



# 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, 2015

## Changing of the Guard...

...FROM OUR OUTGOING CO-PRESIDENTS~~

*Dear Members and Friends:*

We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization! As co-Presidents, we "bounced" a lot off of each other these past three years and spent time being thankful for all of you! We have endured many losses and changes within our Chapter during our term and thank you for your support of us and our decision making. In summing up our term, we share this with you:

Dedicated hearts like yours  
Are not so easy to find.  
It takes a special person to be  
So generous and kind.  
To care so much for your fellow man  
Is a quality all too rare.  
Yet you give of your time and talents,  
For all in need to share.  
So thank you for being a volunteer,  
We're privileged to work with you.  
We want you to know how appreciated you are,  
Not just today, but the whole year through.

*(author unknown)*

In the Name of the Christ Child,

*Marian & Laura*

...FROM OUR INCOMING NEW PRESIDENT~~

*Dear Members:*

I am very honored to be the President for the Christ Child Society for 2015/2016. I know I will not be able to fill the shoes of Laura or Marian. Laura and Marian did an amazing job as co-Presidents. They did a terrific job together as our officers. I do promise to do the best I can in maintaining our mission and to remember "Nothing is ever too much to do for a Child". I humbly ask for your prayers in guiding me in this journey. May God Bless all of you for helping to make our Christ Child Society as strong as ever.

In the Name of the Christ Child,

*Diane George*

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FATHER KEVIN POECKING

### OFFICERS

**President**  
DIANE GEORGE

**Vice-President**  
DOTTIE TALARICO

**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

**Advisors**  
LAURA MERZLAK  
MARIAN FLOWERS

### NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN



Laura Merzlak, Marian Flowers and Fr. Poecking



Laura, Marian and Mary McDermott



Laura, Marian and Charlotte Collins

## INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

The installation of our new president, vice president and members was held on May 21st at the Wildwood Country Club. Thank you to **Kathy Fitzgibbon** and **Cheryl George** for offering their time and talents to coordinate this event! We were blessed to begin the day with our Spiritual Director, Father Kevin, offering the mass. In his opening, Father reminded us that "we must witness to the faith that has been passed on to us". The members of the Christ Child Society are dedicated to our faith and practice it without reservation. There is a part in our installation program, upon presentation of the medals, our newly initiated members are reminded to "wear these medals as a reminder of the pledge you have made to give service to the Christ Child". Congratulations and welcome to our new members who received their pins. We look forward to presenting medals to those new members who were not able to be with us.

Fellowship continued with a "candy bar" introduction by Laura and Marian. Our new president, Diane George, was presented with a "Symphony Bar", as she is now the leader of the orchestra! Other smiles came when Father Kevin was presented with a "Snickers" for all the smiles and snickers he gives! The membership was remembered with "Life Savers" for all the help and assistance they gave to Laura and Marian as they served as co presidents.

Cheryl George and Kathy Fitzgibbon provided beautiful rose plants for the centerpieces. Those lucky enough to have a birthday close to May 21st went home with a plant!

Lunch was complete with a spectacular dessert, compliments of Audrey Friel. We were all treated to a toasted almond torte from Oakmont Bakery and thanks to her husband, Jack, it was delivered in one piece! It was wonderful to have a great turnout of members and guests and spend time together.

## NEW CC DIRECTORIES

The new 2015 Christ Child membership directories are now available. Directories were given out to all members present at the Installation Luncheon on May 21. Directories will also be given out at the June 18 General Meeting for those present who have not received them. The remaining directories will be mailed with the new 2015-16 membership renewal forms. A limited number of additional copies is available for a nominal fee. Please contact Mary McCormick for more information.



### \*\*PLEASE NOTE

Please review all your personal information within the directory. If there are any errors, please contact Judy Kern. There are blank pages directly before the By-Laws that offer space for any additions/corrections/changes that you may wish to make.

## 2015-16 NEW MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Membership renewal forms will be mailed in the near future. We ask each member to complete the information in a timely fashion and return it to Mary McCormick before the deadline. Any new member in the 2014/15 Christ Child calendar year will not be required to pay dues for 2015/16.

## GENERAL MEETING DATES

General meetings at Our Lady of Angels Hall have been reserved. All general meetings will be on a Thursday. Please mark these dates on your calendar: July 23, September 17, October 22, and if needed, a meeting is scheduled for November 5 regarding the Red Wagon Fare. There are no general meetings scheduled for August or December. Our first meeting for 2016 will be January 21.

