



Settling in at the new Drop-In Center

As we continue to rejoice in the Easter season and the beauty of spring in sunny San Diego, we're also celebrating a new beginning at Children of the Immaculate Heart. On May 1, we officially moved into our brand-new Drop-In Center - a space where survivors of sex trafficking can find hope, healing, and restoration. We're especially grateful to the volunteers who helped throughout this move!

Here are just a couple highlights of our new space:

CHAPEL

At the heart of our new Drop-In Center is our chapel (with a beautiful altar hand-made by Fr. Mahowald, FSSP, when he was assigned in San Diego). Christ is the reason and model of our work serving sex trafficking survivors. He is also the Divine Physician - the one who meets our clients in their suffering and ultimately heals and restores.



COUNSELING CORNER

Psychological scars from sex trafficking can be deep and lasting, and we know that mental health is such a key component of healing. Many sex trafficking survivors have experienced high levels of long-lasting exposure to trauma. These survivors often suffer from complex trauma and can have higher rates of PTSD than combat-exposed veterans. Many of our clients also face ongoing stressors, such as securing safe housing or meeting their children's basic needs. When clients are ready, our counselor, Dr. Heather Flores of 805 Counseling Services, provides individual and family support grounded in a Christian perspective, helping them take their first steps toward healing and restoration.

A SNEAK-PEAK

Due to weather, our Circle of the Redeemer picnic on May 17th was moved to our Drop-In Center, giving them a first look at our new space. It was a beautiful event with fellowship and good food (thank you Roxy's Tacos!), and such a joy to welcome our community of supporters into our new Drop-In Center!



As we settle in at our new Drop-In Center, our hearts are full of gratitude - for God's faithfulness and for your steadfast support.

In Christ,

The Team at Children of the Immaculate Heart





Client Corner

We are so honored to share a beautiful letter from one of our amazing clients, Amanda. Congratulations to her as she completes this major milestone of graduating from university!

SAVE THE DATE

Open House at our new Drop-In Center
June 21, 2025

Keep an eye on your email - details coming soon!

To be here at this moment in my life feels nothing short of sacred. This milestone marks my graduation, my 30th birthday, and most importantly it honors a lifetime of resilience and 6 years of uphill battles, quiet prayers, late nights, and early mornings.

When I came to Children of the Immaculate Heart, I was navigating full-time school, motherhood, and housing insecurity. CIH wrapped around me with care, structure, and faith. Ric's financial coaching gave me the tools to rebuild my foundation, and Wannii's guidance helped me hold on during moments I didn't think I could keep going.

I'm graduating from Point Loma Nazarene University with a degree in International Development and a minor in marketing. I made the honor roll almost every semester, completed an honors research project, and celebrated my son as he entered his teenage years. These milestones are deeply meaningful because they were never mine alone. If you've ever prayed for me, donated to CIH, or believed in women like me, this celebration is yours too, because I couldn't have done it without you.

Your support planted seeds that are now bearing fruit, not just for me but for my son and for every life my work will touch. I'm continuing my education at the University of San Diego, pursuing my Master's in Social Innovation. I'm also preparing to launch Free Brands, a nonprofit I created to support survivor entrepreneurs in building their own businesses. But the most meaningful part is finally creating a stable place to call home.

As I enter this next chapter, I'm working toward covering rent, furnishing our home, and finding a reliable used car. Every prayer, connection, or bit of support helps me move forward with confidence and peace. Thank you for helping me rewrite my family's story. I hope you continue to walk with me as I take this next step toward independence and wholeness.

With Gratitude,

Amanda



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