforts) while strengthening families for safe, lasting reunions.

STORY HIGHLIGHT

Roots & Wings

NEW BIRTHS

His name is Adam.

Adam is eight months old. From the moment he entered the world, he has been full of life–his laughter fills a room, and his eyes have not had to see the shadows his mother once endured.

He is the third child born to a woman who survived a decade of a life she never chose, defined by hopelessness and violence. His older siblings were born in the dim back rooms of a brothel, where their first cries were lost in the same violence that had overtaken their mother's world. **But Adam's beginning is different.**

He is the **first child born into Embers' care under its Roots & Wings program.** He received full prenatal care, was delivered in the safety of a hospital, and came home to an environment **where care is consistent and safety is real.**

His birth marked a turning point–something sacred. For the first time, a family stood at the edge of a new life, a future built on a promise. Still, Adam's birth wasn't the end of the story; it was the real beginning of the work.

Embers now walks alongside Adam's family as restoration takes root over time. His mother is learning, for the very first time, what it means to live in safety.

We are journeying with his siblings as they gradually unlearn the instincts of survival and grow into the steady rhythms of school, friendship, dignity, and belonging. And we are looking out for Adam, **protecting his future with patient, gentle care that refuses to rush,** but instead sits in the joys of healthy formation.

This is what we mean by a covenant. Embers Roots & Wings isn't a program with a fixed timeline. It is our promise to stay with Adam's family during their long journey. We remain through the setbacks and the hard days, through the slow process of rebuilding trust. We provide education, livelihood pathways, and community support **so that Adam can stand as a young man who knows, without a doubt, that he was born into freedom**.

Because of this commitment to restoring the whole family, one single birth has become a turning point for an entire lineage. Adam isn't just a child who was saved. **He is the first of many** who will inherit a completely different story, one written in hope and sustained by our enduring presence.



NOTE:

Most of the women and children Embers serves come from **communities historically placed at the bottom of Asia's deeply ingrained caste hierarchies**–often labeled **"untouchable"** or socially **"impure."** Though these classifications were formally abolished by mid-twentieth century constitutional reform, their effects continue to shape today's lived experience.

Comprising an estimated **16–17% of the population in affected regions,** these communities are disproportionately impacted by poverty, sex trafficking, bonded labor, forced migration, and gender-based violence.

STORY HIGHLIGHT

ASHA *our Hope*

A MOTHER FULL OF LIGHT

Asha, a mother living in the shadows of a red-light district, began to reconsider her own future after seeing the quiet transformation in her two daughters through Embers' G.R.A.C.E. Initiative.

Married as a child, Asha's dreams and education were cut short before they could take root. **She became a mother as a minor** herself and carried forward responsibilities without the opportunity to complete her own formation.

Then she witnessed something extraordinary: **through the G.R.A.C.E. Initiative, Asha watched her daughters** step into the program with bright, eager eyes. Asha watched her girls stand taller, speak with pride, and start to dream for their future. In their growing light, **she saw the future she had once lost**—and the mother she **still longed to become.**

In that moment, love became her strength. With resolve and unbreakable devotion to her children, Asha enrolled in a primary education completion program. She is learning letters and numbers, **but more importantly she is reclaiming her voice,** modeling courage, and showing her children that it is never too late to rise toward intergenerational flourishing.





Asha's quiet bravery and fierce maternal love remind us that even in the darkest places, **a mother's determined heart can light the way for the next generation.**

