



Christ Child Society Of Pittsburgh

August, 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a non-profit Catholic association of lay volunteers embracing members of all denominations, expressing its members' love of the Christ Child through service to God's children regardless of race, color or creed.

OFFICERS

President
Joyce Orr

Vice President
Laura Merzlak

Recording Secretary
Marian Flowers

Corresponding Secretary
Margie DiDomenio

Treasurer
Justina Purpura

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Fitzgibbon
Barbara Fredette
Cheryl George
Mary Jo Kelly
Pat Maida
Ellen O'Brien

Advisor:
Judy Kern

Plans Underway for Red Wagon Fare

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh will host its annual fundraiser, **THE RED WAGON FARE** on **Saturday, October 8, 2011**, at the Pittsburgh Field Club, Fox Chapel. The event will open to all guests at 10:00 AM with a lunch to follow at 12:00 Noon. The cost of the ticket remains at \$35 per person. The Grand Prize Raffle will include two \$500 cash prizes. Tickets for the raffle are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Chairperson of the Red Wagon is Suzette Venturini. Other committee chairs include: **FINANCE:** Tina Purpura;

INVITATIONS AND RESERVATIONS: Ellen O'Brien and Tina Purpura;

CENTERPIECES/DOOR PRIZES: Pat Maida and Judy Kern;

PROGRAM: Pat DiGiovine;

REGISTRATION: Pat DiGiovine;

BASKET OF CHEER, Molly Kelley;

GOURMET DELITES, Patti Smith;

PURSE RAFFLE: Cheryl George;

50-50 RAFFLE: Mary Ann Gonot, Marian Flowers and Audrey Friel;

PHOTOS AND SIGNAGE, Barbara Fredette;

SILENT AUCTION: Kathy Fitzgibbon and Laura Merzlak;

CHINESE AUCTION, Pat Maida, Marie Lowry and Judy Kern.

Invitations will be mailed in late August to all members and friends of Christ Child. If you would like an invitation mailed to someone who has not received one in the past, please contact Ellen. Three Grand Prize Raffle tickets will be included with each mailed invitation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **GIFTS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THE SILENT AUCTION AND THE CHINESE AUCTION.** If you are able to donate a gift or service (suggested minimum value of \$100) please contact Kathy Fitzgibbon or Pat Maida. **ALL GIFT DESCRIPTIONS AND DETAILS FOR CHINESE AUCTION GIFTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO JUDY KERN BY OCTOBER 1.** The following members have committed to the Chinese Auction: Laura Merzlak, Ellen O'Brien, Suzette Venturini, Cheryl George, Audrey Friel, (Mary Jane Diamantopulos, Jane Leavy, Mary Jo Kelly, and Barbara Fredette), Joyce Orr and Gerry Leslie, Judy Kern, Pat Maida, (Molly Kelley, Erin Kelley and Megan Esterhand), Marie Lowry, (Connie Kunz, Angie Slocum and Kathleen Lee), Joan Young.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BOTTLE OF CHEER TO THE AUGUST 18TH GENERAL MEETING.**
- Please mark the ticket reservation deadline on your calendar and make your returns in a timely fashion. This is extremely helpful and appreciated by the reservation committee who design the table seating assignments.

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RED WAGON FARE—Continued:

- **ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO DONATE AN ITEM TO THE BAKE SALE.** Cookies will be needed for the Cookie Walk. Candy, muffins and brownies are also welcomed. Halloween or Fall “themed” baked goods or treats make a nice presentation. Homemade jams and jellies are always in demand. Pies also sell, but whole cakes DO NOT. If you donate a cake, please cut it in half, since this offers a better appeal to buyers. Also, please remember to purchase something from the bake sale for your family or perhaps a shut-in or someone sick or elderly who may enjoy an edible treat!
- Students from Duquesne University will be assisting in various areas at the Red Wagon this year.
- Cards designed by Barbara Fredette will again be available for purchase the day of the Red Wagon.
- Childrens’ necklaces made by Joyce Orr will be available for purchase.
- **CASH AND CHECK** will be the only accepted forms of payment at the Red Wagon Fare.

