

HOPE



~~Abused~~
~~Safe.~~



~~Homeless~~
~~Employed.~~



~~Alcoholic~~
~~Sober.~~



~~Gangster~~
~~Crime Preventionst.~~



~~Loner~~
~~Belongs.~~



~~Sick~~
~~Resilent.~~



~~Depressed~~
~~Hopeful.~~



~~Abandoned~~
~~Loved.~~



~~Drug Addict~~
~~Recovered.~~

I wanted to create a series illustrating hope in the lives of some very dear people I met in South Africa. These photos capture a snippet of their lives, stories, and resilience. I was inspired to make the focus of this project “hope” after battling depression last year as a tribute to anyone facing a current battle. I believe hope still exists even in the midst of our darkest seasons.

Additionally, I decided to use labels instead of sharing more of their stories in order to challenge the idea of labels themselves. We far too easily assign labels to people without making an effort to know their story, their passions, and their battles. When we do this, we rob ourselves of the ability to truly connect with one another. The people I chose to photograph have been ignored and labeled by society in one way or another. These people are also some of the strongest and most loving individuals I have met. There is so much more to a person than their label, we never know what battles they may be facing.

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