## ANGEL'S CLOSET 2015 Grand Opening..... *From Molly Kelley*

**Angels Closet** should be open for business starting **Thursday, October 8th** at noon. That day will be tag, sort and hang day. Therefore I would ask for committee members to come early that day at **10:00 A.M.** If you can't stay all day that is OK. Please come for a short while to have a snack or two. This year we are planning for three Thursdays and three Saturdays. The schedule isn't set yet based on which Saturdays we can get into the building. Also it will be interesting to see how the parents and children handle the new bike kiosk in front of the building!

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

**Camp Aim** is scheduled to open **June 22nd, 2015**. Again campers will meet for six weeks at Carlynton High School. Christ Child has been supporting Camp Aim for 6 years with hands on help at various activities, collection of materials and financial donations. Hopefully we can continue this for a long time. Camp continues with their list of needs such as art supplies, jewelry, purses, men's ties, sun glasses, dresses for prom, light weight material, games, sports related items, etc. Actually before you discard anything call Molly because what we think as useless or junk.... Camp Aim may find a use for it. We are looking forward to more volunteers to serve this summer. We will again help on arts day serving a pasta lunch, and the prom (dates to be announced). You may volunteer on any of the Camp days by calling Molly Kelley. Please bring your donations to the June 18th general meeting. More information is available at the: [ycamps.org](http://ycamps.org) or google *Camp Aim Pittsburgh*.



## MY STUFF BAGS ..... *From Laura Merzlak*

With the help of many hands on Saturday, April 25, we were able to pack ninety-three **My Stuff Bags** for the Women's Shelter of Pittsburgh. This is the most we have packed since this project was introduced in June, 2013! Thank you to new members, Brittany O'Donnell, Janet Mascaro and Carolyn Green, along with Mary Ellen Ploeger, Cheryl George, Charlotte Collins, Marian's daughter, Deb and grandchildren, and Audrey and Jack Friel!

We depleted most of our inventory with this packing. Our next will be in the fall and we will again be packing on a Saturday. We are always looking for new pj's, socks, and underwear for this project —if you see any good sales! Thanks to Marian Flowers for delivering the bags to the Shelter! Please call me if you have any questions about this project.

## LAYETTES ..... *From Audrey Friel and Pat Schimmel*



**Layettes** were packed on April 16th (prior to the last general meeting at 11:30). Pat Schimmel and several other members packed 50 layettes. On May 29th, fifteen of those layettes were delivered to West Penn Hospital, and ten layettes were delivered to Mary Catherine Scanlon at Pennsylvanians Concerned for the Unborn Child (PCUC). Layette committee members will be notified of our next packing as soon as a date has been set.

## **RED WAGON FARE**

Plans are underway for what is hard to believe is our 18th annual Red Wagon Fare! This year the event will be chaired by **Suzette Venturini**. It will be held on November 7, at the Pittsburgh Field Club. **Megan Kelley**, daughter of our Christ Child member, Molly Kelley, has very kindly agreed to be our guest speaker. Megan will be talking to us about Camp Aim, where she serves in the capacity of Activities Director. In addition to our guest speaker, the day will include lunch and various raffles and prizes.

The following members have stepped forward to serve as committee chairs:

- **INVITATIONS;** *Marian Flowers, Mary Ann Gonot and Laura Merzlak*
- **BAKE SALE;** *Patti Smith*
- **BASKET OF CHEER;** *Molly Kelley*
- **BASKET AUCTION;** *Judy Kern and Pat Maida*

We currently have 13 baskets for our auction. Donors include: Charlotte Collins; Gretchen Coyne and Ceil McCabe; Phyllis Dombrowski, Doris Delserone, Pat McKenna and Joanne Herrmann; Cheryl George; Molly Kelley; Judy Kern; Marie Lowry; Pat Maida; Mary McCormick; Laura Merzlak; Ellen O'Brien; Joyce Orr; and Suzette Venturini. Basket themes include Vera Bradley, Williams Sonoma, Italian Basket, Irish Basket, Spa Package, a Keurig Coffee Machine, and a Steeler Tailgate package. We are hoping to have 25 to 30 gift baskets. If you are able to support this auction, please contact Judy or Pat to let them know. We ask that each basket have a minimum value of \$100.

- **SILENT AUCTION;**
- **GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE;**
- **PURSE RAFFLE;** *Cheryl George*

Two additional purses are needed for the Purse Raffle. If you are willing to donate a purse, please contact Cheryl (412.367.7238) **before** you purchase it. Cheryl would like to make sure we do not have two purses with the same designer. (NOTE: a Coach bag has already been donated.) A purse should have a minimum value of \$100. Cheryl has enough gift cards already pledged.



