



CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Renewing All Things in Christ ~ Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

Volume 2 Number 6 February 2018

A Message from the President

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! It is with great pleasure that I write you just two days after our 5th Annual Gala and Silent Auction where we had the joy of God providing us with about \$22,000 through the generosity of all those who attended! It was a fabulous night with Dawn Eden giving a moving keynote address on healing wounds through the gloried wounds of Christ. Please see the article on the back of this newsletter to learn more about it!

At our Gala, we kicked off our 2018 Capital Campaign to purchase The Refuge, the home we are currently leasing and getting licensed to be the first residential therapeutic program in San Diego that serves exclusively trafficked minor girls on a longer-term basis than the drop in centers and storefront shelter run by San Diego Youth Services for this population. That means that there are very few placement options for trafficked minors here in San Diego County outside of the foster care system and emergency housing. Of course, the ideal for all missing or exploited children is always reunification with their families. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. In some cases, children experience physical, psychological, or sexual abuse within their own home; even worse, sometimes the family of origin actually turns out to be the ones trafficking their own child. In cases like this, where a girl needs a safe place to go and be surrounded by caring staff who provide trauma-informed individual, group, and even family therapy when appropriate, The Refuge is an ideal placement for them.

The Refuge is located in a quiet corner of San

Diego County, close enough to shopping, hiking, and other attractions to be fun for a teenage girl, but off the beaten path enough to keep her safe from traffickers and unwanted observers. We are including a few pictures of the



facility here for you to see this Spanish-style, light-filled home! We have spent the last year fixing it up, getting it ready for six girls between the ages of twelve and seventeen. We have built a room on the



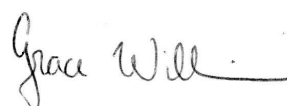
lower level of the home with beautiful glass double doors for the therapist's office and are currently putting in a chapel/prayer room for both the staff and girls to have a place to go and recollect themselves in silence, connect with God, pray, journal, and most of all – to be able to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass within our own home.

Our lease on this home ends at the end of February 2019. We are currently raising \$1.2 million to be able to purchase The Refuge before our lease runs out. It is too beautiful and too ideal to lose – and we have put too much work into it to want to do this again anytime soon! Would you consider joining us today to make a one-time gift or monthly pledge for the next year towards our capital campaign? This will give so much stability to our program so that we do not have to disrupt the therapeutic progress of the girls by moving them mid-program and will also prevent us from losing a significant amount of time and money by having to relocate. If you would like to make a gift towards this end, please write “Capital Campaign” on the memo line of your check and return it in the enclosed envelope. Include the word “pledge” on the line if you would like us to send you an envelope with your receipt so that you can give on a monthly basis. You can also become a monthly donor on our website

www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org/donate

From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you who have made this work possible! It is among the great joys of my life to work with these women and to look forward to being able to make such a difference in the lives of the teenage girls who will come to The Refuge.

In the heart of Jesus and Mary,

 President/Executive Director

Meet Bethany Rainey, Teacher for The Refuge!

By Bethany Rainey

My name is Bethany Rainey and recently joined the Children of the Immaculate Heart team as the lead teacher for The Refuge, the future residential treatment center for minor girls rescued from human trafficking. I first learned about Children of the Immaculate Heart during my senior year of undergrad at Mount St. Mary's University and knew immediately that I wanted to take part in their mission. I have a bachelor's degree of science in Elementary Education with a concentration in Religious Education and have worked for the past year as a crisis intervention volunteer. My passion as an educator stems from the everyday opportunity to empower the hopes and dreams of my students.



Back in January, I embarked on a cross-country road trip from my home in Pennsylvania to my new home in San Diego. I was very excited to meet everyone at Children of the Immaculate Heart and immerse myself in the tasks of preparing the classroom and education program at The Refuge, helping with the licensing application, and learning more about the organization and the population we serve. Having only been with CIH a short time, it is already clear to me how great the need is for the healing and holistic resources that The Refuge seeks to provide.

“To whom much is given, much will be required.” (Lk 12:48) In my life, I have been blessed with the support and love of my family as well as the opportunity to pursue my goals and grow in my faith life. I now feel incredibly grateful to Children of the Immaculate Heart for giving me the chance to share these blessings and positively impact the lives of young survivors. I want to thank everyone who has made donations or volunteered their time. Please keep us in your prayers!

UCSD Seminar & Education Fair

By Margaret Boharic, Secretary & Case Management
Team Member

“Hidden in plain sight” is a phrase frequently used when describing victims of human trafficking, and many of them, accompanied by their traffickers, pass through hospital and clinic doors repeatedly, undetected by health care providers. Victims often use the Emergency Department of hospitals like a primary care physician, and thus they slide between the cracks unnoticed - and remain in the clutch of their traffickers. Trafficking victims will often make up stories about their injuries when questioned by medical staff in order to avoid being detected.

In new efforts to prevent this, UC San Diego Health is leading the way here in San Diego in the development of specialized protocols for medical professionals in identifying and assisting victims.



