



Working Together Against Human Trafficking

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

*"The Lord has
loved me so much:
we must love
everyone...
we must be
compassionate!"*



Today, February 8, is the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. She was kidnapped from her family in Sudan at 8 years old and sold into slavery. She found herself in Venice caring for the child of an Italian family. She was eventually declared a free woman by the Italian courts and has become a symbol of those who work to free girls and women from oppression and violence and return them to their dignity and full exercise of their rights. Her feast day is recognized as a day of prayer for an end to human trafficking around the world.

Many of the women who come to Bethany House are survivors of human trafficking. One of them recently faced her traffickers in court--for a second time. As a young teen she was lured from her home in Africa with promises of a lucrative modeling career in the U.S. The modeling career turned out to be a brothel. After several months she escaped and went to the police. She stayed in a shelter for minors until she came to Bethany House.

While at Bethany House, she graduated from high school, receiving the President's Award. She also received a scholarship for college courses at Truman College and Loyola University's Arrupe College. Last year, in January 2023, she faced her traffickers in court but the case ended in a hung jury. This year, in January 2024, they were tried again and finally convicted. The pain of reliving and retelling her experience finally brought some sense of justice.

While her story stands out because it finally came to trial, others here at Bethany House continue dealing with the trauma. They relive the pain as they tell of their experience to justify their asylum claims. We are honored to walk with them as they begin to heal and reclaim their dignity in a place of security and support.

Bethany House counts on your generosity to continue to offer a safe, caring home to young women. In January, for the first time, we had as many babies in the house as women (12 each). Half of the babies are 6 months old or younger. You can make a difference in the lives of some of the most vulnerable women and children who come to Bethany House. Please **contact Sister**

Kathlyn Mulcahy, executive director, or reply to this email with any questions about our ministry or the needs of the community at Bethany House.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:

Bethany House of Hospitality
P.O. Box 15070
Chicago, IL 60615-5138

Online donations can be made through PayPal:

Donate to Bethany House

Gift Cards

Gift cards are always welcome for groceries or the women's personal needs. We frequently shop at Local Market Foods, Costco and Jewel. The women appreciate the opportunity for personalized selection at Ross, Amazon or Target.

Amazon Wish List

The Bethany House Wish List on Amazon includes personal and household items we regularly use.

Visit our Amazon Wish List

Bethany House Of Hospitality

Contact Us Today

Bethany House of Hospitality | P.O. Box 15070, Chicago, IL 60615-5138

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