

# LIGHTHOUSE FOR WOMEN

## *A refuge from the storm*



Kavita is a 22-yr old prostitute who was sold by her family at 15. She is now HIV positive and has a 2-yr old daughter. She is one of over 10 million prostitutes in India, of which 35% are teenagers. Most are HIV positive. The primary reason for prostitution is poverty. Therefore, once a woman is sold by her family, or kidnapped, or voluntarily enters into this trade, she can never come out because of illiteracy and lack of marketable skills. India also has millions of wives abused and victimized by their husbands, and oppressed widows with no way out!

Lighthouse For Women is a California registered nonprofit organization that is focused on restoring and rehabilitating prostitutes, desperately poor widows, and abused women, and their children. Nalla Sundarajan, the founder believes that every woman deserves respect and the opportunity to fulfill her God-given potential.

### ***. . . Empower oppressed women to economic freedom***

Lighthouse is committed to empower oppressed women and their children to economic freedom through literacy, and vocational training.

In January 2008, Nalla and another team member of Lighthouse, Maria Peralta, went on an exploratory trip to India and ministered to over a 100 women who were prostitutes. Almost all of the women had children, some were married to their pimps, and all were the breadwinners in their families. Domestic violence is widespread and victims have no safe place to go and the suicide rate is extremely high in this group. The need is great, and an organization like Lighthouse can change not only the lives of these women, but also the lives of the next generation.

### ***Provide long-term shelters for healing, and restoration...***

Women and their children can stay for two years and receive emotional and spiritual counseling, and training in a vocational trade, and functional literacy. The children will be educated in nearby schools, and Lighthouse will continue to provide education scholarships even after their stay in the Shelter. Lighthouse will partner with micro-loan organizations to help transition the women to financial independence, where they will be in a position to support themselves and their children.

The first center is slated to start in Chennai with a few women. Please check out the website [www.LighthouseForWomen.org](http://www.LighthouseForWomen.org) for more details on this project, and how you can make a difference in the lives of these women.