



# 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.

June, 2014

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

FATHER KEVIN POECKING

**OFFICERS**

**Co-Presidents**  
LAURA MERZLAK  
MARIAN FLOWERS

**Co-Presidents Elect**  
DIANE GEORGE  
PAT SCHIMMEL

**Recording Secretary**  
MARY ANN MCDERMOTT

**Corresponding Secretary**  
MARY ANN GONOT

**Treasurer**  
CHARLOTTE COLLINS

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BARBARA FREDETTE  
CHERYL GEORGE  
MOLLY KELLEY  
MARY JO KELLY  
JUDY KERN  
PAT MAIDA  
ELLEN O'BRIEN

**NEWSLETTER**

JUDY KERN

Dear Members & Friends;

Here we are in the month of June, almost halfway through 2014. June's birth flower is the rose and how appropriate it is. If we could, we would present you all with bouquets of mature, dark pink roses, symbolizing sincere gratitude and appreciation.

We want to send our gratitude to those officers who recently completed their 2 year terms. Thank you to our Treasurer, Mary Ann Gonot, who made certain all the bills were paid and finances were up to date. Thankfully the IRS didn't knock on our door! Kathy Fitzgibbon fulfilled her Recording Secretary position and had the minutes ready and attendance always recorded. Kathy became proficient during her term emailing the minutes to us! Way to go Kathy! Our Corresponding Secretary, Marie Lowry, graciously answered mail, sent thank you notes, contacted prospective donors. Thank you ladies for your time and commitment to our Chapter!

We are looking forward to our "shadows" for the next year, Diane George and Pat Schimmel. Pat and Diane are our new co presidents elect. They have been active in Christ Child since their joining! Their familiarity with our programs have them ready to jump into the Officer positions! We are extremely fortunate to have Charlotte Collins taking over as Treasurer. Charlotte is experienced in the responsibilities of the position. MaryAnn McDermott takes over as Recording Secretary. If you don't know Mary Ann, she will be the one with the pen, paper and attendance sheets at each meeting. Please take time to introduce yourselves! MaryAnn Gonot steps into the Corresponding Secretary slot and will fill in the necessary spaces and help MaryAnn McDermott. We are blessed with all of our members and your participation. It takes all of us to make it work!

Thank you Doris Delserone, Phyllis Dombrowski, Joanne Herrmann, and Diane Reich for the great job planning the Initiation Mass and Lunch! For those who were unable to attend, you missed a wonderful day. The rainy day didn't matter with a beautiful mass and ceremony conducted by Father Kevin. The table flowers brought signs of spring into the room and the guests brought warmth and smiles!

Suzette Venturini and Pat Schimmel are spending tremendous amounts of time getting things in order for this years' RED WAGON FARE, OCTOBER 11. With this being the 20th anniversary of our Chapter, we all need to do our part to help continue the mission of Christ Child Society and those visions of Mary Virginia Merrick.

God is good all the time and looks to us to foster the duties here on Earth! Please remember all those in need of our prayers; especially our editor, Judy Kern, Margie DiDomenico, and daughter of Mary Jo Kelly.

Have a safe summer and we'll see you at the General Membership Meeting on Monday, Aug. 18th!

In the Name of the Christ Child, Marian & Laura

## CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY SUFFERS ANOTHER LOSS

We are deeply saddened with the recent loss of one of our long-standing members, **DOLLY KELLY**. Dolly was a founding member of The Christ Child Society in Pittsburgh. Along with several others, she helped with the redecorating and refinishing of St. Martin's cottage at Holy Family Institute. For many years she was a dedicated worker in Angel's Closet, and helped with Layette packing. She also helped with the reservation table at the Red Wagon and was a faithful donor to the basket auction for many years. She left a lasting mark with her sweet smile and kind manner. Dolly has eight children and many grandchildren. She lost her husband, Bob, many years ago, and was devoted to raising her family, getting them educated and being a wonderful grandmother. Please continue to keep Dolly and her family in your prayers.

