



## CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

APRIL 2022

We appreciate all of you who have offered Lenten gifts to our apostolate, and who have been continually generous to our apostolate over the years. Your sacrifices go to people who have rarely experienced such an altruistic act. **We are excited to let you know that some generous benefactors have given \$30,000 towards a matching grant to help fund the St. Bakhita's Program for women with children!** Our goal is to raise an additional \$30,000 to match this grant during Lent this year! These funds will provide housing, case management, individual therapy, and aid with basic needs like groceries and transportation.

We also have a couple of medically disabled clients in our adult program who need your Lenten offerings. Each of these young women have suffered more physically, mentally, and emotionally in their short lives than many of us will ever suffer in this lifetime. I would like to share with you the story of one client and her current medical struggles.

After entering our program, she was given a medical diagnosis requiring her to undergo multiple brain surgeries. Her condition has been with her since birth but has been triggered and worsened from being severely beaten by her trafficker for a decade. Recently, she was diagnosed and is receiving treatment for three additional medical conditions. These medical issues would be a serious challenge for anyone; this woman is also the sole caregiver for six children, in addition to dealing with the trauma of being sexually abused for a decade. Since she is not physically able to work, our apostolate has taken on a large amount of her expenses. We hope that lessening her financial stress and anxiety will aid her in being able to focus on bettering her health and taking care of her children. The largest expenses looming over her are her monthly rent and utilities. After she was diagnosed with more health conditions earlier this year, CIH decided to pay her rent in full until she recovers.

Please consider offering prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lenten season for all the women in our program, and especially our medically disabled clients and their children. In addition to the matching grant mentioned, our goal is to raise an additional \$35,000 to provide for our clients with serious medical conditions. Please designate "matching grant" or "medically disabled" on your donations if you would like to give to either of these funds.

Blessed Lent and Easter from all of us at *Children of the Immaculate Heart!*



In Christ,

Jenna Christakis  
*Adult Program Manager*

Scan the QR code to visit the donation page,  
or visit the link below:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/7d5xhw>



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# 8TH ANNUAL GALA EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Thanks to your financial generosity, we raised

**\$35,000**

## Gratitude Galore at the CIH 8th Annual Gala, February 19, 2022

The evening's energy was elevated as friends—old and new—streamed into Our Mother of Confidence Hall ready to enjoy the occasion and continue their devotion to the survivors of trafficking. Volunteers from St. Joseph's Academy greeted guests with trays of scrumptious appetizers.

Chris Check, President of Catholic Answers and Emcee, welcomed everyone as they gathered to hear the glorious prayer of Canticle's own Jubilate Deo Choir. Our Mother of Confidence's pastor, Father Steven Larion, graciously led the group in blessing the dinner.

Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet and desserts prepared by Ranch Events. Father Anthony Saroki motivated and inspired all by reminding us that the work of CIH lets the girls experience the love of God, which sets them free.

CIH Executive Director, Grace Williams Lionello, re-told stories of the women and girls whom CIH is caring for every day. It was uplifting to hear how God has touched and healed them in a profound manner. CIH is grateful for the abundance of support, friendships, and God's grace during the long awaited and much loved annual Gala! Thank you to our friends who came out to connect with CIH again!



YOURS IN CHRIST,

*The Office Team*

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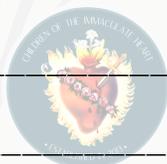
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