



The Okaja Foundation's

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Established in 2017, the Okaja Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that provides support to Catholic institutions serving orphaned children and children experiencing poverty through the distribution of grants and in-kind donations.

WE SUPPORT TWO CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS:

Divine Providence Home for orphaned and vulnerable children, through the disbursement of in-kind donations and grants which cover the orphanage's entire operating expense, including the children's medical expenses, school fees/tuition (up to the college level) and staff/caretaker salaries.

Catholic Maternity Hospital, through the distribution of donated infant clothing, diapers, blankets, toys and other essential infant care items.

theokajafoundation.org



DIVINE PROVIDENCE HOME

Located in Ogoja, Nigeria, Divine Providence Home (DPH) was established in 2007 by Reverend Sister Mary Rita Abang of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus - a Catholic order under the Sisters of Charity. The home has taken in over 100 children since its founding and is known in the community as a safe haven for orphaned and vulnerable children.

Divine Providence is currently home to over 50 children, ranging from infancy to 19 years of age. Each child's story is different and the sisters have never turn away any child in need of a home, welcoming every child with open, loving arms. They work to help each child overcome their experiences of loss and separation by making them aware of Christ's love for them and instilling them with a strong Catholic faith.

CATHOLIC MATERNITY HOSPITAL

When Catholic Maternity Hospital was founded in 1946. The hospital's primary purpose was to provide medical care to victims of leprosy, tuberculosis, and other related diseases. Among several of these patients were their pregnant wives who required immediate attention. Therefore, the Medical Missionaries of Mary (MMM) sisters established a maternity unit.

In addition to services for pregnant women, Catholic Maternity Hospital provides secondary medical services to adult, pediatric, and HIV patients. The area's impoverished are often turned away by other hospitals when ill, due to their inability to pay. Thankfully, CMH offers medical services for free or for very little cost, because everyone deserves access to proper healthcare.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

We would like to highlight six noteworthy accomplishments of 2023, which were all made possible because of your prayers and generosity:

- 1. The doors of Divine Providence Home remained open** and operational throughout 2023, even amidst the nation's cash crisis, enabling them to shelter six additional children who needed a home.
- 2. Funded the construction of Divine Providence Home's new housing unit** which will increase the home's ability to take in additional children.
- 3. Awarded Divine Providence with an operating grant**, enabling them to pay for the tuition/school fees of every child at the orphanage, including four young adults who **graduated from university and one from trade school!**
- 4. Sent an in-kind donation of over 600 lbs of clothing, diapers and other children's essentials**, which were distributed to the children at Catholic Maternity Hospital and Divine Providence Home.
- 5. Funded much-needed repairs to the home**, making the orphanage safer and more comfortable for the children and sisters.
- 6. Thanks to the generosity of our 2023 gala attendees**, we were able to launch our **Food and Formula Program** (see next page for more information).



FOOD AND FORMULA PROGRAM

As part of our newly launched Food and Formula Program, we are providing Divine Providence Home with additional funding to feed malnourished babies seeking treatment at Catholic Maternity Hospital, impoverished children at the nearby leprosy clinic and other hungry children in areas surrounding the orphanage.

At the moment, Divine Providence Home is distributing food and formula and/or milk to 13 families on a regular basis - feeding a combined total of 26 children.

We pray that by God's grace and with your support, that number will continue to increase.



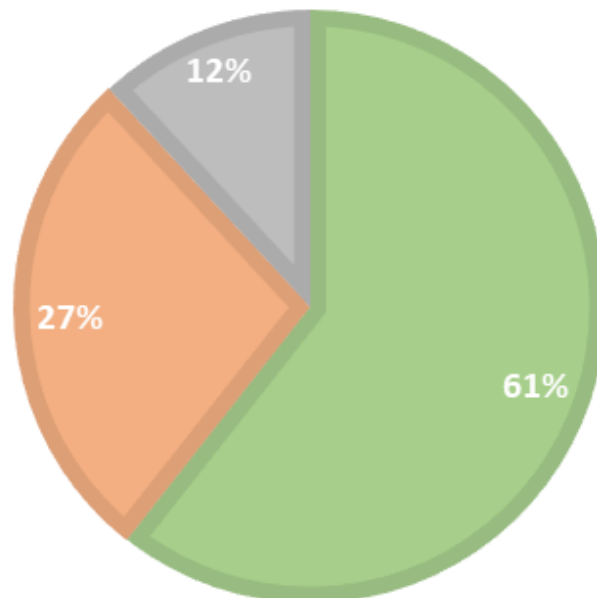
DONATIONS

\$164,184

IN DONATIONS FOR 2023

Non-Gala Donations	\$ 45,155.00
Gala (Gross) Proceeds	\$99,529.00
Grants	\$19,500.00
Total Gross Revenue	\$164,184