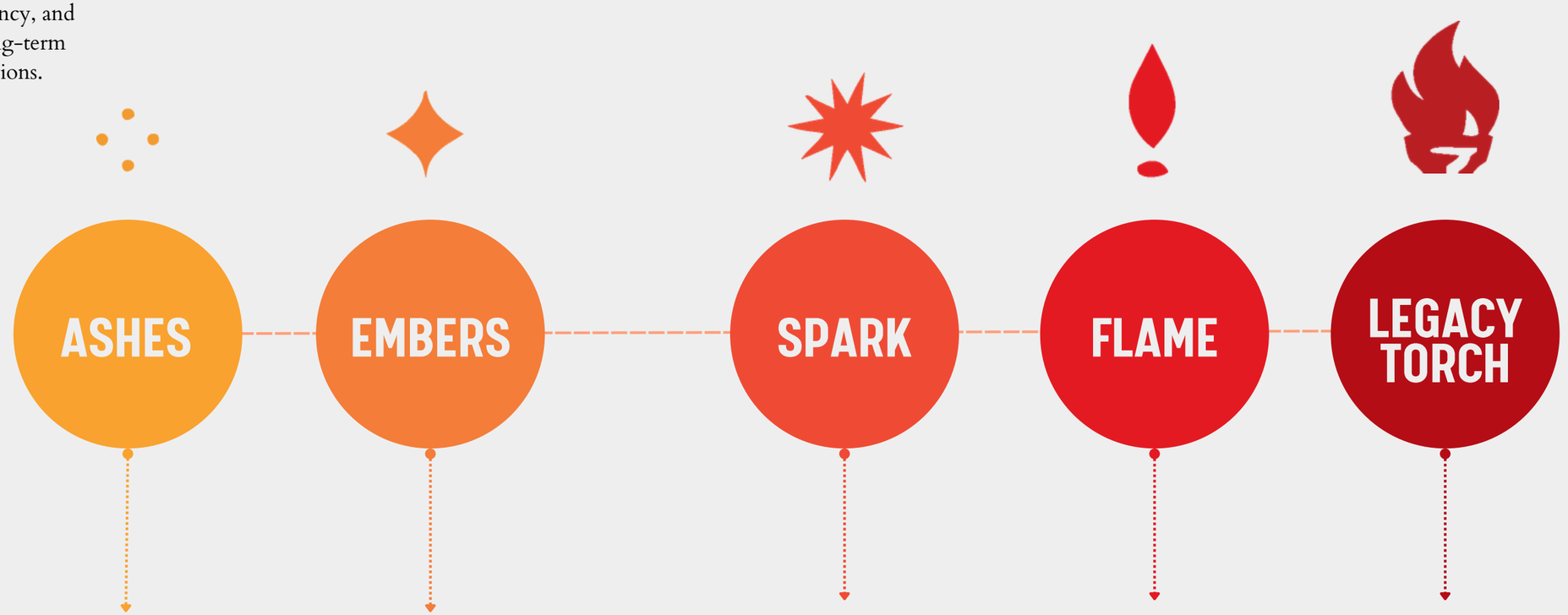
***** Names have been changed to protect privacy of our clients. - ASHA means hope*

Transformation Arc

The Embers Transformation Arc traces the journey from vulnerability to flourishing—moving through stages of ashes, ember, spark, flame, and ultimately, lasting legacy.

Each stage represents growth in trust, agency, and belonging, shaped through consistent, long-term relationships rather than isolated interventions. This framework counters the urgency that can disrupt care. It recognizes that restoration is not a single event but rather a gradual process that develops over time, encompassing setbacks, resilience, and ongoing presence It recognizes that restoration is not a single moment, but a process that unfolds over time—through setbacks, resilience, and continued presence.

For the mothers and children Embers walks with, the destination is not merely survival - it is becoming a source of light that radiates outward, multiplying **freedom into generations beyond.**



ASHES
(Hidden & Unseen)
Trapped as victim
Need to be found
Seemingly dead
Without hope, purpose

EMBERS
(Survival & Safety)
Found under ashes
Basic needs are met
Initial trust being built
Promising

SPARK
(Healing & Hope)
Oxygen & breath
Proximity
Trauma processing
Identity restoration
Glimpses of possibility

FLAME
(Agency & Action)
Bigger fuel “logs”
Skills applied
Choices made
Leadership emerges

LEGACY TORCH
(Multiplication)
Discipline & imagination
Broken cycle into next generation
Able to give back
Influence community
Inextinguishable

THEORY OF CHANGE

OUR APPROACH

Whole family care is necessary to create a secure home base for the flourishing of the next generation. Addressing both mothers and children is essential to breaking exploitation cycles. Real change requires more than knowledge transfer or short-term solutions. Transformation involves reshaping identity, habits, and daily practices.

PROBLEM

Human trafficking inflicts profound, intergenerational trauma on victims and their families, perpetuating cycles of exploitation, re-trafficking, orphaning, eroded sense of belonging across mothers, children, and subsequent generations.

Trafficked victims, along with their children, are trapped in intergenerational exploitation and abuse.There is no effective program model that supports multiple generations to break free from recurring vulnerabilities and enter into sustained restoration and healing.

