



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

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.

December, 2014

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear Members & Friends,

November ushers in a most wonderful time of the year: **"Thanksgiving Day, a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year!"**

Often we zip through the days & months and wonder where the time has gone. But on Thanksgiving, whether it is for the day, for dessert or the weekend, families & friends gather. When we gather, we try to let minor disagreements go by the wayside and remember the blessings God bestows on us.

Every day we are thankful for all of you! Your commitment to the Christ Child Society is beyond measure. The remarkable talents that you all share are reflections of the Christ Child.

Our Chapter has been blessed this year with a surge of support. Welcome to our newest members: Pam Diulus, Marlene MacDonald, Theresa Magnotta, Julie Quigley, Katherine Quigley, & Dottie Talarico.

Red Wagon Fare was a huge success with our profit estimated to be \$11,700.00! Our co-chairs, Pat Schimmel & Suzette Venturini did a wonderful job coordinating the day & with all of you, your donations, baskets, & support, YOU MADE the Difference!

We have been blessed with a new Board and Officers to continue our mission of Helping One Child at a time! Diane George is actively shadowing us so that she will move into the President seat on July 1, 2015. Due to personal reasons, Pat Schimmel will not be able to co-chair the President position next year, but will remain an active member. Our prayers are with Pat and we thank her for being an active participant in our Chapter!

GOD is good, all the time! For the deceased members of our Chapter, Dolly Kelly, Joan Young, Jane Leavy & Barbara Plutnicki, we thank the Lord for these women who were an integral part of our Chapter. And our Spiritual Advisor, Father Kevin, we are grateful for "wearing whatever hat we give you"! Thank you Father Kevin for your support & prayers!

May we all feel the love of the Lord and be grateful for all He gives us. God Bless you all and your families.

Marian & Laura

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.....

Our long time member, **Barbara Plutnicki**, passed away November 13, 2014. She served Christ Child as Treasurer for a term, and was part of the Angel's Closet Committee, and the Layette Committee. Barbara was one of 6 sisters, was educated at Carlow College, and spent her career with Kaufmann's. For many years she enjoyed growing chrysanthemums and also had a greenhouse where she cultivated many different plants including orchids. She will be greatly missed by her surviving sisters, Rose and Wanda as well as nieces, nephews, and their children.

As a Chapter, we have lost many dedicated and fine members this year, including Joan Young, Jane Leavy, Dolly Kelly, and now Barbara. I know each of us will keep them and their families in our prayers as we enjoy our Christmas and New Year celebrations.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

From Ellen O'Brien

The 42nd Biennial Convention of the National Christ Child Society was held in Phoenix, Arizona this past September 18 – 20, 2014. The attendance at Convention was very encouraging with about 2/3s of the Chapters present. Several Chapters were able to go to Convention with the help of scholarship funds made possible with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor and a few chapters who were able to donate and help other chapters. NCCS hopes that these donations and grants will continue to be available for Chapters whose finances haven't allowed them to participate in Convention or Conference held in the past.

All the seminars and presentations made to the attendees have been uploaded to the NCCS web site. I encourage each of you to take some time to look at these, and get an idea of the wonderful information each NCCS Chapter can learn at Convention and Conference. What isn't available is the ability to network on a personal level with members from all over the county, hear their successes, new ideas, and yes, disappointments too. I hope that our Pittsburgh Chapter will once again be in a position to fund the attendance of 2 members to go to these gatherings, and bring information back to our membership. The fellowship with others is a unique and rewarding experience.

As yet, the dates for Conference 2015 have not yet been set. Usually it is scheduled in September. Most of us know that the Holy Father will be in the United States in late September to attend the Conference on the Family. I expect that once Conference dates are set, each Chapter President will be notified.

Our new NCCS President, Anne Kelly, has started a blog to highlight news from the National office. Simply log onto the link below to learn what Anne and the National Board are doing to enhance the Mission of Mary Virginia Merrick.

<http://blog.nationalchristchild.org/were-all-gods-children-red-wagon-award-winning-treasures-program/>

My term on the National Board has ended. I found the experience a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Christ Child, its Mission, and the people who work tirelessly for children. Please consider serving on this Board if you are approached, or simply would like to contribute your expertise. You won't regret it.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH WELCOMES 5 NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a special welcome to our five new members of the Christ Child Society! New members include: **PAM DIULUS** (a member of St. Pamphilus Parish and the daughter of Mary Ann Gonot), **MARLENE MACDONALD**, **THERESA MAGNOTTA** (member of St. Pamphilus Parish), **JULIE and KATHERINE QUIGLEY** (St. Pius X Parish), and **DOTTIE TALARICO** (member of SS. John and Paul Parish). We look forward to working with all of these ladies as we strive to continue our mission of helping children in need!

