



CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

JUNE 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Blessed month of the Sacred Heart! June is very dear to us here, as our primary patroness is the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is the image of the Divine Heart of her son Jesus. Just as Mary's Heart shared the piercing wound of Jesus' Heart (Lk 2.35; Jn 19.34), this month our Lord is inviting us to share His wounds by carrying the wounds of others.

I have seen and felt one such wound at The Refuge. As our teenage girls make leaps and bounds with their mental health, emotional stability, relationship skills, good life choices, and even in academics and practical life skills, they are ready to leave The Refuge with its intense level of treatment that California calls a "Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program." Unfortunately, during their time here, their families usually have not made this same progress.

I had a conversation with one of our girls just the other day about this. I found her – this young girl I am so proud of – sitting in our classroom one evening staring out at the yard, waiting for one of her favorite staff to show up. She looked pensive. I sat down a little way away from her and checked in. She started to talk to me about her family and how bad her mental health was while she was with them. She knows she is ready to leave our care, but she does not want to go home, because she feels like her family cannot understand the trauma she has to struggle with. Feeling like one is not understood, does not belong, or is not loved as one craves is certainly one of the wounds of the Sacred Heart.

As Our Lord said to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, "Behold the Heart which burns with love for the world and has received only coldness in return." This month of the Sacred Heart, we ask for your compassion for His Heart as you pray for the girls and women we serve. We also invite you to visit our website or call our office if you would like to get more involved in volunteering with us. And finally, we would like to ask for your financial support. With your financial help, we can address this wound and offer family therapy to our clients' families. We can strengthen and heal not only our clients, but also those around them. Thank you for your ongoing support of this work!

In Christ,



Grace Williams

President/Executive Director

SCAN ME



Help fund our Mental Health Program for The Refuge!

From The Refuge

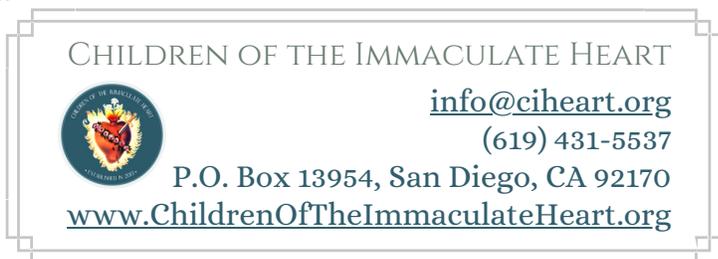
When I first started working at The Refuge 8 months ago, I didn't really know what to expect. My goal was to try to be a positive role model and show these girls what real love looks like.

In these 8 months, this goal has not changed much. Moreover, I have found that because most of the residents do not have a very good relationship or relationship at all with their mothers, a lot of them find comfort in the motherly role I can play while they're at The Refuge. I have daughters of similar ages as our residents, which has helped me connect with these girls a little easier.

Eight months later, I still enjoy going into The Refuge and seeing the residents get excited about simple things. I absolutely love seeing these girls smile and act their ages, playing games, watching movies or just being silly. So many times in their lives they have not been able to enjoy such simple joys. But seeing that they now found a place where they are able to focus on themselves and enjoy simplicity makes working at The Refuge worth it.



Michele Hazelwood
Assistant House Manager



LAST CALL!
GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE...

Summer Sips Social

Saturday, June 11, 2022 | 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

St Ephrem Maronite Catholic Church | 750 Medford Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Hors d'Oeuvres | Desserts | CIH Signature Cocktails | Adult & Alcohol-Free Beverages

Speakers & Entertainment

Awakening in the Holy Spirit

Rev. Mr. Marvin Threatt | Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Trauma Recovery

Dr. Heather Flores | Empowered Living Ministries

Mediterranean Hor d'Oeuvres

Nino Rabaa | Tiko Tiko Restaurant

Live Music

Sophie Graf | Sophisticated Harp



Ticket Sales

Tickets & RSVP

Ticket Price: \$75.00

Proceeds will be directed towards the new **Mental Health Program** at **The Refuge**.

Come to the event and find out more!

www.ChildrenOfTheImmaculateHeart.org/events