INPUT

- **Community Center**
- **Financial resources**
- **Human capital**
- **Program partners**
- **Program supplies/ materials**

ACTIVITIES

G.R.A.C.E. Initiative

Legacy Education

Roots & Wings Program

OUTPUTS

- **Access to quality education**
- **Wraparound support for children & families**
- **Higher education & professional pathways for youth**
- **Mentorship & leadership development**
- **Sequenced, trauma-informed, family restoration services**
- **Legitimate livelihoods explored**

OUTCOMES

- **Educational attainment**
- **Strengthened family stability & resilience**
- **Successful transitions to advanced education & careers**
- **Youth emerge as leaders & mentors**
- **Effective recovery from trauma & relational wellbeing**
- **Sustainable economic empowerment**

GOAL

freedom and flourishing for whole families

PATH TO LASTING CHANGE

Healing from trauma takes time, trust, and resilience-building. Sustainable progress happens within a supportive community. **A long-term, whole-family approach is key to lasting freedom and stability.**

STORY HIGHLIGHT

Flames of the Future

EMBERS' CAREER FAIR, OCTOBER 2025

FROM INHERITED OPPRESSION TO EMERGING VOCATION

One October morning, fifteen students from Embers' Legacy Education Program arrived at their first career fair dressed in professional attire, many wearing blazers for the first time.

To anyone watching, they looked like any group of emerging professionals: poised, prepared, and ready. What was invisible was the histories they carried — shaped through generations of poverty and systemic injustice.

> "**When our students entered the Career Fair, all of us did not immediately recognize them because of their confident, graceful poise,**" recalls Haejin, CEO of Embers International, her voice still catching with emotion months later. "**They were transformed beyond being youth from the underprivileged community into becoming the future generation of leaders and change-makers.**"

These students are the first in their families to attend university. They are pursuing pathways in nursing, engineering, law, hospitality, education, and entrepreneurship. Their presence in those rooms reflects more than individual achievement. It is a rupture in inherited exploitation.

PARTNERSHIP TO FUEL THE FLAMES

The career fair grew from a collaboration between Embers and a local church whose ministry serves young professionals across the city, united by a shared conviction to connect marginalized youth to networks they could never access alone. More than seventy attendees, including industry leaders across multiple sectors, gave Embers students the chance to explore vocational possibilities and be seen for their potential rather than their past.

One volunteer described watching a student present her résumé to a hospitality executive: "She knew exactly what she wanted to learn. She spoke with clarity and confidence. You would not know that just two years ago, she was uncertain if she would complete secondary school."

That moment held years of quiet formation becoming visible — belonging that was cultivated slowly and intentionally, expressing itself as confidence and hope.



CONTINUING IMPACT

The results were tangible: three students secured employment and one received a competitive internship in the culinary arts.

The broader impact extends beyond these individual milestones. When Legacy students gain employment:

- Younger siblings find someone to look up to
- Mothers witness hope taking shape
- Graduates return to mentor others, strengthening their communities

As opportunity becomes accessible, **dignity is reinforced, and new patterns begin to take hold across generations.** Freedom, when planted deeply, begins to spread.

WHAT YOUR DOLLAR BECOMES

$25

Provides School enrollment fee for **five students**

$250

One month of safe housing for a survivor mother and her children

$1,000

Will provide **one year of holistic support and quality education** for a child (school fees, school bus, uniform, food, trauma-informed counseling, and afterschool support included)

$8,500

One dedicated trauma-informed counselor onsite for one year

$25,000

Provides holistic support for education for one child for 12 years from primary to secondary school (1st to 12th grade) allowing the child to obtain a high school diploma and the qualification to obtain an entry-level legitimate job.



INTERCESSOR STORY

PRAYER AS THE FOUNDATION OF MISSION

Embers Intercessor - Jacob B.

Embers International's work is impossible without prayer. That might sound like an exaggeration, but through my work as assistant to Haejin and Makoto Fujimura—CEO and Artist Advocate Counsel for Embers, respectively—I've had a front-row seat to a hidden but vital spiritual arena: Embers' daily prayer meeting.

The rhythm is routine; the work that happens here is anything but. Each workday at 11:30, my co-workers and I pause our tasks, gather or Zoom into the "Embers studio" conference room at our office, and devote thirty minutes to sustained intercession on behalf of Embers' clients, field team, and partners. According to typical business metrics, we might be tempted to see this dedicated half hour as a nice, Christian gesture but ultimately a waste of time. After all, Embers' US-based team is made up of part-timers and volunteers. There are only so many hours in a day, and with the majority of Embers' staff half a world and many time zones away, each minute counts. **But God's metrics are not our metrics. Through the prayers of Embers' staff and volunteer intercessors like me, I've witnessed miraculous outcomes to seemingly impossible circumstances.**

That's not to say we're doing anything special in these brief minutes each day. Rather, God invites us into his work of beauty and justice, of restoring broken lives and bringing hope to the darkest places.



