

# CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART



*The Child Mary* by Francisco Zurbaran, photo courtesy of Alex Graham

May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Spring is upon us! As I write this to you the birds are singing outside of the office at The Refuge. May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and I cannot help but think of the passage from the Song of Solomon, “My beloved speaks and says to me: ‘Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land’” (2:10-12, RSVCE).

Here at Children of the Immaculate Heart, we aspire to bring the light of the Resurrection into girls’ and women’s lives through the support we provide. Little by little, like the seed planted, their lives begin to transform, and Christ does His work, making all things new in them (cf. Rev. 21:5). I am very proud of the girls at The Refuge and our women in St. Bakhita’s Program for their courage in facing this formidable task of transformation and renewal!

As we celebrate this Easter season and approach Pentecost, we remember Our Lady who was in the upper room with the apostles and disciples, praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Thank you so much for your prayers and donations that make this work possible to help heal these precious souls. We could not do this without all of you! In heaven your reward will be great!

Yours in Christ,

Grace Williams  
Executive Director/ President



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RELAUNCH

We are excited to relaunch our Volunteer Program! Whether you are near San Diego County or far, we invite you to contribute your time and talents to serve our ministry and join us on mission.

Background checks may be required if you work directly with those in our programs. Beyond those immediate opportunities there will be initiatives to expand our Fundraising, Special Events, and Education/Outreach locally and around the world. Please visit our website or scan the QR Code below to complete the Volunteer Survey.

Come build up the Mystical Body of Christ today!



Scan to complete our  
Volunteer Survey.

## Volunteer Testimonials



“Human Trafficking is a harsh reality that must be brought to light. It was a blessing to use my gifts and talents to serve this ministry.”  
-Nick Chamberlain

“To help rehabilitate these women and girls and help them start a new life is truly inspiring.”  
-Jocelyn Soriano Lomahan



“Being there for my family and friends helped me realize that I can be there for others in need. I’m grateful to be a part of a mission with a beautiful cause!”  
-Michael Puentes



“I was inspired by learning about trafficking victims and their struggles to escape the horrors of abuse. I felt compelled to help in whatever way I could. I am grateful to be part of this beautiful mission.”  
- Marty Franklin



## Volunteer Program Vision

### Direct Program Support

For those outside of the San Diego area, we welcome you to serve as academic tutor/adviser, professional mentor, financial coach, health/wellness coach, or expert in other disciplines to share with those in our programs in a one-on-one or group setting online. Additionally, locals can prepare meals, assist with donations, help to maintain The Refuge, and assist in relocating our ladies.

### Help Support Our Mission

To help grow our ministry, education and outreach to schools, parishes, and associations locally and around the world is pivotal. Consider organizing a presentation today. Special Events are a dynamic way of informing the public and financially supporting us by donating the proceeds. Helping us with our events or hosting your own is a great mechanism to get the word out. For locals, if you are open to write or call our donors, we encourage you to join us.



# St. Bakhita's Survivors

Get to know our women in the  
Adult Program!

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**Name:** Maria\*

## **Favorite Hobby?**

Walking and swimming  
at the beach.

## **What is your dream job?**

Working with kids in a group  
home or being a Child Well  
Care Caseworker.

## **What inspires you most?**

Being able to help others in need.  
I just want to see everybody happy.

## **Do you have any kids?**

Two boys. One is 6 years old,  
and the other is 22 years old.

## **How have you benefitted by being in the Adult Program?**

It has been amazing! They've helped me  
drastically. This is the most stable I have ever  
been in all areas of my life. You guys help me  
tremendously. Like even with growing in my  
career and life planning, just everything;  
I've grown so much in this program.  
I don't know where I would be without CIH,  
I'd be stuck. You guys give me hope.

## **Explain where you are at in life right now.**

Right now, I am focusing on my health and  
education. I need to have two surgeries done  
this year, and I am wanting to get my GED as  
well. I have been studying for my GED for a  
few weeks and have a goal of taking the test  
by the end of summer.

\*For privacy of survivor's identity, her name has been changed.

## **St. Bakhita's Adult Program Special Appeal**

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Survivors like the one described here are seeking  
healing from their past wounds. *Your generosity  
today can mean peace tomorrow.*

To support their recovery choose one of these options.

1. Give online by visiting our home page.
2. Check the "St. Bakhita's Adult Program" box on your Reply Envelope.
3. Write "Adult Program" on your check's memo line.



Scan to visit  
our website.

## **Save the Date: CIH Summer BBQ**

**When: Saturday, June 26, 2021**

**From: 12pm- 4pm**

**Where: San Diego Area**

**Please visit our Events page in early May to purchase your ticket and for more exciting announcements.**

## **Appreciated Assets**

### **Contact:**

**Ryan Douglas**

**Finance & Operations Director**

**Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego**

**rdouglas@ccfsd.org**

**(858) 397-9703**

**For Stocks, Life Insurance, Real Estate, Retirement Accounts, Bonds, IRA RMD, and more.**

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**<https://www.ccfsd.org/giving/existing-funds/chil/>**

## **Current Job Openings At The Refuge**

- Overnight Child Care Worker (FT/PT) (10-6)**
- Assistant House Manager (FT) (2-10 Tu-Sat)**
- Daytime Child Care Worker (FT/PT) (6-2 Fri-Mon/2-10 Flexible)**
- Maintenance Manager (PT) (On Call)**

**For more details, please visit the Careers page on our website.**