



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.

March, 2014

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FATHER KEVIN POECKING

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MARIAN FLOWERS

Recording Secretary
KATHLEEN FITZGIBBON

Corresponding Secretary
MARIE LOWRY

Treasurer
MARY ANN GONOT

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MARY JO KELLY
JUDY KERN
MARIE LOWRY
PAT MAIDA
ELLEN O'BRIEN

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear Members:

Spring is approaching and it's time for Spring Cleaning! As you are aware, our term is coming to an end. We are blessed and thankful for your wonderful support these past 2 years. You have all continually "pulled together" to continue the mission of the Christ Child Society and we are proud to be part of the Pittsburgh Chapter!

For our new members, the change of Officers is a celebratory event and you are all a part of it! On May 15, Father Kevin Poecking will offer a Mass for us and will conduct the initiation ceremony. All new members will be initiated and presented with their Christ Child Society pin at that time. Doris Delserone and her committee are graciously planning this day. The invitations will be sent in April. If you have any questions regarding the Initiation or luncheon, please contact Doris, Phyllis Dombrowski, Joanne Herrmann or Diane Reich.

Recently we reviewed the budget that was set last July and are elated with the fact that the diligence of our Chairpersons & their committees have kept us well within our budget for this fiscal year which ends on June 30.

It's not too soon to check your calendars and plan to travel to Phoenix! The National Christ Child Society Convention will be held September 18 -20 and our Chapter will be one of those honored for our 20 year anniversary of being a chartered Chapter of the NCCS. THREE weeks after the convention....

October 11 - RED WAGON FARE!

We are excited for the "changing of the guard" with the new Officers coming on board! The new Board are relatively new members and we know you will all help them to effectively lead us for the next two years. Thank you again for your support and God Bless You all.

In the Name of the Christ Child,
Marian & Laura

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE. . . .

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is saddened with another loss to our membership. **JOAN YOUNG**, a faithful member of the Christ Child Society for 20 years, passed away on February 12, 2014 at Passavent Hospital. She was an active supporter of the Red Wagon Fare and contributed beautiful, creative baskets for the Chinese Auction for many years. Her husband, Tom, was also very active with BINGO and other Christ Child sponsored boys' activities at St. Martin's Center for a number of years. Joan was a kind and gracious lady who will be truly missed. As family and friends mourn her loss, please continue to keep Joan in your prayers.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
2014—2016 SLATE OF OFFICERS**

President	_____	NEEDED!
Vice-President	_____	<i>PAT SCHIMMEL</i>
Treasurer	_____	<i>CHARLOTTE COLLINS</i>
Recording Secretary	_____	<i>MARY ANNE MCDERMOTT</i>
Corresponding Secretary	_____	<i>MARY ANN GONOT</i>

INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

May 15, 2014

Pittsburgh Athletic Association
All members & guests welcome!

Mass & Installation of new Officers, Board Members & new Members will begin at 11:00 am.

Cost - \$30.00 R.S.V.P. due by 5/8/14

INVITATIONS WILL BE MAILED IN APRIL

IF YOU NEED A NEW CHRIST CHILD PIN, PLEASE CONTACT LAURA MERZLAK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As you know, the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is a relatively small organization of women who's goal is to make a positive difference in the life of a child. We would like to share some of the recent letters of thanks we have received for our Christ Child layettes. For all our members who faithfully continue to support our mission through donations, fundraising and volunteer "hands-on" time—we thought it nice to share these notes and let you know that you really do make a difference!

FROM ONE AGENCY.....Please thank the Christ Child Society for the beautiful baby layettes. They are so lovely and so nice to be able to pass them on.

...One layette was given to a teenager at Perry High School. Unbelievable she didn't know she was pregnant and was rushed from school to the hospital in labor.

...Another went to a single Mom with two other children and no help from the father.

...Another layette went to a Mom who has four older children and had not planned to have another.One went to a rape victim. She is 15 years old and getting therapy.

...Another layette was given to Jamie. It is her sixth child and she had nothing for the baby. Please pray for her. She has no money and no parenting skills. They all live in an empty house without hot water. Someone gave her money for the gas bill and she paid her cable bill instead. They also have five cats in the house.

...Last week a woman and her boyfriend were coming to Pittsburgh from Virginia. She had no prenatal care and delivered triplets. The father left when he realized they had three babies. Some people got her into housing. I was delighted to be able to give her the last three layettes.

The Christ Child Society has been such a blessing for these Mothers.

FROM A NEW MOTHER.....to The Christ Child Society

I just want to thank you for the beautiful blue blanket, receiving blankets, sleeper, onezie, etc. It was very thoughtful and kind of you to make a bag full of things for my son, and it was greatly appreciated!

FROM ANOTHER MOTHER..... To The Christ Child Society

While I was at Mercy Hospital delivering my baby this past October, I got one of your packages. I just wanted to say thank you. I love everything in it. It was so nice. I love the handmade blanket, hats and socks. Thank you!