# Red Wagon Fare 2014



Our 17<sup>th</sup> annual Red Wagon luncheon will be held October 11, 2014 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. PAT SCHIMMEL and SUZETTE VENTURINI will serve as co-chairs for the event. Since 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of our Pittsburgh Chapter, we will be highlighting an anniversary theme with this year's Red Wagon Fare. Paula Keller, daughter of Mary Jo Kelly, will be the guest speaker. The following is a list of this year's committee chairs:

- **BAKE SALE;** *Patti Smith will organize the bake sale. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS BRING AN ITEM/S FOR THE BAKE SALE!* Goodies of all types are welcome. Cookies will be needed for the Cookie Walk, and 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. Donations should be delivered to the Field Club by 10 AM the day of the event.
- **BASKET OF CHEER;** *Molly Kelley will be collecting the donations for the Basket of Cheer.* Please bring donations to any of the upcoming General Meetings. We rely on our members to supply us with a variety of alcohol to fill the baskets.
- **BASKET AUCTION;** *Please contact Judy Kern, Marie Lowry or Pat Maida if you are interested in donating to this auction or if you have any questions or suggestions.* We request that Basket Auction donations have a minimum value of \$100. We are hoping to have 25 to 30 gift baskets.
- **SILENT AUCTION;** *After a year's hiatus, we will again be adding a Silent Auction to the day's events. Diane Reich has agreed to chair this event.* Items are still needed for the Silent Auction, and it is requested that a donation have a minimum value of \$100. If you have any questions or are willing to donate, please contact Diane at 412.688.8966.
- **GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE;** *Pat Schimmel and Suzette Venturini will chair this event.* As in past few years, the prizes will be two \$500 gifts. One ticket gives the purchaser two chances to win! Three tickets will be included with each Red Wagon Fare invitation. You are encouraged to sell raffle tickets to friends since one does not need to be present to win! Raffle tickets will also be available for sale the day of the Red Wagon. Price of the ticket is \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00.
- **PURSE RAFFLE;** *Cheryl George will be organizing the Purse Raffle.* To date, we are still in need of three purses and 5 (\$50 value) gift certificates. Please contact Cheryl as soon as possible if you are able to make a donation to the Purse Raffle.
- **50/50 RAFFLE;** *Audrey Friel and Diane George will chair this event.*
- **PUBLICITY;** *Carole Gilardi.*
- **RESERVATIONS;** *Marian Flowers, Mary Ann Gonot, Laura Merzлак. (Marian Flowers will be the contact person)*
- **CENTERPIECES;** *Charlotte Collins and Mary Ann McDermott.*
- **DOOR PRIZES;** *Pat Maida and Judy Kern.*
- **SOLICITATION LETTERS;** *Mary Jane Diamantopoulos.*
- **PHOTOGRAPHY;** *Darlene Bahel.* Darlene was the photographer for Red Wagon 2013 (pictures were included in the December, 2013 issue of our newsletter), and she has agreed to serve as photographer again this year. She is the sister of Cheryl George.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE ☆ ☆ ☆

The **Red Wagon Committee** and the **Board** wants to expand our list of supporters who may be interested in coming to Red Wagon, and/or donating to our ministries. With that goal in mind, please think of people who we could include in our data base. **Simply send names and addresses to Ellen O'Brien, Mary Jo Kelly, or Mary McCormick,** and we will add the names to our data base.

## Christ Child Membership Dues.....from Mary Jo Kelly

The membership renewal forms have been mailed. It is necessary that we receive the completed form along with your dues for 2014-2015 by July 15, if you want your name to be included in the new membership booklet and the Red Wagon Fare program. PLEASE BE SURE TO RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK! **Remember the deadline....July 15....**Please don't make me come after you with my broom!

## DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

### IN MEMORY OF:

Joan Young

### DONOR:

Bonnie and Don Poland  
Mrs. Jean Williams  
Rosemary Richards  
Mr. and Mrs. David Smith  
Gary and Cheryl Fuchs  
Bill and Mary Lou Abt  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson  
Mrs. James Watson  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beals  
Janet McCaw  
Blaise and Barbara Michaels  
Dick and Mary Jo Kelly  
Staff of Cardiovascular Imaging  
at Dept. UPMC Passavant Hospital

### DONATIONS TO CHRIST CHILD:

By Elizabeth Graham

By M. Gloria Grau

By Mrs. M. Gloria Grau in Thanksgiving  
for all members of Roy Henry Grau Jr. family

## 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](http://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.

## CCS OF PITTSBURGH LAUNCHES ANNUAL APPEAL DRIVE!

On May 26, our Annual Appeal letter was mailed to all Christ Child Society members and friends. We are pleased to report that to date, we have received over \$2500 from this Appeal. As mentioned in the letter, our Chapter serves an estimated 1000 children over a year. From our *Layettes, Angels' Closet, My Stuff Bags* and *Camp Aim*, we continue to reach needy children only through the kindness and generosity of our donors. As we all know, your continued support of our programs is vital to our mission! If you have already mailed a donation, we, along with all the children, are most grateful for your generosity. If you have not already done so, we ask that you please consider a donation as soon as you are able.

### CAMP AIM 2014 ..... *From Molly Kelley*

**Camp Aim** will start June 16th and run for six weeks at Carlynton High School. They again have asked us to come to **Artapalooza Day** which is **June 27th**. We will help with whatever art or craft project they need us for. Also we will be serving the Pasta Lunch that day as we have in other years. **July 22nd** is **Prom** and as in the past we have been asked to help with the preparations, decorations and photos. Also— just come and hang out with the campers. IT'S A LOT OF FUN!!!! If on any day a member would like to go to camp, please call Molly Kelley so I can let them know you are coming. I am so gratified by all the cool donations members have saved and contributed. SO MANY CUTE hats ...Sun glasses.... and Ties! Wonderful games and Craft items.... and much more! I am still collecting up to the June 19th meeting. Please bring your final items that day. To check out the entire Camp Aim Schedule, go to their web site: CAMP AIM Pittsburgh South Hills YMCA. MANY, MANY THANKS ..... Molly

### ANGEL'S CLOSET ..... *From Molly Kelley*

While you are at the malls and stores around the area, please feel free to buy coats that are on sale— also gloves, hats and mittens. It appears this cold winter has wiped out the winter apparel. Hopefully our shoppers will still find some bargains. Any size boy or girl from 6 month to size 20 can be added to the inventory. (Suggested top price— \$15.00 to \$20.00 for coats— \$. 50 to \$1.50 for hats and mittens and gloves).

2014 opening of Angel's Closet TBA.

### LAYETTE REPORT ..... *From Audrey Friel and Pat Schimmel*

The layette committee packed 50 layettes on April 30th. Twenty layettes were delivered in May—14 to Mercy Hospital and 6 to North Hills Community Outreach. It is planned to pack an additional 25 layettes after the June 19 General Meeting. There will be another delivery sometime in June.

### MY STUFF BAGS ..... *From Diane George*

Since beginning this project in June, 2013, we have packed and delivered 150 bags to the Women's Center and Shelter of Pittsburgh. It is incredible to think of how many children we have reached during this period. Although the Shelter receives many donations of much more monetary value than ours, we are proud to be able to put a shirt of someone's back and perhaps a child feels the touch of an angel when they arrive at the Shelter. We have invested over \$6,000.00 this year for this project and hope to be able to continue providing these bags. We are planning to pack twice a year (Spring And Fall) to help with the needs of those arriving at the Shelter. We recently met on June 9 and packed 27 more bags. We are fortunate to have the backing of Father Joseph Keenan, Pastor of St. Pio's Church, who has embraced the Christ Child Society and provided space for our inventory and packings. Packings are held in the hall of the St. Edward Church site in the Blawnox area. If you have any questions or need directions, contact Diane George.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**2014-2015 Tentative Dates, Events, Deadlines**

JUNE, 2014

Monday, June 9, 12:30 pm My Stuff Bags, packing  
at St. Edwards Church, Blawnox

Thursday, June 19, General Meeting  
Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15

CAMP AIM BEGINS

June 16 - July 26 (details to follow)

JULY, 2014

T.B.A. Budget Committee Meeting

AUGUST, 2014

Monday, August 11, BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 18, GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER, 2014

18-21 NCCS CONVENTION, SCOTTSDALE AZ

Thursday, September 25, GENERAL MEETING

Monday, September 29, BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER, 2014 ANGELS CLOSET OPENS