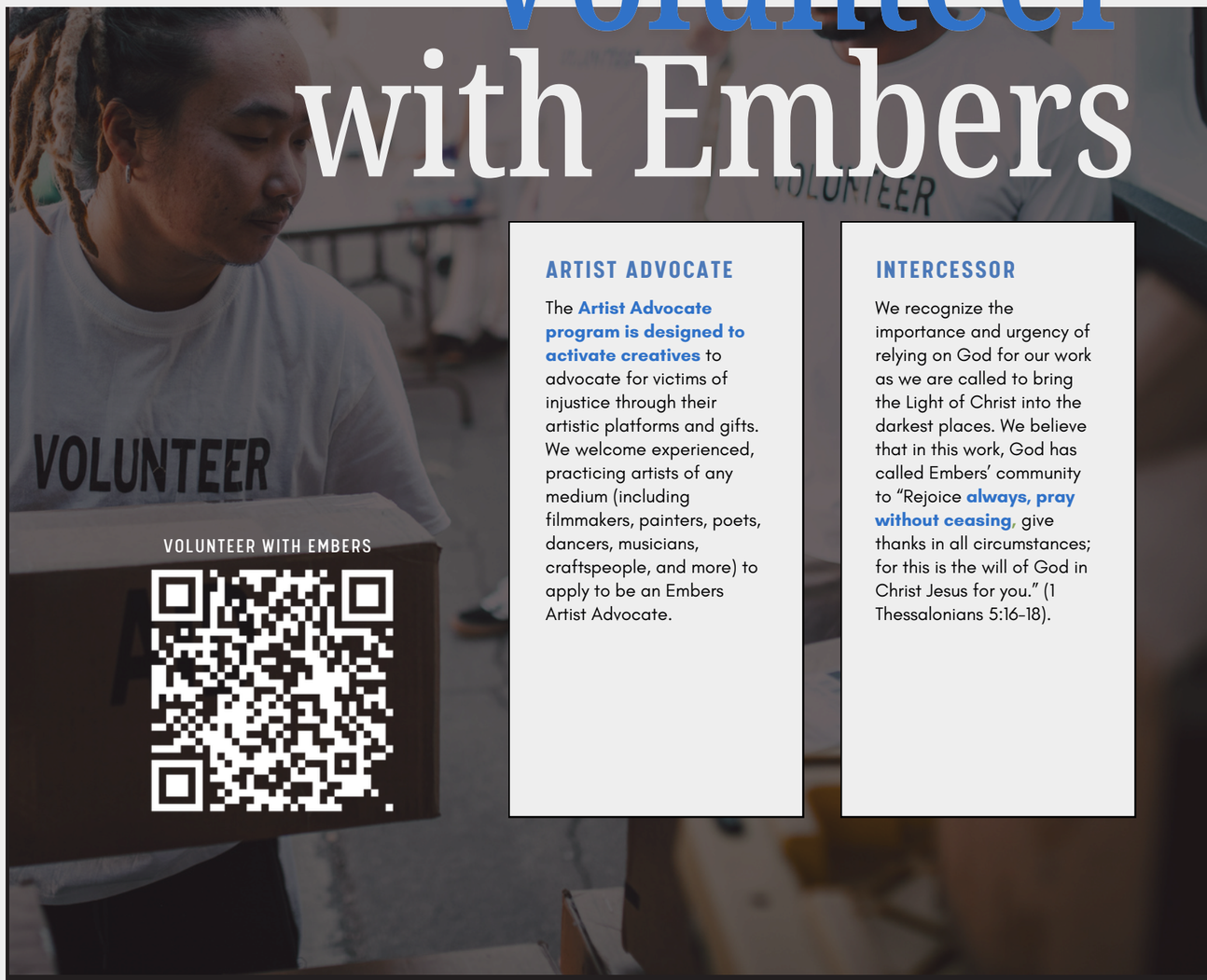
EMBERS INTERCESSOR

Prayer matters to Embers because this work has real spiritual dimensions which cannot be discounted. As Lesslie Newbegin (frequently quoted by Haejin Fujimura, Embers' CEO) wrote, "The deepest motive for mission is simply the desire to be with Jesus where he is, on the frontier between the reign of God and the usurped dominion of the devil."

And that's what this work is all about—mission. But Embers' mission goes so much further and deeper than that word might sometimes imply. **Freedom from intergenerational cycles of violence requires a holistic vision of restoration that encompasses all areas of life:** individual spiritual renewal, certainly, but also economic empowerment, trauma care, access to education from grade school through university, safe housing, a renewed sense of agency and dignity for mothers and children who don't even have a concept for that. Prayer can (and does) move mountains; it also changes us who pray, shaping our imaginations and expanding our hearts to know the fullness of Christ's will for the community we serve. Embers' work is holistic because the gospel is holistic, and prayer gives us the eyes to see.

