



CHILDREN OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

CIH Celebrates 9 Years!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

This October 11th, we are pleased to be celebrating the 9-year anniversary of the founding of Children of the Immaculate Heart. Thanks be to God for the gift of being able to serve some of the most suffering members of our society in victims of sex trafficking for 9 years! It has been a whirlwind – what Jesus gives us in seed form always takes on a life all its own. I have learned that things of great value take time to grow roots that will give strength later to the living plant. I think I can say on behalf of all our staff that we are grateful for all we have learned from our clients, and all the ways in which this apostolate increases our capacity to (as Mother Teresa used to say) love until it hurts.

The mysteries of Divine Providence are truly unfathomable. We have been able to serve adult women and their children for 8 ½ years, and currently have 8 women and their 21 children in St. Bakhita's Program. The Refuge has now been open for over 2 years and we have been able to serve 18 different foster and probation girls since opening. This is truly the work of the Lord, as St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters are anything, but only God who gives the growth."

We wish we could share photos of our clients and that you could all know them and

May CIH enjoy another 9 years!



Fr. Alphonus Hermes, O. Praem., has spoken at numerous CIH events and been a wonderful support for almost 7 years.



Grace Williams, CEO of CIH, married Roberto Lionello on July 31, 2021.



We are so grateful to all of the volunteers who have kept up the property of The Refuge over the years!



The Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund represented CIH pro bono in their complaint against the CDSS, securing our rights to serve trafficked foster youth without compromising our conscience according to the Church.



Edward Kariithi, CFO of CIH, has been involved since the very first CIH Gala in 2014.



Chapel at The Refuge with an altar cover, hand-made by former Development & Marketing Associate, Emmanuel Tang (pictured left researching neurofeedback).



For 2 years we enjoyed a harbor cruise with our benefactors thanks to the generous owner of "High Spirits" yacht in the San Diego Harbor!

Emmanuel Tang and Irene Van Oosbree celebrate at Summer Sips 2022 with Johny (also pictured right), son of the Adult Program Manager.



Long-time volunteer and former Refuge Child Care Worker, Mary Joy Cunningham, at our Wine and Beer Tasting with her mother and sister.



A client hanging out in the office with Johny, the real boss of the CIH.



Jon Sorenson, COO of Catholic Answers, poses with his wife Amy at a CIH Gala. Amy was our first Refuge Administrator and was instrumental in getting it off the ground.



Fr. Anthony Saroki, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in San Diego, speaks with guests at the 2021 Gala where he was our keynote speaker.



Christian Lovetere, former Marketing Associate & Child Care Worker, poses with Grace Williams, CEO, and Margaret Nguyen, former A/R Clerk with our new van for The Refuge donated by a long-time friend of the organization.



Grace Williams, CEO, visiting a client and her daughter for Thanksgiving in 2021.



Chris Check, President of Catholic Answers, has been Emcee at many CIH events. He is a dear friend and one of our most valued supporters. Thank you, Chris!



Adult Program Manager, Jenna Christakis, cooking in The Refuge kitchen with staff member, Zach Pacheco, who has held a variety of roles within the organization.



Adult Program Manager, Jenna Christakis, with former staff, Christina Vasquez and Bethany Rainey, at our 5th anniversary party!



Fr. Joseph Loftus, FSSP, saying Mass in The Refuge chapel during our initial staff training in 2020.



Amy Vance, Chair of the Board, has been involved since 2014 in a variety of capacities and is one of our most dedicated volunteers.



CIH team members are all smiles after a successful mediation with the CDSS, leading to The Refuge receiving its provisional license to serve trafficked foster and probation youth in a residential therapeutic program.

how wonderful they are, but due to the confidential nature of our work, you must bear with us as a conduit that connects you to them! We are so grateful to all of you who have supported this work over the years, and those who have just begun to get to know us. We hope Children of the Immaculate Heart can be a place where you all belong to this great work of planting seeds, watering plants, and watching God give the growth.

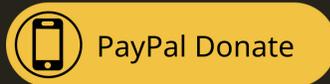
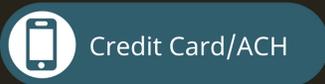
This fall between now and Thanksgiving, we have a matching grant campaign created by a few generous donors of \$25,000. That means, dollar for dollar, any donation you make between now and Thanksgiving will be matched by these donors up to \$25,000. We know these are hard economic times, but our clients have just as much need now as they ever did, so we truly appreciate any help you can give them between now and Thanksgiving! Please designate “matching grant” on your checks.

Please be assured of our prayers for you all!

Yours in Christ,



Grace Williams Lionello
President & Executive Director



Donate
to help survivors
heal from their trauma!

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P.O. Box 13954, San Diego, CA 92170
www.ChildrenOfTheImmaculateHeart.org

Save the Date!
10th Annual Gala

February 18, 2023

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

St Thérèse of Carmel Catholic Church

