



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, 2015

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

Dear Members and Friends:

It is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter. The passing of **Don Flowers**, and our dear friend, **Audrey Friel**, has left an empty feeling in our hearts. My nephew, Jim Martin, who was on our prayer list, passed a week after Audrey. He was 53. Please keep their families in your prayers.

I want to thank everyone who attended our General Meeting on June 18th. Our thanks to Mary Jo Kelly and Barbara Fredette for the delicious lunch they prepared for us. After what started out as a crazy meeting schedule, I hope, I finally got everything straightened out. As many of you know, I am not one for long meetings. I want to start on time, 12:30, and keep on the subject at hand. There is plenty of time to socialize before or after the meetings.

I am excited to report Dottie Talarico will be attending the National Christ Child Society's annual conference September 25-26 in Bethesda, MD. I am also happy to report that Dottie and Laura Merzlak will co-chair the My Stuff Bag program. We have so many amazing and caring members that we will accomplish anything we set out to do.

In the name of Christ Child,

Diane George
President

CHRIST CHILD of PITTSBURGH MOURNS AND REMEMBERS

This summer has brought the sorrow of death to four of our Christ Child families. Our member and past Co-President, Marian Flowers lost her husband, *Don Flowers* unexpectedly in early July. Don was a great supporter of Marian's work in Christ Child, helping with the Angel's Closet Saturday distribution days, not to mention supporting Marian's work as Co-President for 2+ years. He leaves Marian, his two daughters, Cindy and Deb, and 5 grandchildren.

Just one week later, in mid-July, our member, *Audrey Friel*, passed away after struggling with health issues for some time. She leaves her husband Jack, 5 children, and 7 grandchildren. Audrey was a gracious and creative lady who contributed handmade pillows every year to the Red Wagon Fare, made the centerpieces for the Red Wagon one year, and was always available to work in Angel's Closet, and on the Layette Committee. We will miss her friendly and warm personality, and helpful presence as a member of our Chapter.

In August, our member Pat Schimmel lost her husband, of 50+ years, *Karl Schimmel* after a prolonged struggle with Alzheimer's disease. For many years, Pat had been his sole caretaker, all the while continuing to live out her faith in various charitable outlets. Karl leaves his wife Pat, his 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Karl accomplished much in his career as a scientist, with several patents to his credit.

And on August 17, 2015, we learned that *Judy Fahey* passed away, after battling ALS for a number of months. Judy brought The Christ Child Society to Pittsburgh when she and her husband, Tom, and family relocated here from Columbus Ohio. She had been a member of Christ Child in Columbus and had loved the mission of the

Society, and missed the work she had done for needy children in that area. In October 1992, she gathered a number of women recommended to her by Catholic Charities, as well as some neighbors, and others she had met at daily Mass, and introduced Christ Child to this group. There was great enthusiasm for this mission, and the wheels were set in motion to organize, get approval from our local Shepard then Bishop Wuerl (now Cardinal Wuerl), and finally receive our charter as a Chapter at the 1994 National Convention in Detroit MI. Judy leaves her husband, Tom, 4 daughters, and 11 grandchildren.

As members of The Christ Child Society, we mourn these losses and pray that Don Flowers, Audrey Friel, Karl Schimmel and Judy Fahey Rest In The Peace of Christ, and that their families find solace in their Faith in Jesus Christ.

RED WAGON FARE

Our annual Red Wagon Fare is only two months away! SAVE THE DATE cards were mailed in August and invitations will be mailed in September. We hope to see you on Saturday, November 7 at the Pittsburgh Field Club! **Suzette Venturini**, RW chair, is working hard to coordinate the events for the day. **Megan Kelley**, Activities Director for Camp Aim, will be our guest speaker. Megan is also the daughter of our Christ Child member, Molly Kelley.

