



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.

September, 2014

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FATHER KEVIN POECKING

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MARIAN FLOWERS

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PAT SCHIMMEL

Recording Secretary
MARY ANN MCDERMOTT

Corresponding Secretary
MARY ANN GONOT

Treasurer
CHARLOTTE COLLINS

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

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear Members & Friends,

It is our wish that you are all well and enjoying this summer! These haven't been particularly the "hazy, hot & humid" summers of some years past, but we have been showered with sunshine!

Our major fundraiser, the RED WAGON FARE, has kept Suzette Venturini & Pat Schimmel extremely busy these past months. As co-chairs, the undertaking of this affair almost begins immediately following the past year. With the direction of these ladies, all of us have our part to do in achieving the success of the Red Wagon! No job is ever too large when there are lots of hands to complete it!

Perhaps you noticed a mention in your church bulletin regarding the Christ Child Society. Mary McCormick & Mary Jo Kelly have been canvassing the parishes in our Diocese to spread the word about us. They have received calls from prospective, interested individuals. Our website, www.christchildsofittsburgh.org includes some updated information, but we are in need of a person who is able to constantly change information and add to it. Brian Merzlak, son of Laura, is keeping the newsletter portion updated for us. We want to keep the website current and are hopeful that we do not have to pay a professional. Thank you ladies for the efforts to gain new members! A lot of times, just inviting neighbors, friends, and relatives to the Red Wagon or a General Membership Meeting peaks their interest in the Christ Child Society. You are all a lovely group and they don't know what they are missing!

We are looking forward to hearing from Ellen O'Brien following her trip to the NCCS Convention in Phoenix. Not only is Ellen a founding member of our Chapter, she serves on the Board for the National Christ Child Society. Our Chapter is very fortunate to have Ellen and her wonderful insight and leadership qualities to guide us.

The spring appeal brought us \$3,395.00 & for those who contributed in any way, we thank you for your generosity. Unfortunately, the Board felt the need for the appeal and please know that it is awkward to have to ask. "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child"...Mary Virginia Merrick

Our Chapter is now 20 years in the making since becoming chartered. May God Bless each and every one of you who continue the mission of helping children. You and all the past & deceased members remain in our prayers!

In the Name of the Christ Child,

Marian Flowers & Laura Merzlak
Co Presidents

WEBSITE MANAGER NEEDED! Our Christ Child Society is in great need of a website manager. The website is already in place, and the responsibility of the Web manager would be to add information to the website as directed by the Christ Child President/s. We will provide information on how to do this if you are interested in taking on this project! Please contact Marian Flowers or Laura Merzlak for more information.

Red Wagon Fare 2014

Our 17th annual Red Wagon luncheon will be held October 11, 2014 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. PAT SCHIMMEL and SUZETTE VENTURINI are serving 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. *We strongly encourage you and your family and friends to join us that day. The Red Wagon Fare is our only major fundraiser of the year and ALL MEMBERS, ACTIVE AND SUSTAINING, ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT!*



UPDATES....

SAVE THE DATE CARDS AND INVITATIONS *

Save The Date cards have been mailed and our **invitations** will be going out early in September. If you would like an invitation to be addressed to someone specific, please notify Pat or Suzette. We also ask that you please return your reservation card in a timely fashion. ***Please take note that it was necessary this year for us to increase the reservation cost to \$40 per person.***

VENDOR DONATIONS *

Mary Jane Diamantopulos reports that to date donations from vendors number approximately the same as last year.

PURSE RAFFLE *

We are short **one purse** for the Purse Raffle! Please call Cheryl George at 412-367-7238 if you are able to donate. Please call Cheryl as soon as possible, as she will not be at the September General Meeting.

SILENT AUCTION *

Diane Reich has gathered some very lovely items for this auction, including 2 Steeler game tickets, a Pandora bracelet and designer pumpkins!

BAKE SALE (GOURMET DELITE) *

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. If you have any questions regarding the Bake Sale, please contact Patti Smith. *Please have your donations to the Field Club by 10 AM the day of the event.*

BASKET AUCTION DONATIONS *

Our basket auction is currently at 22. Last year we had 29 gifts and we are hopeful that we will again have at least that many. If you are able to contribute to the basket auction, please contact Judy Kern, Pat Maida, or Marie Lowry. Baskets are to be delivered to the Field Club (time TBA) on Friday, October 10, the day before the Red Wagon Fare.

BASKET OF CHEER *

If you have not already done so, please remember to bring your bottle of cheer to the September 25 general meeting. We rely on our members to supply us with a variety of alcohol to fill the basket/s. Please call Molly Kelley if you have any questions.