Angels’ Place — A New Christ Child Project!!



While brainstorming for new ways for Christ Child to aid children, Angels’ Place came to mind. Pat Maida and Laura Merzлак visited with the executive director, Michelle Smith Tipton on March 1st. Angels’ Place provides quality child care to 20 children at each of their 3 locations. These children range in ages from newborn-5years. They settle in daily while their parent continues their education. This is a major factor in determining a child’s eligibility, along with other criteria, to attend the program provided at Angels’ Place. We were taken on a tour of the North Side facility and the little angels we saw had the sweetest smiles for us!

Pat fondly remembered baking cookies for the Brookline Center and the Director smiled and commented “we still love cookies”! Bringing our information back from the visit, we felt that Angels’ Place could use the help of Christ Child members in continuing our Mission.

Over the past 3 months, discussion and the visit to Angels’ Place, formerly Moms’ House, CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH has committed to helping the children served by Angels’ Place. We have spoken to and received wish lists from the Staff of Angels’ Place. At all the Centers, the children and Staff dine together, just like at home. Current wishes and needs include highchairs and booster seats and Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is in the process of donating these so they can all safely continue breaking bread together.

Also, Cookie Momsters is being formed! We will deliver cookies or other snacks monthly to each of the 3 Centers. If you would like to participate or bake, the Center reminded me to avoid nuts and peanut butter. These cookies and snacks can be brought to the monthly meeting and we will distribute them at that time. We will continue with various party packs for the children in the future. Please feel free to contact Laura at 724-934-8973 if you have any questions.

** THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER OF THANKS FROM MICHELLE SMITH TIPTON FOR OUR RECENT DONATION OF \$350.00. THE MONEY WILL HELP TO COVER THE COST OF HIGHCHAIRS AND BOOSTER SEATS FOR THEIR NORTH SIDE AND SWISSVALE CENTERS.



CAMP AIM 2011 ...from Molly Kelly

Camp Aim is a 6 week camp for special needs children. The campers come from all over the county to enjoy activities that they probably would never experience except for the generosity and funding from private donations and school districts. Christ Child Society gave a generous donation this past summer of \$1000 which has been used in part to purchase two sewing machines and a sno cone machine. Some of our members got to visit the camp and help sew crafts on art festival day. Another activity that some of us participated in was the prom day. Some of the girls were sighted all dressed up in Pat Maida’s donations from her closet cleanout. The campers also were decked out with flowers and corsages and headbands that Laura Merzлак so generously made from Treasures from her basement. Next year we hope to have more used ties and prom things for the kids to enjoy. So don’t throw away that 1960 tie your husband has been saving. Donate it to Camp Aim via Christ Child. Bring your dressy stuff to any meeting for boys and girls in any size over the next year and I will see they get it for next years activities. Many thanks again to the helpers and donations from the membership which was truly appreciated by the camp.

CHRIST CHILD PRESIDENT TO TAKE SHORT “LEAVE OF ABSENCE” JOYCE ORR, President, will be pursuing academic classes during the months of September, October and November. During these months, **LAURA MERZLAK**, Vice-President, will be filling in for Joyce. Any matters relative to the Christ Child Society should be directed to Laura during this time.

ANGELS' CLOSET

THE ANGELS' CLOSET will open Thursday, September 29th at Noon to serve the smiling children as they choose their coats for the cold winter to come. A sorting and hanging day will be scheduled in mid September. We have many new coats to size and hang due to the thrifty shopping done after the season..... More info to follow at the next meeting.

LAYETTES

Phyllis Dombrowski, Doris Delserone and Diane Reich met in July and packed 40 layettes. On August 1, Marian Flowers and Mary Ann Gonot delivered 20 layettes to Magee and 12 layettes to Mercy. There are currently 8 layettes in our inventory. This year layettes will be distributed to Magee Hospital, Mercy Hospital, West Penn Hospital, The Pregnancy Resource Center, The Women's Shelter, Catholic Charities, Roselia, Parents Concerned for the Unborn Child (St. Scholastica), and St. Regis Church.

HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

From Cheryl George.....

It is with deep regret that I tender my resignation from Holy Family Institute (St. Martin's Cottage) as of September 1, 2011. It has been my honor and privilege to have served from September, 1997 as Christ Child's liaison to Holy Family. The countless hours spent playing BINGO, baking chocolate chip cookies, attending ball games, pizza parties and ice skating with the boys has meant so much to me. *"Thank you"* Christ Child Society members for giving me this opportunity to be of service.

National Christ Child Society Convention

The National Christ Child Society Convention will be held on September 23 and 24, 2011, at the Double Tree hotel in Bethesda, Maryland. The theme of this year's convention is "Building Our Legacy". Ellen O'Brien, a member of the National Executive Board, along with Tina Purpura and Laura Merzlak will be in attendance at the convention..

April Retreat

The annual Christ Child retreat was held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at St. Paul's Monastery, South Side. Michael Aquilina was the guest speaker and his topic was "angels". The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Father Poeking, our Spiritual Advisor, offered Mass at the conclusion of the day.

Tea Party Held at St. Peter's Parish, Slippery Rock

Several members of our Christ Child Society traveled to St. Peter's Parish, Slippery Rock, on Saturday, May 14, to join in the parish tea party. Father Poeking, our Spiritual Advisor, is the Pastor of the parish. Sylvia Hasnauer, a long-time member of the Christ Child Society is also a parishioner at St. Peter's.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE! IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY FILLED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM AND SENT IN YOUR DUES TO MARY JO KELLY, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS PER NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD REQUIREMENTS, ANYONE NOT SUBMITTING DUES CAN NO LONGER BE INCLUDED ON ANY CHRIST CHILD ROSTER..

MASS AND MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

BOB MCGUIGAN

From: Dick & Mary Jo Kelly

JOE CONTASTA

From: Dick & Mary Jo Kelly

MARY PRINGLE

From: Dick and Mary Jo Kelly

SGT. STEPHEN BURRIK

From: Cheryl George

DOREEN BOWEN

From: Stan & Laura Merzlak

ANN EGAN

From

Barbara, John and Laurence Fredette

BOB MCGUIGAN

From:

George & Mary Jane Diamantopoulos

JOANNE COGON

From: Christ Child Society

MICHAEL RUBINO

From: Sam and Diane Reich

Please remember to contact Diane Reich if you are interested in having a Mass said for any occasion.

ROSELIA

Patti Smith reports that Roselia is very grateful for the baby gates that were purchased by the Christ Child Society. The girls will be advised of Angels' Closet for the toddlers.

Dates to Remember

September 23—24 National Convention, Christ Child Society
Bethesda, Maryland

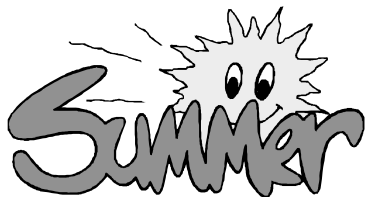
October 8 - Red Wagon Fare — Pittsburgh Field Club

NOTEWORTHY:

- Please send your membership dues to Mary Jo Kelly immediately if you have not already done so;
- Please bring your bottle of cheer for the Red Wagon to the General Meeting;
- If you would like to donate cookies for Angel's Place (*please— no nuts or peanut butter!*), bring them to any General Meeting and they will be distributed to one of the facilities;
- Gently used and/or new children's books are still being collected for distribution during our Angel's Closet season. Please bring any books to the General Meeting or give to Molly Kelley;
- Please remember, especially with the Red Wagon Fare, any matters relative to the Christ Child Society should be directed to Laura Merzlak during the months of September, October and November;
- New membership directories are now available. If you have not received your copy, please contact Tina Purpura. Additional copies of the directory are available for a nominal fee;
- The next General Meeting of the Christ Child Society will be on Thursday, August 18, at Our Lady of the Angels Auditorium. Lunch will be at 11:30 am, followed by the General Meeting at 12:15. Please make every effort to attend;
- Lunch coordinators for the August meeting are Suzette Venturini and Audrey Friel;

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324



TO: