

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Charities Awarded Federal Grant for Anti-Human Trafficking Program.

(Palm Beach Gardens, FL) August 18, 2020 - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc. (CCDPB) is pleased to announce a 3-year award of \$494,667 from the Office for Victims of Crimes/ Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice to support the housing needs of victims of human trafficking. Housing Assistance provided through this grant includes 6-24 months of rental assistance and/or placement in transitional housing through our partners at The Salvation Army Palm Beach County Area Command and Village of Hope. Since 2017, our Bakhita Empowerment Program has provided long-term intensive case management to help survivors obtain self-sufficiency. Support services include but are not limited to case management, job development counseling and training, transportation, mental health counseling and immigration legal services to break down barriers to employment for foreign born clients. A survivor's involvement in support services is voluntary and housing assistance is not dependent on client's participation.

We would like to thank our housing partners at The Salvation Army Palm Beach County Area Command and Village of Hope. In addition, we are eternally grateful to our partners who provided letters of support for this grant application:

Indian River Sheriff's Office
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
Martin County Sheriff's Office
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
United States Council of Catholic Bishops
Florida State Attorney's Office
Human Trafficking Coalition of Treasure Coast
Human Trafficking Coalition of Palm Beach
New Horizons Mental Health

We look forward to working with our partners in combatting human trafficking in our community and making a difference in the lives of human trafficking survivors. In order to allow for most of

the funding to go directly to housing assistance for victims, all responsibilities associated with implementation of this grant will be absorbed by the already existing staff of our Bakhita Empowerment Program.

The goal of this award is to provide safe, stable housing to victims of human trafficking and support their self-sufficiency goals.

About Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach provides 11 social services and ministries throughout 8 locations in the Diocese of Palm Beach. Established in 1984, Catholic Charities responds to the needs of the poor and most vulnerable by providing quality programs that serve children, families, and homeless. Catholic Charities of the five-county Diocese of Palm Beach respects life in all its stages. In living our faith, we create hope for people in need, without regard to religion. Through our programs and ministries, we empower individuals, deliver social services and collaborate with others in building just and compassionate communities. Please visit us at www.ccdpb.org.

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