The following are our latest Red Wagon updates:

- **INVITATIONS** *Marian Flowers, Mary Ann Gonot and Laura Merzlak, Co-Chairs.
Will be mailed in September. Ticket price remains at \$40 per person.
- **BAKE SALE** *Patti Smith, Chair
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO 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. ***Please have your donations to the Field Club by 10 AM the day of the event.***
- **BASKET OF CHEER** *Molly Kelley, Chair
Please bring your bottle of cheer to the September 17 or October 22 general meeting. We rely on our members to supply us with a variety of alcohol to fill the basket/s.
- **BASKET AUCTION** *Judy Kern and Pat Maida, Co Chairs.
We currently have 23 baskets for our auction. We usually range from 25 to 30 baskets. If you are interested in donating to the basket auction, please contact Judy or Pat. We ask that each basket have a minimum value of \$100.
- **SILENT AUCTION** *Pam Diulus, Chair
We currently have 4 gifts. Any game tickets (i.e., Steelers, Pirates, Penguins, etc.), theatre tickets, paintings, seasonal décor, any unique items...all are of interest on the Silent Auction. Please contact Pam if you can donate.
- **GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE** Includes a \$1000 cash prize. Three tickets will be included with all Red Wagon Invitations. Members are strongly encouraged to buy or sell these tickets. Tickets will also be available for sale during the event. Please contact Suzette with any questions.
- **PURSE RAFFLE** *Cheryl George, Chair
All purses and gifts cards have been committed.
- **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 **PHOTOGRAPHY** * Darlene Pahel (sister of Cheryl George)
- **SOLICITATION LETTERS** * Mary Jane Diamantopulos

FYIGENERAL AND BOARD MEETING DATES

September 17	General meeting, 11:30 lunch, 12:30 meeting at Our Lady of Angels Hall
October 22	Board meeting 10:00 am
October 22	General meeting, 11:30 lunch, 12:30 meeting at Our Lady of Angels Hall
November 19	General meeting, lunch 11:30, meeting 12:30, Our Lady of Angels Hall.
December	No meeting

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

ANGELS CLOSET 2015...Schedule

THURSDAY, **OCTOBER 8** — Grand Opening
Please come at 10 AM to sort tag and hang.

SATURDAY, **OCTOBER 17** — 10 am to 2 PM.

SATURDAY, **OCTOBER 24** — 10 am to 2PM

THURSDAY, **OCTOBER 29** — Noon to 5PM

THURSDAY, **NOVEMBER 5** — Noon to 5PM

SATURDAY, **NOVEMBER 14** — 10 AM to 2 PM
Last day

(Please come a few moments earlier than our first appointments)



IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION.....

We have received notice from the Capuchin Franciscan Friars that the building which we use for Angel's Closet is scheduled for demolition in April, 2016. They are planning to expand their present friary and build new offices. At this time there are no plans to rent future office space. Therefore, we must find another location for our general meetings and for Angel's Closet. We are hopeful that with prayer and the help of the Diocese, we will be able to find a suitable place to relocate. If you have any ideas or suggestions for relocation, please contact Diane George as soon as possible. Since many of our clients reach Angel's Closet by bus, it is important that we relocate somewhere near a bus line.

MY STUFF BAGS ...*From Laura Merzlak and Dottie Talarico*

A date for our next packing has not been determined. The Women's Shelter was slated for construction and renovation beginning in May and has been delayed. I want to share recent correspondence with Kathi from the Women's Shelter, because of all of you, CHRIST CHILD MEMBERS, who make this possible!

From Kathi.... *I think it's a great idea to switch from outfits to underwear, socks, pj's etc. Naturally construction being what it is, the start has been delayed so we are continuing to accept the items on our Wish List. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is much needed and appreciated.*

This project has been feasible and budget friendly because of members taking the time to find great, quality and sale priced items for our bags! You can always be on the lookout for "mark downs" on any size kids underwear, socks and pj's! In 2013-14, the Shelter served 259 mothers and 248 children, for a total of 15,349 nights. What a startling number. We began our project for this cause in June, 2013 and you have impacted the security of many of these children!

Dottie Talarico has graciously agreed to co-chair this project with me. Thank you Dottie!
Thank you to the Budget Committee and Board for again allocating the \$6,000 for this project.

