



# CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

JULY 2022

## SUMMER SIPS SOCIAL : \$20,000 CLOSER TO THE NEW *Refuge Mental Health Program!*

With the glowing sunset behind her, Miriam, the Mother of Life Shrine, enfolded the Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe as friends gathered at St. Ephrem Maronite Catholic Church to support the new Refuge Mental Health Program. Guests mingled and enjoyed the scrumptious Mediterranean style hors d'oeuvres served by Chef Nino Rabbaa. The Refuge turned two just the day before this event, so desserts included a hand-crafted Strawberry Bagatelle Cake by French Gourmet.

The Summer Sips Social goal was to raise \$100,000 for the start-up costs for our new Mental Health Program, so CIH can upgrade our onsite mental health services in our home for minors, The Refuge. *CIH Mental Health Consultant and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Heather Flores*, explained why this is crucial for healing the trauma suffered by survivors of abuse and trafficking.

*CIH Executive Director, Grace Williams Lionello*, emphasized the need for onsite mental health staff at The Refuge. Given the high-level needs of our clients (residents at The Refuge experience suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety, PTSD, anger outbursts, etc.) having trained and licensed mental health staff onsite will allow us to help these youth much more than we had before.

*Jenna Christakis, St. Bakhita's Adult Program Manager*, related much positive progress for the women, many of whom are achieving educational and vocational goals. Most importantly, their mental and emotional health is being restored through therapy and the love of God imbued by CIH to them.

*Emcee, Rob Moscato*, a devoted *CIH Board Member*, described the urgent need for trafficking prevention in San Diego, and how he and CIH will be collaborating with the Diocese in this effort later in 2022.

Thank you to all of the volunteers for your cheerful contribution to the evening's success!

We are extremely grateful for our supporters' generosity. Yet this is only the first brick that lays down the foundation for the Mental Health Program! We have successfully raised about 20% of this one-time starting cost. Can you help us build up this crucial program, which in turn will build up and restore trafficked teenagers in Christ? Please donate this summer to help cover the remaining \$80,000 towards hiring 4 full-time mental health professionals.

*God Bless You!*

*Amy Vance*

*And the CIH Event Planning Committee members*

Marty Franklin, Leslie Harnish, Victoria Pashaian, Kelly Depner & Marijo Clemons





Help launch  
our Mental Health  
Program at The Refuge!



SCAN ME

I have learned many things about sex trafficking – how insidious, pervasive and below the radar the problem is in our country, and how few resources there are to address the needs of this horrific problem... I know that volunteering in whatever capacity you can is never too small a help in CIH's mission to help women and children.

*From our volunteers*  
Amabel

*Paul:* When CIH asked for assistance with the maintaining of The Refuge, this was an opportunity to use my time and my talents to assist in the upkeep of this wonderful place... It is such a wonderful opportunity to meet with like-minded people, to learn from them, and to work along with them.

They do so much to equip, empower and encourage women and children who have been victimized by the enormous sex-trafficking industry in San Diego. Literally EVERY single person I've met with CIH is beyond kind and dedicated to this issue.

*Tracy:* The opportunity to be a part of Children of the Immaculate Heart has been a true gift for me as it has ignited a passion within myself, and I look forward to being of service in the future!

# OKTOBER FEST

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1170 S BROADWAY, ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

**OCTOBER 15, 2022 SAVE THE DATE!**

[www.ChildrenOfTheImmaculateHeart.org/Events](http://www.ChildrenOfTheImmaculateHeart.org/Events)