- **50/50 RAFFLE;** *Pat Schimmel*
- **PUBLICITY;** *Carole Gilardi*
- **RESERVATIONS;** *Dottie Talarico, Angie Slocum, Connie Kunz and Kathleen Lee*
- **CENTERPIECES;** *Charlotte Collins and Mary Ann McDermott*
- **DOOR PRIZES;** *Pat Maida and Judy Kern*
- **SOLICITATION LETTERS;**
- **PHOTOGRAPHY;** *Darlene Bahel (sister of Cheryl George)*

We are looking for a Chair for the **SILENT AUCTION** and the **GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE**. If you are willing to help in either of these two areas, please contact Suzette Venturini or Diane George. Anyone willing to take on either responsibility will have the full support of the membership as well as past chairs for these two areas.

### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

The National Christ Child Society will hold its annual conference this year in Bethesda, Maryland. The conference will begin on Friday, September 25 at 12 pm and will conclude on Saturday, September 26 at 9 pm. We are hoping once again to send a delegation from our Pittsburgh Chapter. Please contact Diane George if you are interested in attending.

# DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

**IN MEMORY OF:      ALTHEA SAVILLE**

FROM:                    Kathy Fitzgibbon  
                               Ellen O'Brien  
                               Joseph Paschel  
                               Mary Ellen Ploeger

**IN MEMORY OF:      GEORGE DIAMANTOPULOS**

FROM:                    Kathy Fitzgibbon  
                               Marian Flowers  
                               Mary Ann Gonot  
                               Judy Kern  
                               Marie Lowry  
                               Edward and Cecilia McCabe  
                               Mary Ellen Ploeger

**IN MEMORY OF:      RUDOLPH MERZLAK**

FROM:                    Beverly Wachter

**DONATIONS TO CHRIST CHILD:**

FROM:                    Mary Ellen Ploeger      - Special intention for Mary  
                               Barbara Fredette

## ***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.christchildsofityofpittsburgh.org](http://www.christchildsofityofpittsburgh.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:**

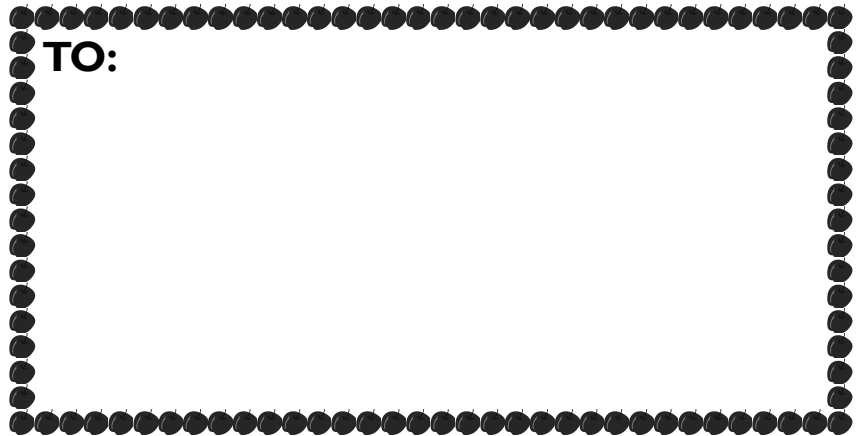
**Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh  
 Charlotte Collins  
 128 Carrie Ann Drive  
 New Kensington, PA 15068**

*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



### Dates to Remember

- |                        |  |                            |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>June 18</b>         | - <b>General Membership Meeting</b>                            | Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| <b>July 23</b>         | - <b>General Membership Meeting</b>                            |                            |
| <b>September 17</b>    | - <b>General Membership Meeting</b>                            |                            |
| <b>October 22</b>      | - <b>General Membership Meeting</b>                            |                            |
| <b>September 25-26</b> | - <b>National Christ Child Conference, Bethesda, Maryland.</b> |                            |
| <b>November 7</b>      | - <b>2015 RED WAGON FARE, Pittsburgh Field Club</b>            |                            |

#### NOTEWORTHY:

- *A very special thanks to **MARY ANN GONOT, PAM DIULUS** and **MARLENE MACDONALD** for providing the lunch for our April 16th general meeting. That meeting was held upstairs in our Christ Child Center due to a funeral mass for one of the Capuchin priests. The hostesses really went above and beyond the call of duty in getting everything from their parking location to the second floor of our Christ Child Center. We had a great turnout, even though the weather was bad and the parking was horrendous! Again our special thanks to Mary Ann, Pam and Marlene!*
- *Hostesses for the June 18 general meeting are **MARY JO KELLY** and **BARBARA FREDETTE**.*
- *Our next scheduled general meeting will be on July 23.*
- *The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for September. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by August 20.*