■ Gala Donations ■ Non-Gala Donations ■ Grants

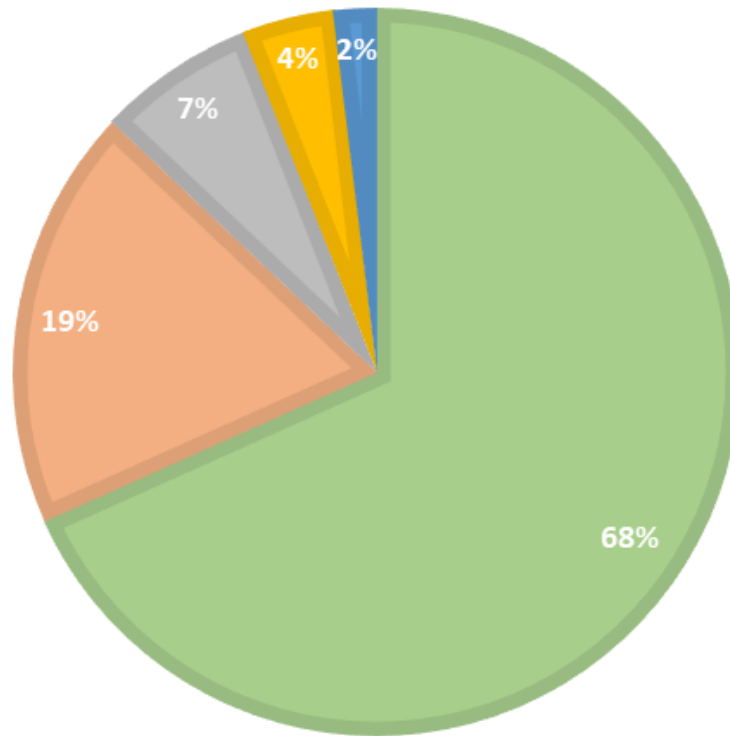


EXPENSES

\$117,730

IN EXPENSES FOR 2023

- Aid to Divine Providence Home (Program Expense)
- Gala Expense (Fundraising Expense)
- Director Compensation (Administrative Expense)
- Other Administrative Expenses
- Other Program Expenses



Aid to Divine Providence Home (Program Expense)	\$80,400.00
Gala Expense (Fundraising Expense)	\$22,089.00
Director Compensation (Administrative Expense)	\$8,262.47
Other Administrative Expenses	\$4,811.58
Other Program Expenses	\$2,166.00

LOOKING AHEAD

MAJOR FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR 2024

- 1. Awarding Divine Providence Home (DPH) with a grant for the purchase of a 30-seater bus.**
Cost: \$19,446.00
Fundraising Status: Completed! Grant awarded on 2/3/24 using proceeds from our 2023 gala.
- 2. Awarding DPH with a grant to equip the new building with solar panels.**
Cost: \$4,688.00
Fundraising Status: Completed! Grant awarded on 2/3/24 using proceeds from our 2023 gala.
- 3. Further developing our Food and Formula program with the hope of increasing its reach.**
Cost: To be determined.
Fundraising Status: Partially funded by our 2023 gala.
- 4. Visting DPH, conducting a needs assessment and fundraising as needed.**
Cost: To be determined.
Fundraising Status: Not yet begun.
- 4. Awarding Divine Providence Home with a grant to cover its 2025 expenses,**
Cost: To be determined.
Fundraising Status: Not yet begun.



LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVES

Mrs. Muji A. Kaiser | Founding Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Robert Bagdazian

Development Professional | Thomas Aquinas College

Mrs. Maria Clemens

Adjunct Professor | Univ. of Massachusetts Global & Cal. State Univ. Northridge

Fr. Aloysius Ezeonyeka

Pastor | Sacred Heart Parish

Mrs. Rosalind Grimm

Former Educator | St. Augustine's Academy

Mrs. Maria Grace Michael

Principal | St. Sebastian School

Mr. David Shaneyfelt

Attorney | Alvarez Firm

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Ms. Sarah Sauder | Bookkeeper

WE THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2023!

To our **Board of Directors** for their guidance and leadership.

To **everyone who attended or supported our 5th Annual Gala**, enabling us to fund several major projects this year.

To the **businesses and organizations** who either sponsored us or awarded us with grant funding in 2023:

- Adeodatus
- Bill and Dee Walker Fund
- Blue Mantle Corporation
- Doctor's Orders
- EA Sports
- Garden Market Meats
- Kelly Mohun Photography
- Mother of Divine Grace School
- Presto Pasta
- Saint Augustine Academy
- Thomas Aquinas College

To our **Monthly Advocates** whose recurring donations enable us to provide Divine Providence Home with consistent, reliable aid.

To the generous **families who donated privately** in 2023.

To everyone who supported our work through donations and prayers. We thank you all and pray that you will continue to partner with us this year in support of the orphaned, vulnerable and hungry children of Ogoja, Nigeria.



To learn more about our organization,
please visit our website:

theokajafoundation.org