

Thistle Farms

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Founded by Becca Stevens in Nashville, Tennessee, Thistle Farms has provided a safe home, therapy, employment, and community to women survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction for more than two decades. The multifaceted nonprofit includes a two-year residential program provided at no cost to women, as well as the social enterprises that employ them. The enterprises including a natural Body & Home line, sold through its Shop, ThistleFarms.org, and more than 400 retailers around the country; the Café at Thistle Farms, a locally-sourced restaurant and special event space; and the Thistle Farms Global Market, which increases profit margins for women artisans in 20 countries around the world. In every aspect of its care, outreach and support Thistle Farms proves that love heals.

Why Thistle Farms?



- Thistle Farms is redefining a nonprofit's potential. Today, as more and more people and businesses look to social entrepreneurship for answers, Thistle Farms stands out as a brilliant success story and an early pioneer in using industry, education, and love to improve the world.
- In the last year alone, Thistle Farms provided more than 10,000 nights of safe, free housing for women recovering from the streets; gave 838 hours of counseling and therapy to survivors; delivered more than 795 hours of medical attention; created over 105,000 hours of employment and \$1.6 million in income for survivors; and supported 1,200 women artisans around the world through fair-wage jobs and development.
- Thistle Farms and founder Becca Stevens have been featured in NPR, PBS, TODAY, Allure, Southern Living, Town and Country, Forbes, Refinery29, TeenVogue, PopSugar, and so much more, including the acclaimed PBS documentary A Path Appears.
- A Whole Foods vendor since 2008, Thistle Farms home and body products embraced natural ingredients early and honestly, anticipating the cultural shift toward natural beauty and home care that continues to grow.
- Thistle Farms is interested in the long-term: The organization's emphasis on longevity, love, and dignity have resulted in sustainable life changes and healing for thousands of women. Through workshops and other offerings, Thistle Farms has also empowered others to launch their own initiatives designed to tackle the world's problems.
- Thistle Farms' diversification efforts are an inspiring blueprint: What began as a safe home for five women survivors has grown into a multifaceted retail, manufacturing, restaurant-destination operation that beautifully blends local and international in a uniquely 21st-century way.

Becca Stevens

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When Becca Stevens opened a home for five women survivors of trafficking, addiction, and prostitution called Magdalene in 1997, she never imagined it would grow into the world-changing nonprofit Thistle Farms has become. A priest, author, speaker, and social entrepreneur, Becca set out to provide sanctuary and healing for women society has historically not served or seen. More than 20 years later, those efforts have exponentially grown and are housed under Thistle Farms, a multifaceted, international nonprofit still spearheaded by Becca. Becca has continued to lead important conversations in demanding ways, including writing 10 books and delivering talks across the country. Her 2017 book, *Love Heals*, generated widespread acclaim thanks to its empathetic but pragmatic spiritual guidance. A graduate of the University of the South and Vanderbilt Divinity School, she also holds multiple honorary doctorate degrees. Becca lives in Nashville with her husband, Marcus Hummon, and their three sons.

Why Becca Stevens?



- Thousands turn to Becca on social media for daily inspiration and leadership wisdom, not just concerning Thistle Farms, but the world's most pressing cultural issues.
- After Becca's father died when she was five years-old, she experienced childhood sexual abuse. Her own history has allowed her to create a deep connection with the women she serves that also informs her writing and speaking.
- The New York Times, ABC World News, NPR, and more have all highlighted Becca and her work. In 2016, she was named a CNN Hero and a White House "Champion of Change." Becca was also featured in the PBS documentary *A Path Appears*, named Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America, and inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame.
- An Episcopal priest, Becca is an admirable example of putting theology into practice.
- As a social entrepreneur, Becca has proven to be both ingenious and determined. The range of products under the Thistle Farms umbrella spans chic natural health and beauty to locally-sourced restaurant and stunning event space, while the programs created to support and serve survivors focus on sustainable solutions and care.
- A believer in the healing and communal powers of tea, Becca researched tea production. After discovering the violence associated with its growth and distribution, she became an advocate for tea farmers around the world—most of whom are women. Today, the Café at Thistle Farms offers Nashville's only daily tea service.
- In a world plagued by complex issues and divisive politics, Becca is a problem-solver, a unifier, and a pragmatist whose inclusive voice is both refreshing and needed.