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE *

Three Grand Prize raffle tickets (for two \$500 gifts) will be included with each invitation. Members are strongly urged to buy or sell these tickets. Grand Prize raffle tickets will also be sold during the Red Wagon. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

*We are not sure what time we can set up at the Field Club on Friday, October 10, so watch your email for notification. As ever, the more hands we have to help set up, the faster the work goes. Please be sure to block **Friday, October 10** for Red Wagon set up. Also, we will need help packing up immediately after the Red Wagon on Saturday, so please be sure to stay around for a short time to help collect red wagons and other items that are used from year to year.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAYMENT OPTIONS AT THE RED WAGON WILL AGAIN BE CASH OR CHECK ONLY.

We hope to see you there!

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:	DONOR:
RICHARD COSENTINO	Margie DiDomenico
KATHLEEN KELLY DIXON	Fusco Family
DOLLY KELLY	Audrey Friel Cheryl George Judy Kern Connie Kunz Pat Maida Rosemary Richards
JANE LEAVY	Margie DiDomenico Judy Kern
ED LUBA	Mary Jo Kelly
SIOBHAN McDONNELL	Mary Jo and Dick Kelly
JOAN YOUNG	Margie DiDomenico Gerald and Anita Feldman Mary Jo and Dick Kelly Judy Kern

DONATIONS TO CHRIST CHILD
FROM:
Gretchen Coyne
Mrs. M. Gloria Grau
Cynthia Leslie
Lucille Morgan
The Rosedale Women's Club

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.

CAMP AIM 2014 *From Molly Kelley*

ARTAPALOOZA 2014!!

Christ Child went as a group to help with Camp Aim twice this summer. Our first trip was for ARTAPALOOZA for some hands on time with the campers. We helped with various art projects including tie-dying and sewing puppets or whatever they wanted for the campers. We then became LUNCH LADIES serving a pasta lunch that our financial donation provided!

Thanks again to all the wonderful donations of clothing, jewelry, art supplies, puzzles and games, hats, ties, and lots of other great things..... Camp Aim really did appreciate it!!



Christ Child members help to serve pasta lunch during ARTAPALOOZA Day at Carlynton High School. Pictured above are lunch ladies: Judy Kern, Audrey Friel, Charlotte Collins, Marian Flowers, and Molly Kelley.

PROM 2014!!

A group of Christ Child Ladies went to the prom early to help with the preparations including making corsages and general decorations. We then attended the dance while watching a BREAK DANCE demonstration and participation by a lot of the campers. Our financial support allowed these very talented people to give the campers a great show!! We also helped assemble the prom pictures that each camper got to take home. Some of our members spotted jewelry and ties that they had donated!! It was a wonderful day and truly a gift to see these special angels have such a great time.... thanks for all your help! !!!!

Our financial help also gave Camp Aim an opportunity to buy an adaptive basketball hoop for the campers in wheel chairs and other extras that the yearly budget could not have provided. Thanks again !!

ANGEL'S CLOSET *From Molly Kelley*

GRAND OPENING..... October 16th, 2014..... Coats, Coats, Coats!

Angel's Closet will open at 10 a.m., on Thursday, October 16, for sorting and sizing. Come early or come at noon to meet the clients. Again this year we will open on two Saturdays at 10 a.m. The first Saturday will be October 25th. The last will be November 22nd. Our other distributions will remain on Thursdays with clients coming from noon to 4:30. Those dates are October 16th, October 30th, November 6th and November 13th. We have lots of coats, but we will start buying again soon!! If you see any pre-season sales please feel free to buy a coat or two. Any size will be fine!! Call Molly @ 412. 963. 7063 if you have any questions.

MY STUFF BAGS *From Diane George*

There has been an interest in some members to do an inventory/packing for "My Stuff Bags" on a Saturday. We will have our first Saturday packing on **September 13th, 10 am, at the St. Edward Social Hall in Blawnox**. If you will be attending, please call or email Marian Flowers at 412-828-7602, marianflowers@comcast.net. You can also contact Diane George at degeorge2009@hotmail.com. If you need directions to St. Edward Social Hall, please call Marian or Diane.

We delivered around 27 bags in May. Another 8 bags for girls (ages 18 months to 8 years) and 12 bags for boys (ages 12 months to 12 years) were delivered on Tuesday, September 2.

The Women's Shelter is very excited to still receive the *My Stuff Bags*. We have decided to do two deliveries a year. One in the Spring/Summer in May and one in the Fall/Winter in October. I want to thank every one who has helped pack and donated items for the children.