CHRIST CHILD ANNUAL RETREAT

This year we will be trying a different approach to our last few annual retreats. We are going to include our Christ Child retreat with one being held by Fr. Scott Seethaler for the Annual Women's Lenten Conference at Sts. John and Paul Church in Wexford. For those who have never heard Father Scott, he is a bundle of energy and hope to dealing with life on earth! Here is the retreat information:



Saturday, April 12th, Father Scott Seethaler

This year's theme is: *WHEN LIFE SEEMS OVERWHELMING.*

The conference/retreat will take place from 10-2 pm. Registration fee is \$15.00 and all proceeds go to Anna Seethaler Hospital. The day is comprised of singing, praying, fellowship, talks by Fr. Scott and a guest speaker and a snack.

We would like to register as our Christ Child Society group. Contact Marie Lowry or Laura Merzlak for additional information. Please send your check, made payable to "Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh" to Mary Ann Gonot, Treasurer, 1028 Tropical Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. **Checks are due by March 31.**

We are hoping to have a well represented group from our Chapter! Please invite and include your **friends & family.**

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

Edward Schneider
Christine Bierman
William J. Jacobi
Marilyn Honeywill
Jane Leavy

DONOR:

Laura Merzlak
Barbara Fredette
Barbara Fredette
Mary Jo Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Flowers
Mary Jo Kelly

IN MEMORY OF:

Joan Young

DONOR:

Vivian Castiglioni
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chauncey
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Flowers
Cheryl George
Mr. & Mrs. James Johnston
William & Mildred Lindner
Dory & Mac McCrum
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Melotti
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Morse
Robert & Mona Saba
Thomas & Carol Stephenson
Ann D. Talbert

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.christchildsofiypittsburgh.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
Mary Ann Gonot
1028 Tropical Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216**

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

CAMP AIM 2014 *From Molly Kelley*

Camp Aim again will be held at Carlynton High School for six weeks starting June 16th. Children, age 4 thru 21 are eligible to attend. This is a special needs camp which is truly a blessing to have in the Pittsburgh area. This year they are anticipating 150 to 175 campers. Christ Child has been supporting Camp Aim for three years— both financially and physically— by helping out on various special days. In the past members have served pasta one lunch day, helped set up for Prom, and helped on art day with various projects. A “WISH LIST” is included for this year’s camp. If you have “wish list” items to contribute, please bring them to a Christ Child general meeting or call Molly to make other arrangements. If you wish to see more on Camp Aim, please check out their web site at www.campaim.org or call Molly Kelley @ 412.963.7063.

CAMP AIM “WISH LIST” 2014

Gently used board games	Sunglasses	Puzzles
Legos	Ties	Block sets
Playdough	Clothing, including accessories	Storage bins
Card games	(purses, jewelry, scarfs, etc.)	Plastic Easter Eggs
Craft and art sets	Makeup, nail polish	Halloween costumes
Coloring books	Fabric	Pillow cases
Drawing pads	Markers, crayons, colored pencils	Life jackets
Stickers	Toys	Pool games
Books	Electronic games	Kitchen items for Home Ec
Hats	Terrible Towels and other Pitts-	Polyfill
White tee shirts	burgh Sports related items	Musical Instruments **

****AND ANY OTHER ITEMS YOU WANT TO GET RID OF BUT FEEL NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY FIND ANYTHING TO DO WITH!**

ANGEL’S CLOSET *From Molly Kelley*

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our final distribution count for 2013 was 500 coats. The Saturday distributions seemed to reach a good many clients who had not been serviced in the past. 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*

Layettes have not been delivered because of the Christmas holidays and then because of the weather. We currently have layettes in inventory. As soon as this supply is depleted, the layette committee will be contacted for another packing.

MY STUFF BAGS *From Diane George*

A packing was done on Monday, February, 17th. Laura Merzlak, Marian Flowers, Cheryl George and Audrey Friel packed 17 bags which Laura and Marian delivered to the Women’s Shelter. For the *My Stuff Bags*, Cheryl will purchase the items for the personal inventory; Laura will purchase socks and underwear; Marian will purchase pajama’s. Volunteers will be needed in March to sort the current inventory being stored at St. Edwards Church, Blawnox. If you would like to help with this project, contact Laura Merzlak. Please remember the women and children who need the Shelter for their safety in your prayers.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

From Ellen O'Brien, National Board, Program Chair

Your NCCS Board had its Spring Board Meeting February 28, March 1 2014 in Dearborn Michigan. Under discussion was the Biennial Convention 2014 to be held in Phoenix Arizona, September 18 – 20, 2014. Careful planning is going into mini seminars, workshops, etc. that will speak to the needs of the Chapters. All members of Christ Child are eligible to attend, however only 2 voting delegates are permitted per Chapter. Since our Chapter has always had a policy of paying for our 2 voting delegates to attend the Convention and Conference, we are assured of a Pittsburgh presence in Phoenix. It is true that the more members of a Chapter that attend, the more the Chapter will glean from the seminars and networking that will be part of the meeting. Let's think about having more than 2 members from Pittsburgh attend, perhaps with spouses or a friend, and then extend the 'working weekend' a few days!!! Sedona is a beautiful city north of Phoenix, of course the Grand Canyon is north of Sedona, and in Phoenix itself there are many cultural, and sports opportunities available. My husband Fred is coming, and is hoping to play some golf, while I am in meetings.