RED WAGON REPORT

The 2014 Red Wagon Fare was an extremely successful event. Our net profit is just under \$12,000! A special thanks goes out to **PAT SCHIMMEL** and **SUZETTE VENTURINI**, co-chairs of this year's event. This year's Red Wagon also marked our 20th year as a chartered member of the National Christ Child Society. Pat and Suzette did a wonderful job planning, coordinating and executing the Red Wagon. We would like to also thank all committee chairs and their helpers, as well as all those who donated a gift, their time, and/or their talents. Thanks to the efforts of so many, we will continue our mission of service to needy children! Another special thanks goes to **FR. POECKING**, our Christ Child Spiritual Advisor, who offered the invocation and served to announce our various ticket winners. This year, **PAULA KELLER**, a mental health coordinator at Pittsburgh's Women's Center and Shelter, was our guest speaker. She did a wonderful job informing us of the mission of the Women's Shelter and their appreciation of our help with the "My Stuff Bags" that we donate. Paula is the daughter of our member, Mary Jo Kelly. We would like to extend another very special thanks to **DARLENE BAHREL**, sister of Cheryl George, who served again this year as our Red Wagon photographer. We have a number of wonderful pictures from the day's event, some of which are pictured on page 3 of this newsletter! We have one correction in the 2014 Red Wagon Program that we would like to mention. The listing of the founding members who attended the very first meeting of our local chapter should also have included **Connie Kunz**.

We are happy to announce that **SUZETTE VENTURINI** has volunteered to chair the 2015 Red Wagon Fare, which will be held on NOVEMBER 7, 2015, at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Please be sure to mark the date on your new 2015 calendar!

Red Wagon Fare 2014



ANGEL'S CLOSET *From Molly Kelley*

We had a great year in the Angel's Closet. I would like to thank all the committee members who were so faithful coming week after week putting in countless hours distributing 430 coats. This was not a record but the clients who came were truly appreciative of our beautiful coats, hats and gloves. Saturday distributions seemed to be a big help to the clients with school age children. We will probably move to a 3rd Saturday distribution schedule next year if it can be arranged with the Capuchin Center. Thank you to all the shoppers too. Please keep shopping as our inventory can use a boost! Budget wise, try to stay under \$23.00. Warm blessings to all! I know we made 430 kids warmer!

1.



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3.



4.



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6.

Thank you so much for the winter coats for my children. The coats are very much appreciated. We just recently went from a two-income family to a one-income family. I quit my job to spend more time focusing on my children and their needs. (my oldest is Bipolar and has an eating disorder, my middle daughter is ADHD, possibly Autistic and has an anxiety disorder and my youngest is ADHD) Its needless to say - life is hectic! Getting these coats is really a big help and one less stress I have to deal with. Thank you so much! You all are truly angels in disguise!
 Much love & God Bless!

1. A local family displays their new coats from Angel's Closet.
2. Christ Child members **Mary Ann Gonot** and **Kathy Fitzgibbon** get ready for opening day.
3. **Mary Jo Kelly** and **Connie Kunz** take inventory.
4. **Marlene MacDonald**, **Theresa Magnotta**, and **Pam Diulus**, new members to our Christ Child Society, help at Angel's Closet.
5. A new coat from Angel's Closet will keep this little one warm this winter.
6. A grateful mother sends a thank you to Angel's Closet.

MY STUFF BAGS *From Diane George*

At the present time, the Women's Shelter is not in need of any items. Our next packing will be at the end of January, when we will supply the children with more winter items.

LAYETTE REPORT *From Audrey Friel and Pat Schimmel*

There will be a packing of layettes after the holidays. Committee members will be contacted when a date has been set.



2014 Christmas Party

The 2014 Christ Child Christmas party was held on Tuesday, December 2, at Scoglio's Restaurant in Greentree. Thirty one members attended the event which included a delicious meal, door prizes and holiday cheer! A special thanks goes out to **MaryAnn McDermott** for taking the reservations and making the arrangements for the festive event. We look forward to another Christmas get-together in 2015!



DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

MARY KAY COLLINS

BARBARA PLUTNICKI

DEVIN RAFFET

JANE LEVY

DOLLY KELLY

MICHELE MALIK

—Special Intention

DONOR/S:

Ann Hernandez-Collins
Elaine Bucci

Cheryl George
Mary Ellen Ploeger

Ben Ziolkowski & Family

Mary Ellen Ploieger

Mary Ellen Ploeger

Mary Ellen Ploeger

DONATIONS TO CHRIST CHILD

FROM:

Anonymous

Mrs. M. Gloria Grau

United Way

Pat Schimmel

CC DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

Please use the following donation form for any tribute gift or general donation to the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh. We hope to have this form available in the near future on our website at... www.christchildsofittsburgh.org

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of donation: ___\$50.00 ___\$25.00 ___\$10.00 \$ _____ other amount

___ in honor of ___ in memory of ___ in thanksgiving for

Name _____

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please enclose this form and your check payable to the "Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh" and mail to:

**Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Charlotte Collins
128 Carrie Ann Drive
New Kensington, PA 15068**

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization. Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction.

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324
www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



TO:

Dates to Remember

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|-------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 15 | - General Membership Meeting | Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| March 19 | - General Membership Meeting | Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| April 16 | - General Membership Meeting | Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| June 18 | - General Membership Meeting | Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| November 7 | - 2015 RED WAGON FARE | |