



CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

Restore All Things in Christ ~ Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

June-July 2019

A Message from the President

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Blessed month of the Sacred Heart! At Children of the Immaculate Heart, the Sacred Heart is truly the source of the work that we do. If we have chosen to name ourselves after the heart of Our Lady, it is because her heart is the perfect mirror of His. We also want ours to be like hers, as the beautiful traditional prayer exclaims, “Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine!” This idea of Jesus as “meek and humble of heart” comes from the Gospel of Matthew and is quoted in the “Alleluia” of the Mass of the Sacred Heart from 1962: “Alleluia, alleluia. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, because I am meek and humble of heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. Come to Me, all you that labor, and are burdened, and I will refresh you. Alleluia.”

Certainly our clients, and also ourselves at times, are among those who find themselves laboring and burdened. The Feast of the Sacred Heart reminds us to return to the heart that was pierced and out of which gushed blood and water for us – the source of our life-giving baptism and the Eucharist. His Heart was pierced *for us*, and if the Eucharist is, according to *Lumen Gentium* and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “the source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324), then the pierced Heart of Christ is the source of the source! It is the image in His humanity of the love of the Eternal Son for the Father and the Father for the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from them both. It is Jesus revealing to us the Father’s love and asking us to love Him in return.

St. John of the Cross wrote a series of poems entitled “The Romances” and in the seventh section he has the Eternal Father say: “Now you see, Son, that your bride was made in your image, and so as far as she is

like you she will suit you well; yet she is different, in her flesh, which your simple being does not have. In perfect love this law holds: that the lover become like the one he loves; for the greater their likeness, the greater their delight. Surely your bride’s delight would greatly increase were she to see you like her, in her own flesh.” And this is exactly what the Sacred Heart is meant remind us – the Word has become flesh, made Himself like us in all things except sin, to draw out our love. He lavishes His love upon us, that we might return love to Him! He has made Himself like us, giving us something greater than we first lost at the Fall! The Divine Lover has made Himself like the one that He loves – the poor lost creature – in order to draw us back to Himself. What a marvelous exchange!

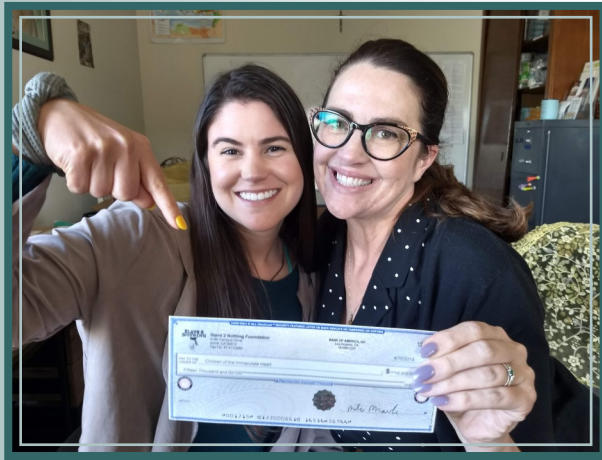
Let us meditate this month upon this Heart of all hearts, asking Him to truly “make our hearts like unto Thine!” And let us also pray for all victims of human trafficking, that they might find in the Heart of Jesus the one who is able to bring rest to their souls, for this yoke of His that is easy and light is the yoke of love.

Yours in Christ,

Grace Williams, President/Executive Director

Happy Father’s Day to all of the fathers out there, both earthly fathers, and spiritual ones! Thank you for all you do for your children.

SUMMER NEWS



We were so pleased to receive a grant from Slave 2 Nothing, a foundation of In 'N Out Burger, this Spring! The grant is for individual therapy for our adults and specialty therapies for the girls who will be at The Refuge. In 'N Out donates \$2 for every \$1 donated to their foundation. Thank you so much, Slave 2 Nothing, for your concern for trafficking victims and for supporting so many organizations here in California who are doing this work!



We are so happy that our chapel is coming along! Thank you so much, Fr. Mahowald, FSSP, for making our altar! We just received our altar cover from Mr. Emmanuel Tang, FSSP, as well and we love it!

We are so excited to be able to provide a place of prayer for the girls at The Refuge - a place they can encounter Christ in the silence of prayer and in the Sacred Liturgy.



A special thank you to The Thursday Club for choosing us as one of two organizations to fundraise for this year! We were so touched by their warmth and generosity at a reception they invited us to in May.

The Thursday Club is a women's club in Point Loma with a beautiful facility they rent out for weddings and other events, and they give the proceeds out through grants and gifts to local charities. God bless you, Thursday Club members!

Tara's Story

Transcribed by Jenna Christakis, CIH Office Manager

For confidentiality reasons, all names in this article have been changed. Our client will be referred to as "Tara"

Tara was born in Richmond, CA and raised just outside Fresno. Her mother passed away when she was seven, and with her dad out of the picture and her grandmother unable to provide for her, Tara was left at the mercy of her unfit older cousin. From age 8 to 13, she lived in an emotionally, verbally, and physically abusive environment, surrounded by drugs and other negative influences, until one day her older cousin decided to give up her rights as Tara's guardian. From that day forward up to age 18, Tara was in and out of foster care, group homes, and the juvenile detention system.

Tara was recruited into "the life" the very first night she spent out of her cousin's custody, at a group home. Her roommate, Jessica, persuaded young Tara to sneak out of the home one night to join and her boyfriend his apartment to hang out. Tara fell asleep during the car ride and when she woke up Jessica, her boyfriend, and Tara were in Las Vegas, hours away from the group home.

Jessica had promised that they would be back within a couple of hours of leaving the group home; instead, Tara was forced to wear a scandalous outfit and hit the streets with Jessica that night and several nights afterward.

Tara was essentially kidnapped and then coerced into "the life." Jessica's boyfriend was a pimp, many years older than she, who was manipulating her into getting more girls under his control in order to increase his profits. This pimp kept control over Tara by making her feel loved and cared for through providing her a beautiful place to live, buying her expensive gifts, and giving her a life that seemed luxurious in comparison to her other choices. Because of how enticing this life was to Tara, she was always trying to escape back to it when she was put into group homes, foster care, or juvenile hall. The other choice was living in places that felt like prison or where her caretaker would give her a broken bed, use her clothing and food vouchers, and allow her to live in an unclean environment. The pimp made Tara's choice easy.

Over time, Tara's captor would take her to different states to "do business" and eventually to San Diego

when she was 16 years old. Later, her pimp would force her to put illegal substances into her body by threatening to hurt her and her loved ones if she did not comply. This is a method that pimps use to gain control over the girls and young women they enslave, making it easier to manipulate them.

Tara aged out of the system at 18 years old. She was given a food voucher for \$100 and a free two-week motel stay. Since she was not old enough to check into the motel, she had to find an adult to do it for her. With no one to guide her or take care of her, she fell back into the hands of her pimp and lived in and out of her grandmother's house for the next several years. She was in "the life" because it was all she knew.

Tara met Kim Williams (our current caseworker) a little after she aged out of the system. They continued to build a relationship for the next nine years when she was finally able to leave "the life." Unfortunately, Tara was not able to escape her trafficker and the prison he built for her until she was 26 years old, when he was arrested for beating her almost to the point of death and leaving her on a street curb. About a year later, in 2018, Tara and her 7-year-old daughter found their way to Children of the Immaculate Heart.

Tara's Accomplishments

Since leaving "the life" in 2016, Tara has found employment, stable housing, and owns her very own car. Additionally, Tara has made strong friendships with people who truly care about her and her daughter. She attends individual and group therapy on a weekly basis to help her healing process. Tara has expressed that she feels she has changed as a person in a positive way and has become closer to God in the last few years. In fact, a few months ago she was baptized!

Tara's Goals for the Future

By thirty years old, Tara would like to have finished school, become financially independent, and graduated from CIH's adult program. Tara's dream job is to work in juvenile hall as a social worker. She also wants to continue to grow spiritually and closer to God and to become a better mom for her daughter. Please pray for her and all of the women we serve!

CIH is Hiring!

The Refuge Teacher, Assistant House Manager, & Child Care Workers

Please go to our website childrenoftheimmaculateheart.com for more details or call our office at (619) 431-5537.

Thanks for Attending the 2019 Spring Wine and Beer Tasting



On May 18th, CIH held its 2nd Annual Spring Wine & Beer Tasting event generously hosted again by our friend Claire Reiss at her beautiful home in La Jolla. It was a wonderful success!

With Jocelyn Lomahan as our Master of Ceremonies, the evening went quite smoothly! The speakers began with Amy Sorensen, our new house manager for The Refuge, giving an update on the opening of our minors home, as well as her work with the San Diego Center for Children before coming to CIH. Next, CIH board member and chaplain for the Department of Probation and the Diocese of San Diego, Rob Moscato, spoke about his work with trafficked minors in the juvenile detention system. He shared their stories and a few of their writings of prayers and poems inspired by their life experiences and faith in the Lord. CIH President, Grace Williams, gave an update on our adult program and shared a letter written by St. John Eudes to the community of Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, a women's religious congregation he founded in the 1600's which did the same work that we do at CIH. In his letter, St. John Eudes speaks of how Christ

shed His Precious Blood for the women and girls the Sisters were serving, and urges them to not hold back in working for their salvation. He ends by poignantly asking them if they prefer to go to heaven alone, rather than help their sisters who are in need to get there too. Finally, all were deeply touched when two of our clients who were present got up and shared some of their stories, desiring to give everyone a greater understanding. They were very courageous and we are so proud of them!

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 Malta, our amazing servers, all the local wineries and breweries who donated wine and beer, the event's subcommittee led by Melissa Sanchez and Amy Vance, the ladies from the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church choir, our musicians: Nic & Noah Scalzo, and Kian Kishimoto, each of the many other volunteers who worked behind the scenes, and all of those who attended! We were able to raise \$11,000 that night alone! It is your selfless generosity that enables the work of our apostolate to continue. May God reward you!



Children of the Immaculate Heart has a meal train for our weekly women's group. We hold a support/development group for our clients every week, giving them the opportunity to be together, support each other, and grow in their personal human development. If you are interested in cooking for our ladies, please visit this link!

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/q3nk7l>

CIH Wish List

- Alarm clocks
- Gift cards to Office Depot & STAPLES & Grocery store
- Pull out couch
- Wall mounts for bike (4)
- Portable fan
- Duffle bags (5)
- Comforter (2)
- All-in-one microphone/amplifier system for event

CIH has a Car Donation Program!

Please consider donating your vehicle to CIH! *Car Easy* will come pick up your car, boat, or trailer whether it is running or not! Cars can be donated from anywhere in the country. To start the process just call 855-500-7433 or type <http://careasy.org/details?4567> into your web browser. Proceeds go to support our programs!



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