



— SUMMER 2023 —

FOCUS



In Her Words

Four years ago, I found myself not only struggling with the disease of addiction but was unexpectedly pregnant. My path to addiction led me to becoming homeless for the first time in my life on the streets of San Francisco. I found myself struggling to survive day in and day out and did not see an end in sight.

As months passed and my due date approached, my anxiety grew. I reached out to my mother, who, miraculously, had never given up hope for me when many around me already had. I found myself nervously asking her if she thought I should consider giving my baby up for adoption. I could not see a way that I could provide a stable life for this child, much less myself. I was met with a quick and firm "no." My mother's support and dedication to me was truly unwavering. I knew at that moment I could face the upcoming challenges with her support and love.

As I sat in the hospital receiving treatment for substance use, prenatal care as well as mentally preparing for the birth of my daughter, I received a visitor from the Road to Resilience Program at the Epiphany Center. She addressed my many questions and gave me hope with her stories, experience, and

information. This is how I found myself at the doors of Epiphany Center eight days after I gave birth to my daughter Annabelle.

With guidance from the counselors and staff, I gained many tools to battle addiction. Using these resources, I gained back my lost confidence and ushered in my new role as a mother in recovery. After graduating from the residential treatment program, I continued to receive support at Epiphany's Step-Down transitional house where I was supported in continuing my recovery journey through an outpatient program. As I awaited my housing voucher, I began to see possibilities I couldn't imagine when I was deep in my addiction.

I am proud and grateful to say that I have had my own home for over three years now. My daughter is thriving in an incredible preschool I once only dreamed of her attending. My family was able to make all this possible because I made the choice to recover. We do recover! I am blessed. I would never have come this far without Epiphany. I owe my life to the program. Without Epiphany, I don't know where I would be...but I do know I would not be where I am today.

- Michelle

Former Epiphany Center Client



DONATE

Make an impact today with a donation to Epiphany Center's life saving programs?

To donate please visit theepiphanycenter.org/donate



Benefit Party & Show Raises \$100,000 For 2023 Fund-A-Need

On Thursday, March 2 the Epiphany League hosted its 26th Benefit Party & Show at The Family in downtown San Francisco and it was a smashing success. Guests joined us 'aboard' the SS Epiphany to enjoy a fabulous evening on the 'high seas' while helping raise essential funds for Epiphany's life saving programs.

Since its inception, the Benefit Party & Show has raised over **\$2,500,000** to ensure Epiphany can meet the ever-changing-needs of the more than **200 at-risk families** we serve each year. This year, our Fund-A-Need goal was to raise **\$150,000** for the essential replacement and upgrade of the Center's more than **150 windows**. Thanks to all of our supporters of this year's Show and the Celebrating Mothers Luncheon, we have almost reached our goal!

Show guests enjoyed an outstanding live musical performance, dancing, and an online silent auction. Former Epiphany Client, Amber, bravely shared her recovery journey which included 6 of Epiphany Center's 7 programs.

Thank you to our Party Chairs, **Erin Doyle Ebeling** and **Sheila Kelly** for organizing another exciting and successful event. We are so appreciative of the outstanding scripting and musical talents of Jeff O'Sammon and Dave Eshleman and the phenomenal, all-star cast. Thank you to Matt Callahan, who, once again, led and energized the crowd to raise their hands to donate to this year's Fund-A-Need.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to our Epiphany League members, sponsors, volunteers and other supporters. Because of **YOU**, Epiphany Center is able to continue its 170-year-legacy of strengthening families, empowering women, and ensuring that their children will have hopeful futures. Your compassion makes a lifetime of difference to our families. From all of us at Epiphany Center, thank you!

Photos by Scott Wall Photography



a. Mary Ann Elliott, Adrienne Murphy | b. Matt Callahan, Dave Eshleman, Jeff O'Sammon | c. Pam McKulla, Diane Blackman, Sue Fisher King | d. D'Arcy Owens, Erik Davis, John Vitalie | e. Erin Doyle Ebeling, Sheila Kelly | f. Tommy, Maggie, D'Arcy and Tom Owens | g. Dr. Melinda Lawlor Skrade, Sister Betty Marie Dunkel, D.C.

Dear *Friends* of Epiphany,



As we approach our 171st year, I will be reflecting on our year-long focus of our amazing history and heritage in San Francisco. We began our 170th Anniversary on August 18th with a wonderful Open House, where the attendees had an intensive orientation, including a site tour.