Chapters will be encouraged to pray for the Canonization effort for Mary Virginia Merrick. The Cause is before the Tribunal in the Archdiocese of Washington DC. Once it passes this examination, the Cause can move to Rome. When invoking Miss Mary's name in prayer for an intercession, one must pray only to her, and document the prayer requests. As a Chapter, let's think about praying to "Miss Mary" and ask her to watch after particular needs.

THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY would like to extend a special thanks to Eugene Herrmann of HERRMANN UNLIMITED for the printing of our invitations for the May Installation Luncheon. He is the husband of Joanne Herrmann, a member of the Christ Child Society.



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY would like to pursue the possibility of creating a scholarship for a needy student. Mary Ellen Ploeger is interested in chairing this project with the help of other Christ Child members. Please contact Mary Ellen (412.519.6789 —cell number thru March 23, and after that date at 412.367.4480) if you are interested in working on this committee.

THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY would like to thank CAROLYN GANNOE of Cochranon, PA., for the very large donation of hand knitted hats in various sizes and colors that will be given to Angel's Closet and Layettes. We are very blessed to have such wonderful people who are willing to support our mission of helping children in need.



Members are asked to make the following addition/changes in their current MEMBERS HANDBOOK:



....NEW MEMBER..... **JOANNE LIVINGSTON**
470 Fairview Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

JEAN KATARINCIC (from November thru May)
310 Sabal Palm Lane
Vero Beach, FL 32963
772.231.4110

JEAN KATARINCIC (from June thru October)
6 White Birch Lane
Barrington, RI 02806
401.289.2044

MEMBERSHIP

Do you have a friend, neighbor, relative who might be interested in receiving an informational packet about the Christ Child Society? The packet includes copies of our last 2 newsletters, our history, and a brochure along with a personal note inviting the addressee to the next meeting or social event. Please call or e-mail me with any names who come to mind.

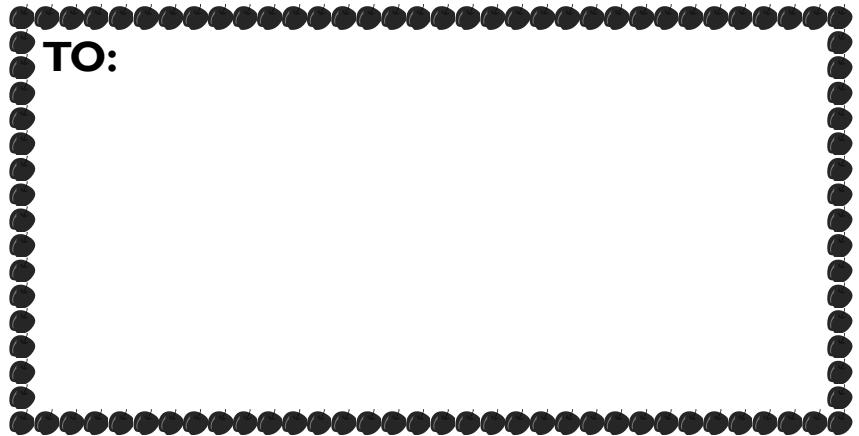
Mary Jo Kelly, 412-661-3933, or mijik33@msn.com

ALL CHRIST CHILD MEMBERS ARE REMINDED.....if you will be working with Angel's Closet or any other venue that involves children, you **MUST** have certification from the Diocese by attending one of the "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" WORKSHOPS. More information regarding these classes and where and when they are held is available on the diocesan website at: www.diopitt.org

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

2014

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 20 | - General Membership Meeting |
| April 12 | - Christ Child Retreat |
| April 15 | - General Membership Meeting (DATE CHANGE) |
| May 15 | - New Officers Installation Luncheon |
| September 18-20 | - National Christ Child Convention, Phoenix, AZ |
| October 11 | - Christ Child Society Red Wagon Fare |

NOTEWORTHY:

- Many thanks to Cheryl George and Kathy Fitzgibbon for serving as Lunch Coordinators for the January General Meeting.
- **The lunch co-ordinators for the March 20th meeting are Molly Kelley and Mary Ellen Ploeger.**
- **The lunch co-ordinators for the April 15th meeting are Mary Jo Kelly and Barbara Fredette.**
- Please remember to bring any items for *Camp Aim* to any General Meeting. If you are unable to bring your items to a meeting, please contact Molly Kelley to make other arrangements.
- The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for June. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by May 20.