## **Children of the Immaculate Heart**

## **Statement of Faith**

Children of the Immaculate Heart exists to serve survivors of modern day slavery by providing them with rehabilitative opportunities and restoration in Jesus Christ. CIH promotes the dignity of the human person and upholds the goodness and beauty of both the masculine and feminine genius and strives to promote a culture of life. CIH believes that conjugal love and procreation are gifts from God to be shared solely between one man and one woman in marriage for life as established by God in the beginning and raised to the level of a Sacrament by Christ. We believe that all persons are called by God to live chaste lives by virtue of their own dignity and according to their state of life. We believe in the rights of workers to just working conditions, wages, and benefits. CIH opposes all forms of oppression and exploitation, including racism, sexism, pornography, sexual abuse and harassment, and unlawful discrimination.

CIH sees the rise in human trafficking as evoked by the widespread use and acceptance of the objectification of women, the breakdown of the family, sexual activity outside of marriage, pornography, abortion, and contraception. Because human trafficking arises from these issues, CIH seeks to evangelize both the individual human heart and society as a whole. Children of the Immaculate Heart will provide after care for those who want to get out of prostitution, trafficking, or other forms of sexual exploitation. Such care includes the education, job training, physical, psychological, and spiritual care that are needed in order to live healthy and fulfilling lives in society.

Because Children of the Immaculate Heart is a Catholic religious non-profit, her volunteers and employees will be required to respect and uphold all the teachings of the Catholic Church in regards to faith and morals and to be examples to the residents in CIH's various programs. CIH volunteers will also be required to respect the religious beliefs and liberty of the residents. CIH volunteers will not be permitted to refer for or promote the following practices: contraception, abortion, homosexual lifestyles, masturbation, sexual activity outside of marriage, pornography, and euthanasia/assisted suicide. When these issues come up, volunteers will be sure to be non-judgmental of the person without condoning or promoting their practice.

It is the desire of Children of the Immaculate Heart to help survivors of human trafficking to not define themselves by their past or any of the traumatic experiences of their lives, but to find their identity in Jesus Christ, as sons and daughters of God in the Son. Volunteers are to treat residents as having equal dignity with themselves as persons and to do what they can to bear the burdens of those CIH serves. Volunteers are to embody the understanding love of Jesus Christ and his infinite mercy so that they will be present with compassion and generosity for all who come to us in their hour of need.