The best post-pandemic event for us was to finally re-open our second-floor wing so we are able to separate our moms and babies residents from those women who have no children with them—and increase our capacity to serve both. That has worked so well, that now we find ourselves having more infants and toddlers than we have spaces in our early childhood education center. We are working on both short-term and long-term solutions. Our long-term solution is renovating the current toddler room to a pre-K room for three and four year olds and then renovating a building behind our main building that had previously been a high school when we were a teen

program and most recently houses our clinic and In-Home Services.

While our main facility is not 170 years old, it needs help adjusting to those things people who are old do: too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer. We have received a grant to cover most of the costs to replace the 150+ old inefficient windows with double-pane windows and installing sun reducing shades. The “Fund a Need” at both our March Gala Show and our Mothers’ Day Luncheon raised funds to nearly cover the full project. Like we all do when we reminisce, we reflect on the thousands of people who assisted the Daughters of Charity these past 170 years in our ministering to those children, mothers, families who God sent our way to help grow and heal and be better equipped to become the person they want to be, who their children want them to be, and who God for all time knew they could be with a little help from those He sent them: you and me and all the “yous” and “mes” who came before us!

God bless you and those you carry in your hearts,

Sister Betty Marie, D.C.

Sister Betty Marie Dunkel, D.C.

Epiphany League Hosts 15th Annual *Celebrating Mothers Luncheon*

On May 10, the Epiphany League hosted its annual Celebrating Mothers Luncheon at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco. Guests of the SOLD OUT fundraiser enjoyed a beautiful orchid sale, silent auction, and lunch overlooking the bay to raise funds for Epiphany programs. Former Client and current residential care staff member, Angel, bravely shared her recovery journey. **“The strong woman standing in front of you today would not be here without Epiphany...I have been given a second chance to a first-class life.”** A huge thank you to Matt Callahan whose enthusiasm raised over \$60,000 for this year’s Fund A Need. Thank you to our event chairs Sheila Kelly and Jean Macaluso and the entire Epiphany League who organized another beautiful and successful event. Thank you to our steadfast and compassionate sponsors, volunteers, donors and other supporters who make these events possible and help transform the lives of so many. Thank you!



a. Naomi Mayer, Carolyn Lis, Joan O'Connor, Annette Lomont, Joan McGrath | b. Jean Macaluso, Sheila Kelly | c. Suzanne Seley, Janet Ostler | d. Stacey Case, Lynzie Haynes, Gina Symczak



A Round of Applause for Our *Circle of Light* Donors!



Circle of Light is a group of donors who make a significant financial commitment to Epiphany Center's programs and the at-risk women and children that they serve. We could not be more grateful for you and your belief in our mission because we could not do what we do without YOU. Thanks to this generous community, Epiphany Center

is able to continue to provide the courageous women who walk through our doors week after week with opportunities to choose hope over fear, reunite with their children, move into independent living, continue their education, find employment, and more. From all of us at Epiphany Center, we thank you!

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213 children have been cared for in our childcare programs

200 women living on the streets were advocated for by our navigators

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Epiphany Center & Daughters of Charity Celebrate *170 Years*



Mt. St. Joseph was founded in 1852 on Market Street in San Francisco as the Roman Catholic Orphanage and free school. In 1861, they moved the infants and young children to a property they had purchased in the Silver Terrace area. By 1873 Market Street was a busy city center, so they moved all the orphans to the same property but into a new building large enough to house the large number of children that came to them for care.

Through the years the program evolved as the needs of children and families changed. In the 1970's the "Mount" became group homes in the community for girls who were wards of the court. In 1976, Mount St. Joseph merged administration with St. Elizabeth's maternity home (founded in 1921) and became Mount St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth at 100 Masonic Avenue in San Francisco.

The programs continued to change and adapt to the needs. In 2004, the agency discontinued services to teens. In 1986, Epiphany Center began a residential program for infants who were prenatally exposed to drugs. Because of mothers' recovery needs, in 1999 Epiphany opened a residential drug treatment program for women and their young children.

The success of our women, children, students, and patients remain the lasting testament to their unwavering perseverance and faith that our world indeed can be a better place. Thank YOU for believing in our mission as we celebrate the Daughters of Charity 170 years of service to our beloved city of San Francisco! Because of your compassion and generosity, we can continually evolve to meet the changing needs of our community's most vulnerable women and children. We feel proud to follow in the footsteps of those seven courageous Sisters who ventured across the United States by boat, train, muleback, and steamer from Maryland through Panama to finally arrive in San Francisco on August 18, 1852.



