



# CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Renewing All Things in Christ ~ Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

Volume 3 Number 7 July-August 2018

## A Message from the President

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Praised be Jesus Christ! We would like to wish you a blessed month in which we commemorate in a particular way the Most Precious Blood of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The month of June saw many great landmarks for us at Children of the Immaculate Heart – we received our official “Letter of Support” to move forward with the licensing of The Refuge from the County of San Diego’s Child Welfare Services, the Department of Probation, and Behavioral Health Services. This means that these agencies support the opening of our residential therapeutic program for trafficked minor girls ages twelve to seventeen and that they would be interested in placing girls in our home.



Our certified administrator and house manager, Christina Vasquez, and Executive Director, Grace Williams, turn in our application on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart in June 2018.

Then on the feast of the Sacred Heart, our patronal feast par excellence, we submitted our application for our license to Community Care Licensing. We are very excited about how quickly this process is moving now –

we had so much time to develop our program and get our facility ready while we were waiting to get to this point that we have been turning in paperwork, background checks, etc. at a very healthy pace! We even got to show the house off recently to a key placement agent from Probation and some staff from San Diego Youth Services, all of whom were eager to partner together with us to serve trafficked girls in San Diego and provide them with hope for a better future.

In the meantime, we continue to work with our adult clients – all nine of them and their children. Every Wednesday we have our group with them at our office where they enjoy dinner together and good conversations that are a significant part of their growth and knowing that they belong. It is our goal to help each woman know that she is known and loved – ultimately by God, who mediates himself through us poor instruments!

Many of our clients are currently in school and working or just starting new jobs. We are so proud of them and so grateful for your support! This summer we are doing a gift card drive to help support our clients during the summertime while our fundraising is low. Please consider joining us in this drive this summer or making a donation to help us get The Refuge open!

God reward you!

In the heart of Jesus and Mary,

Grace Williams  
President/Executive Director

We are also pleased to announce that we are now able to accept gifts of stock and bonds through the Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego!

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## CIH Adult Women's Program

By Kim Williams

*Kim Williams is our new case manager with about 15 years of experience working with trafficking survivors at the Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition and Hidden Treasurers Foundation.*

The CIH adult women's program recently expanded services to include a total of 9 women and 16 children. It has been a wonderful BLESSING to be part of the CIH FAMILY! Our ladies now have a new place to call "HOME" and have been welcomed with much LOVE and CARE from CIH staff and partners.

Clients are taking steps to heal, grow, and connect with vital services which include: counseling, legal aid, medical, education, job training and life



Case manager Kim Williams gives a talk at our Spring Wine and Beer Tasting Event in April 2018.

skills. Some of the women are employed and pursuing their education. Our women attend a weekly therapeutic/ support group to foster self-worth, receive encouragement, and learn new strategies that will improve and assist them in managing daily challenges and stress.

Many of our ladies and children continue to lack stable housing. CIH is in search of solutions to address this critical priority. As one may imagine, it is quite impossible to work on healing, employment, and education if a young mother is struggling to provide a safe, consistent dwelling for her family. Our prayer for these women and children is that they will KNOW GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND CARE, and will enter into a relationship with Him to seek comfort, guidance, and HEALING!

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## The Guadalupe Girls

By Christina Vasquez

*Christina is the house manager for The Refuge and the certified administrator of our license that we are applying for with Community Care Licensing. She has been on staff with CIH since June 2017. Below are the Guadalupe Gifts showing off their work in our home!*



CIH would like to thank the Guadalupe Girls for their amazing work at The Refuge! Erika Spinazzola got her group together to help with the interior design, bringing in beautiful colors and a youthful look to the facility. They helped shabby chic the furniture, added accessories throughout the rooms, and Erika also made many original art pieces. The Guadalupe Girls did an incredible job and truly turned the minors facility into a home. Thank you GG's! CIH appreciates all that you do

### *Summer Gift Card Drive!*

CIH is having a Summer Gift Card drive! These gift cards will go directly to our adult clients to help them with their commutes to work and provide groceries for them and their children. Specifically needed are gift cards to gas stations and grocery stores. If you've any unused gift cards lying around your house please consider donating them to CIH. May God Reward You!

