

Bakhita Empowerment Initiative



About Us

The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative of Catholic Charities provides direct assistance and case management to survivors of human trafficking. The program also aims to educate the community about human trafficking, as well as how to identify individuals who are being forced or coerced for the purpose of sexual exploitation or labor.

The Bakhita Empowerment Initiative serves willing clients who are seeking ways to emancipate themselves. The program's staff encourages self-liberation as opposed to "rescuing" clients. This approach restores power, which is vital to achieving self-sufficiency.

Our clients are male and female, adults and children, foreign-born and domestic.

Services

Bakhita staff support and empower clients, connecting them with the necessary resources to liberate themselves from their traffickers. Survivors may receive assistance in the following areas:

- School Enrollment or GED Application
- Family Unification
- Food, Clothing and Personal Care Items
- Transitional Shelter
- Public Benefits
- Job Development
- ESL Classes
- Immigration Legal Services
- Repatriation
- Support Groups
- Tattoo and Branding Removal

How to Get Involved

The confidentiality of trafficking survivors limits volunteer opportunities. However, there are plenty of ways to support the Bakhita Empowerment Initiative.

ProBono Services

We rely on community partners to assist survivors with housing, health care, and mental health and legal services. If you are interested in offering your services, please contact Marissa Castellanos at mcastellanos@archlou.org.

Donate Items

Creating survivor kits is one of the best ways you can support our clients. Most needed items include:

- Gift Cards
- Hygiene Items
- Quarters for Laundry

Donate Money

No donation is too small and will make a difference in the lives of our clients. Donate now at cclou.org/donate/.