Friday, October 10, R.W.F. Setup

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, RED WAGON FARE

NOVEMBER, 2014

Mary Virginia Merrick's birthday, Nov. 1  
date T.B.A. mass and lunch

Angels Closet

Monday, Nov. 10, BOARD MEETING

Thursday, Nov. 20, GENERAL MEETING

DECEMBER, 2014

T.B.A., CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:30

JANUARY, 2015

FEBRUARY, 2015

MARCH, 2015

T.B.A., General Meeting

Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15

APRIL, 2015

T.B.A., RETREAT

MAY OR JUNE, 2015

T.B.A., General Meeting

Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15

**NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

What: 2014 National Christ Child Convention  
When: September 18th-21st  
Where: FireSky Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona

**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED!**

*Perhaps your travels this fall take you to the West: If you have never had the opportunity to go to Scottsdale, it is a beautiful part of God's county! Currently, Ellen O'Brien will be the only Pittsburgher attending. Ellen serves on the National Board of Directors and the wealth of information she is able to provide to our Chapter is invaluable! Please contact Ellen if you are interested in attending.*

**INSTALLATION LUNCHEON**



The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh **Installation Luncheon** was held on Thursday, May 15 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Mass was offered by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Kevin Poeking. Newly installed officers are **Charlotte Collins**, TREASURER, **Mary Ann McDermott**, RECORDING SECRETARY, and **Mary Ann Gonot**, RECORDING SECRETARY. New member pins were also awarded to Charlotte Collins, Joanne Livingston, Mary Ann McDermott, Joanne Herrmann and Mary McCormick. The installation ceremony was followed by a delicious lunch. A special thanks goes out to Doris Delserone, Phyllis Dombrowski, Diane Reich and Joanne Herrmann for planning the lovely event.

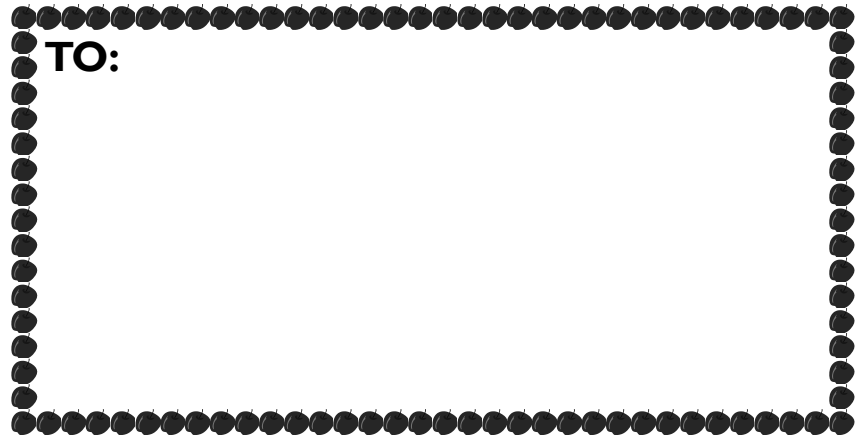


Left to Right: Joanne Herrmann, Mary McCormick, and Charlotte Collins (new Treasurer) with our spiritual director, Fr. Poeking.

# Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### Dates to Remember

#### 2014

June 27

- Camp Aim Artapalooza at Carlynton High School

July 22

- Camp Aim PROM at Carlynton High School

August 18

- General Membership Meeting      Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15

September 18-21

- National Christ Child Convention, Phoenix, AZ

October 11

- Christ Child Society Red Wagon Fare

#### **NOTEWORTHY:**

- Many thanks to Mary Jo Kelly and Barbara Fredette for serving as Lunch Coordinators for the April General Meeting.
- Many thanks to Audrey Friel and Diane George for serving as Lunch Coordinators for the June General Meeting.
- The CCS membership dues are to be mailed by **July 15!** PLEASE make every effort to meet this deadline!
- Judy Kern is extremely grateful to the CCS membership for their thoughts, prayers, and get well wishes as she underwent surgery recently at the Mayo Clinic.
- The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for September. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by August 20.