Epiphany Center is on Newsweek's list of America's Best Addiction Treatment Centers and provides these programs:

Residential Recovery treatment for women over 18, pregnant or parenting young children (0 to 3 years), or without children. They are referred by the courts, probation officers, other drug treatment programs, and child protective services.

Transitional Housing providing longer residential treatment while women find housing and employment and stabilize their recovery.

In-Home Services for families at risk for losing custody of their children 0-5 years. Parenting education and support is done in the home or wherever the parent is comfortable meeting. They follow an evidenced-based curriculum, SafeCare®.

Road to Resilience street outreach by peer counselors to pregnant or parenting women with young children (0-12 months) who are unhoused, with substance abuse or mental health issues.

Family Treatment mental health clinic for families and children experiencing stress related to disruption of family unity or other traumatic events.

Pediatric Clinic on-site medical services to infants, children, and adolescents staffed by a pediatrician and nurse practitioner. Satellite of San Francisco General Hospital.

Parent-Child Center an early intervention program for infants prenatally exposed to drugs that provides relationship based care for children 0 – 3 years. Parenting groups and individual sessions build attachment and healthy parent-child relationships.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Selects Epiphany For Annual Service Day

This year, we were thrilled to welcome back volunteers from Sacred Heart Cathedral High School. The SHCP volleyball team returned for their annual "Serve It Up" event and tended to our community garden. **Faculty and staff** also joined us for their Service Retreat by painting rooms and cleaning out storage. Thank you so much for the incredible support!



Thank You
to our volunteers
and contributors!

Church of the Visitation Delivers Diapers



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 12683 of Church of the Visitation Parish collected and delivered much needed diapers to Epiphany Center again this year! Diapers are a significant expense for Epiphany and the drive was part of the parish's Respect Life Sunday observances.

St. John's Picks Epiphany for Spirit of Giving Week



St. John's Student Council (7th & 8th grade) picked Epiphany Center to support for their Spirit of Giving Week. The students collected new adult and infant blankets for our families, and we thank Principal Joe Filice for driving down to deliver.

Daughters of Charity Discerners Visit Epiphany Center



Epiphany welcomed Sister Lisa Laguna and a wonderful group of women who are discerning becoming Daughters of Charity. We are so grateful for the many hands toiling in our community garden!

St. Vincent De Paul Creates Gift Bags

The 1st and 5th graders at St. Vincent de Paul collected and created 'mom' and 'baby' gift bags. Each gift bag was artfully decorated by the students, making these gifts even more special!





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*Newsweek names
Epiphany Center on
list of "America's Best
Addiction Treatment
Centers"*

Volunteer Spotlight



It was the former client testimonial at my very first Celebrating Mothers Luncheon that led me to join the Epiphany League.

I was so impressed with the success of Epiphany Center and what they are able to accomplish: a woman who was a victim of trauma receives treatment in a safe, nurturing environment and becomes a successful mother. That is when I knew I had to help and give back in any way I could. I have really appreciated and been honored to volunteer with the women in the League, many of whom have served for well over 10 years. They have done a phenomenal job of fundraising. This year's Luncheon was no exception. It had the most attendees it's ever had! The enthusiasm and genuine interest of our supporters and their desire to help us carry client's stories forward is inspiring. I am so looking forward to continuing to help the League increase the exposure of the Center's incredible work among more audiences. I want to help make more people not only more aware of its history and accomplishments but, most importantly, more involved.



Celina Tomori
Epiphany League
Member Since 2017 /
CML 2023 Silent Auction Chair

Interested in joining the Epiphany League? Visit TheEpiphanyCenter.org/Volunteer

OUR MISSION

Epiphany Center strengthens family life through programs faithful to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, rooted in Judeo-Christian values and the tradition of service of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Epiphany Center provides client-centered care to a diverse population of women, children, and families, who are most vulnerable in our society. Our purpose is to enhance the physical, social-emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth of each person in our care. Our vision is to create a safe environment that reflects the belief that each person is created by God, is endowed with unique gifts, and is worthy of respect. We believe that our care for individuals enriches their present and future lives, the lives of their families and, through them, the community in which we live.

DONATE TODAY

TheEpiphanyCenter.org