There was a layette packing in June and of the 28 layette bags assembled, 25 were delivered to Mercy Hospital. We recently did an inventory of items needed for the next layette packing. The only things needed were socks and bibs, and these were ordered by Diane George. We will have enough supplies to pack 50 layettes— which we are planning to do on Tuesday, September 16.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

From Ellen O'Brien

The 42nd Biennial Convention of the National Christ Child Society will be held *September 18, 2014* through *September 20, 2014* at the Firesky Resort in Phoenix Arizona. I will be attending as a National Board member. I also hope to gather materials that our chapter can use for improving and implementing our programs and mission.

The theme of the Convention is ***Together in Mission: Share, Support, Serve.*** One aspect of this convention is an expansion of the number of mini seminars that will be offered. Topics that these seminars will cover include: Strategic Planning, Board orientation, Social Media (using this tool wisely), Working With and Evaluating partners, Grant Writing Success Stories, 10 Fundraising ideas, Program and Membership Discussion Panel, and Communication Skills for Women. If any one of our Pittsburgh members has a particular interest in one or more of these topics, please let me know and I will do my best to attend and gather information.

This Convention marks the end of my third two year term on the National Board. It has been a great privilege serving and a wonderful learning experience for me personally, and I hope I have made a small contribution to the National effort. If ever any of our members are approached to serve on the National Board, I recommend giving it serious consideration. The time commitment can be somewhat demanding (monthly teleconference meetings, biannual Board meetings at different locations often requiring travel for a couple of days), and attending Conference and Convention.

TO ALL CHRIST CHILD MEMBERS....

FROM MARY McCORMICK

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Have you been unable to participate in the Christ Child Society's service projects due to your work schedule?

- **ANGEL'S CLOSET** will be open two Saturdays this fall, **October 25th** and **November 22nd**, Capuchin Center, Lawrenceville, 10 am to 2 pm.
- Christ Child members will be working on **MY STUFF BAGS**, St. Edwards Church, Saturday, **September 13th**, 10 am to 2 pm. More Saturday dates to follow.

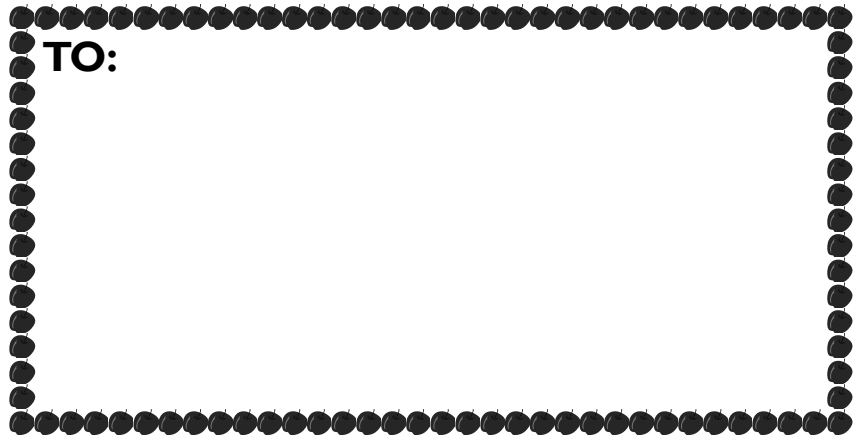
Join in for as much time as your schedule allows.

PLEASE NOTE.....THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND A LISTING OF OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 13 | - <i>My Stuff Bags Packing</i> —St. Edward Social Hall in Blawnox at 10 a.m. |
| September 18-20 | - National Christ Child Convention, Phoenix, AZ |
| September 25 | - General Membership Meeting Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| September 29 | - Board Meeting |
| October 10 | - Set-up for Red Wagon Fare, Pittsburgh Field Club (Time TBA) |
| October 11 | - Christ Child Society Red Wagon Fare |
| October 16 | - Angel's Closet Opens |
| November 1 | - Mary Virginia Merrick's Birthday |
| November 10 | - Board Meeting |
| November 20 | - General Membership Meeting Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |

NOTEWORTHY:

- Many thanks to Charlotte Collins and Suzette Venturini for serving as Lunch Coordinators for the August General Meeting. It was a very nice presentation and the food was delicious!
- Lunch Coordinators for the September 25th General meeting are Mary McCormick, Mary Ellen Ploeger and Carole Gilardi.
- Lunch Coordinators for the November 20th General meeting are Mary Jane Diamantopulos, Pat Schimmel and Marian Flowers.
- The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for December. **Please** submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by November 20.