In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness month, a seminar for employees was held January 22 at UCSD Thornton Hospital. Children of the Immaculate Heart was pleased to be invited to present on our work and have a table outside for those interested. Guest speakers included Summer Stephan, San Diego District Attorney, and Dr. Hanni Stoklosa of HEAL Trafficking in Boston, who specializes in identifying trafficking cases in her work in emergency medicine. Many insights, common misconceptions, and real-life stories were shared. Short presentations by local service providers followed, including our own. CIH President Grace Williams spoke about our program for adult women and their children, as well as the progress of opening our home for minors. The seminar ended with a public education fair both at the La Jolla and Hillcrest locations of UCSD Health System.

We applaud UCSD for their work to educate their staff on the realities of the intersection between human trafficking and health care, and thank them for the invitation and opportunity to collaborate.

Children of the Immaculate Heart at The Fall Assembly of Priests

By Jenna Christakis, Office Manager for CIH

On November 21st of 2017, the staff of CIH joined 120 of San Diego's priests at their Fall Assembly with Bishop McElroy and Bishop Dolan to speak on the topic of human trafficking.

We were quite honored and excited when three months prior, Fr. Michael Murphy of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, asked if our President, Grace Williams, would be one of the guest speakers for the assembly.



The event MC was Fr. Michael Murphy himself and started with

the assembly members participating in the Midday Prayer from the Divine Office. Next Miss Williams spoke on the spiritual warfare that is present in the trafficking industry. Miss Williams stressed the importance of understanding that human trafficking is a violation of human rights and that it is a **“form of modern-day slavery”** and more importantly, that it comes from the widespread breakdown in the relationship between man and woman in contrast to the unity and complementarity of the two that God intended. After Miss Williams' talk, CIH was blessed with some time to socialize and break bread with the wonderful priests of San Diego!



Following the lunch break, the District Attorney of San Diego, Summer Stephan spoke about the legal side of the trafficking industry. Her presentation focused on the laws and challenges in prosecution for crimes of human trafficking in San Diego County. She specifically emphasized how, **“California is in the top four destination states of human trafficking”** and that **“San Diego is amongst the top thirteen cities for**

Chief Deputy District Attorney Summer Stephan speaks on legal issues & human trafficking.



high intensity child prostitution.” Ms. Stephan also discussed how to spot a victim of human trafficking and how to report it.

The last speaker for the afternoon was Bishop McElroy himself! Bishop McElroy gave a powerful speech calling the priests to action. He called them to take a stand against this industry by being the examples the men in their communities need and of what a man should be and how to properly care for women. We thank His Excellency for his wise words and for taking the time to join us and invite us to be a part of this education day for priests.



Thank you Fr. Michael Murphy for asking CIH to present on this important subject!

We were pleased to have the support of our St. Anne's priests!



CIH staff with Bishop McElroy of the Diocese of San Diego

Save the Date!

Wine and Beer Tasting

April 21, 2018

6:30-8:30 p.m. at a private home in Poway
More information coming soon on our website!

Children of the Immaculate Heart's Fifth Annual Gala

By Sarah Beveridge, Marketing Associate

As darkness fell, and the cool evening air began to settle over Our Mother of Confidence Catholic Church in San Diego, guests began to trickle into the spacious, brightly lit hall to participate in a lovely evening for Children of the Immaculate Heart's Fifth Annual Gala. The tables were adorned with flowers and the sound of talking filled the room while old friends embraced each other warmly. Common among all was a concern for survivors of human trafficking.

After a dinner catered by Pernicano's Ristorante who so generously donated the meal for the evening, we were so pleased to have a few words from Summer Stephan, the District Attorney of San Diego. For years



she has led the local law enforcement mobilization against human trafficking and works to promote an all-

encompassing approach to address the problem of sex trafficking: prevention, prosecution, protection and accountability. She very much supports our work and has been an invaluable help to us. We are so grateful! Thank you, Summer!

Our MC, Christopher Check, President of Catholic Answers, then introduced our keynote speaker, Catholic author and journalist Dawn Eden. Dawn delivered a talk on the healing of memory through the wounds of Christ. Growing up, Dawn endured the divorce of her parents, sexual abuse, an abusive home environment and PTSD as a result. She knew what it was like

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experience unresolved feelings, anxiety, fear, misplaced shame and flashbacks. When she entered the

Catholic Church, she hungered for healing through the sacraments, realizing that she could not be healed of her painful memories by blocking them out. She spoke of how the disciples blocked out Jesus' predictions of His passion and thus simultaneously blocked out His predictions of the Resurrection and realized she was doing the same thing. In the Eucharist, Jesus comes to us with His glorified wounds. Dawn realized that she must turn hide herself in the wounds of Christ who remembered His Passion only in terms of the love with which He suffered it. In this way her suffering became a means to deeper love for Christ. She now knows that she will probably always suffer some effects of PTSD, but through accepting her weakness and uniting it to the wounds of Christ through love, she no longer is a prisoner of it. The past is no longer her enemy. His wounds healed hers. Dawn's talk was so fitting to hear on the eve of the first Sunday of Lent and provided much material for reflection.



Lastly, our own Grace Williams gave a presentation on sex trafficking and our program for adult women survivors and their children, in addition to sharing updates on the opening of The Refuge. We are so grateful to all who contributed in any way to making this evening happen and to all our benefactors. The event brought in over \$21,500 dollars! May God reward you as only He knows how.

CIH Has a Car Donation Program!

Please consider donating your used or new vehicle to Children of the Immaculate Heart!

To start the process just call
855-500-7433 or type
<http://careasy.org/details?4567>