*If sending via mail, please sent to: Children of the Immaculate Heart, P.O. Box 13954, San Diego, CA 92170*

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## 1st Annual Spring Wine & Beer Tasting

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By Jenna Christakis and Sarah Beveridge

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Melissa Sanchez, who helped organize the event, poses with our hostess, Claire Reiss, Gina Vasquez, and our House Manager Christina Vasquez.

In April of this year, our dear friend Claire Reiss hosted our first annual Spring Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser for at her beautiful home. We discovered rather quickly, as we were setting up for the event, that her home was certainly as warm and spiritual as her kind heart, and we are confident that as each guest walked through those majestic wooden front doors they felt the same warmth and spirituality.

As the attendees made their way into the home, they each received a donated custom made beverage glass with the CIH logo and followed the scent of delicious food to the laden table of appetizers or ventured to the silent auction room where they could also view a slideshow of CIH pictures and our documentary. We were pleased to see both familiar and new faces.

For some, this was their first time learning

about CIH and the nature of our apostolate to serve survivors of sex trafficking. Some promised their time and talent in the work, and we gratefully accepted!

Later in the evening, guests had the chance to hear from our new case manager, Kim Williams, who spoke about the nature of our work and the individuality of each woman that we help. Then our CIH President and CEO, Grace Williams, introduced a former client who shared with the crowd her very personal and eye-opening life story.

Our courageous guest speaker was able to paint an image of the daily struggles of a survivor and the internal wounds, invisible to the naked eye, that each woman carries which makes their uphill battle towards a better life even more steep and treacherous. The support she received from the crowd, in the form of tears and applause, was simply heartwarming to us and encouraging for our guest survivor speaker. In



We would like to thank Sahara Taste of the Middle East for catering this event! Everything was delicious and we are grateful for your support!

fact, a guest shared with us afterwards that this event had been the first he attended that actually compelled him to stop and absorb the words being spoken during the talks.

We would like to thank all who contributed to this evening of support for CIH: Sahara-Taste of the Middle East restaurant for some truly

scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, the Knights of Columbus - our gallant servers, all the local wineries and breweries who donated wine and beer, the fundraising committee led by Carol Marie Siedenburg and Melisa Sanchez, the ladies from the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church choir, other volunteers, those who attended, and everyone else! May God reward you! We were able to raise \$14,000. It is the generosity of others that enables the work of our apostolate to continue.

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# BBQ at the Farm!

Saturday, August 11th  
Doors open at 4:30 pm  
Dinner at 5:30 pm  
End Time: 8:00 pm



## **Come join us!**

Children of the Immaculate Heart is hosting a summer barbecue at a private residence in Escondido. Bring the whole family for an evening of cookout favorites , a Sundae bar, raffle prizes, a petting zoo, and fun outdoor games for the children! Wine and beer will be served for the adults.

CIH Founder Grace Williams will be giving a brief talk at 6:00 pm.

Admission/Dinner: \$10

Please RSVP at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bbq-at-the-farm-tickets-47094901117>

to receive the event address or call our office at 619-431-5537 or send a check in the enclosed envelope with "Summer Barbeque" on the memo line with the number of attendees.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## **CIH Contact Information**

[www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org](http://www.childrenoftheimmaculateheart.org)  
[www.facebook.com/childrenoftheimmaculate](https://www.facebook.com/childrenoftheimmaculate)  
[childrenoftheimmaculateheart@gmail.com](mailto:childrenoftheimmaculateheart@gmail.com)

P.O. Box 13954  
San Diego, CA 92170  
619-431-5537

## ***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>*