But Embers can't do it alone. Embers Intercessors, along with our other volunteer programs of Embers Artist Advocates and Embers Ambassadors, are part of an ecosystem which sustains this work, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Come, let your hearts be broken with Christ's, and join him in his mission. Embers Intercessors meet monthly on Monday nights and receive an invitation to join Embers' team for Thursday 11:30am ET prayer meetings. Learn more and apply for Embers' volunteer programs by scanning the QR code below.

Volunteer with Embers



VOLUNTEER WITH EMBERS

ARTIST ADVOCATE

The **Artist Advocate program is designed to activate creatives** to advocate for victims of injustice through their artistic platforms and gifts. We welcome experienced, practicing artists of any medium (including filmmakers, painters, poets, dancers, musicians, craftspeople, and more) to apply to be an Embers Artist Advocate.

INTERCESSOR

We recognize the importance and urgency of relying on God for our work as we are called to bring the Light of Christ into the darkest places. We believe that in this work, God has called Embers' community to "Rejoice **always, pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

DONOR STORY

PARTNERS IN HOPE

The William and Janita Smith Foundation supports Embers International.

Our family originally learned about Embers International in 2021, and started our support to them with a small grant. Then in 2022 when a board member on our Family Foundation was visiting the organization, a special need came up. James 1:27 is the driving force of our family Foundation and the mission of Embers International and the requested need aligned perfectly. We felt called to answer.

A visit from Haejin and Mako provided a first hand confirmation that **God had brought our two missions together**. Through interactions with the leadership of Embers and conversations with them we have seen consistently a sense of deep wisdom, keen understanding, and abiding faith.

Since our first introduction with Embers International not only our family Foundation, but as individuals, we have found God leading us to support the work being done by this organization. Over the last few years we have seen continued growth and maturity in the planning and mission of Embers in . It is our firm belief that God places His work in front of us and **calls us to act.** We cannot save the world, but we can answer the calls He puts before us. Embers International is one of these.

We are confident that Embers is shaped by prayer, humility, and a trust that God is already at work. **We love their uncompromising commitment to a challenging and beautiful work**—one that glorifies God and honors the beauty and dignity of His children.

The children and women from the red light district need the light of life found in Christ Jesus. Embers International carries that light to both the children and the mothers in this district, proclaiming their value and showing them the unfailing love of God. Embers International broadens the horizons of those in the red light district, offering hope for a new and different life not only on earth but in heaven. **The William and Janita Smith Family Foundation is blessed to be called alongside an organization that carries God's love to those in dark places.** May God's love permeate the area and shine His light in the darkness.



Embers Impact Partners

GUARDIAN

Embers Guardians are committed to a **monthly donation of $149 or more** in support of children's current well-being and future empowerment. When you give to Embers at the Guardian level, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of our children and their mothers by supporting mental health counseling, education enrichment programs, and all encompassed in the Benefactor and Samaritan levels. As Guardians, you are committing to fostering a child's whole future.

BENEFACTOR

Embers Benefactors are committed to a **monthly donation of $58 or more** in support of children's education. When you give to Embers at the Benefactor level, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of our children and their mothers by supporting a child's tuition, school supplies, and safe passage to school. As Benefactors, you are committing to increasing a child's learning opportunities.

SAMARITAN

Embers Samaritans give a **monthly donation of any amount of individual commitment** one is able to pledge as a recurring giver. When you give to Embers at the Samaritan level, you are helping to make a difference in the lives of our women and children by supporting the basic nutrition and medical necessities required for their care. As Samaritans, you are committing to walk alongside our women and children.

LOOKING FORWARD:

As we close the pages on 2025, we stand at a threshold of expanded possibility. The stories within this report are of children breaking cycles, of women building economic independence, of survivors reclaiming their futures. They stand as a reminder to us that **transformation is not only possible but already underway.**

In the year ahead, we will deepen our commitment to breaking cycles of intergenerational exploitation. We will continue to grow our programs and what makes our work most effective: our partnerships on the ground.

Local organizations understand their communities' needs with an intimacy that transforms good intentions into genuine impact. By continuing to collaborate rather than dictate, **we honor the dignity and agency of those we serve.**

The challenges ahead are real. Poverty, trafficking, and systemic generational injustice persists in the heart of darkness. Yet we have learned that change happens not through dramatic rescue but through patient accompaniment: showing up, day after day, meal after meal, class after class, court case after court case. This is the essential work of justice that Embers is proud to be part of.

To our partners, donors, and supporters: you have made this work possible. As we look toward 2026, we invite you to continue walking alongside the individuals and families whose resilience inspires us daily.

Together, we are building a world where all are free to flourish.

With hope and determination.