LAYETTES ...*From Pat Schimmel*

There will be a layette packing prior to the September 17 General Meeting.



Camp A.I.M.
for children with disabilities

Camp Aim Prom Day—July 2015

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
P.O. Box 11324
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324

Dear Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh Members:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1000.00 to Camp AIM 2015. This donation will greatly impact our campers' camp experience and lives. We have used a portion of the money to purchase electronic tablets for our campers to use to work on their academic, social, and behavioral goals. The rest of the money will be used directly to enhance the daily activities for the campers (i.e. materials, presenters, etc.).

It is truly through the kindness and thoughtfulness of people like you all that we are able to give each camper a meaningful and fun summer that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

A huge "Hip! Hip! Camp AIM!" to you all! Thanks again!
Sincerely,
CAMP AIM STAFF



WALKING THE RED CARPET



LIMO RIDES FOR PROM ATTENDEES



CC MEMBERS CREATE PROM DAY COURSAGES

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF: **AUDREY FRIEL**

Charlotte Collins
 Kathy Fitzgibbon
 Cheryl George
 Diane George
 Maryann & Carmon Gonot
 Richard & Iris Johnson
 Joe & Debbie Julian
 Molly Kelley
 MaryJo & Richard Kelly
 Judy Kern
 Connie & John Kunz
 Mary Pat Maida
 Mary McCormick
 Mary Ann McDermott
 Laura & Stan Merzлак
 Roger & Jean Moline
 James & Betsy Sellers
 James Wallisch & Staff ..
 ..(Raymond James Financial)

IN MEMORY OF: **DON FLOWERS**

Lynn & Al Colker
 Charlotte Collins
 Pam & Gregory Diulus
 Kathy Fitzgibbon
 Len & Pat Flowers
 Sandi Flowers
 Larry & Barb Flowers
 Ruth Gee
 Art & Nancy Geist
 Cheryl George
 Diane George
 Carole & Richard Gilardi
 Maryann & Carmon Gonot
 Molly Kelley
 MaryJo & Richard Kelly
 Judy Kern

Connie & John Kunz
 Marie & Bill Lowry
 Mary Pat & Daniel Maida
 Mary McCormick
 Maryann & Pat McDermott
 Laura & Stan Merzлак
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Pasqual
 Nancy Schepis
 Peter & Karen Schepis
 Rosalie Smith
 Patti Smith
 Mary Ann Snyder
 Susan & Kevin Stewart
 George & Sis Wachter
 Fred & Mary Lou White

IN MEMORY OF: **KARL SCHIMMEL**

Cheryl George
 Marie & Bill Lowry
 Mary Pat & Daniel Maida

IN MEMORY OF: **JUDY FAHEY**

Marie Lowry

IN MEMORY OF: **ANN MENTZER**

Patti Smith

IN MEMORY OF: **JOSEPH J. BURKE**

James & Gretchen Coyne

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.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.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

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 17 | - General Membership Meeting Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| October 22 | - General Membership Meeting Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15 |
| September 25-26 | - National Christ Child Conference, Bethesda, Maryland. |
| November 7 | - 2015 RED WAGON FARE, Pittsburgh Field Club |
| December 2 | - Christ Child Christmas Party, Scoglio Restaurant |

NOTEWORTHY:

- Many thanks to **MARY JO KELLY** and **BARBARA FREDETTE** for serving as *Hostesses for the June 18 General Meeting*.
- Our next scheduled general meeting will be on *September 17*.
- The National Christ Child Society will hold its annual conference this year in *Bethesda, Maryland* on *September 25 and 26*. *Dottie Talarico* will represent the CC Society of Pittsburgh at the conference this year. *Thank you Dottie!*
- In addition to our *Layettes, Angel's Closet, Camp Aim, and My Stuff Bags*, our Christ Child Society is looking for additional service projects. If you have any ideas for new projects, please contact *Diane George*.
- The next publication of the *CCS Newsletter* is scheduled for *December*. Please submit all information for this newsletter to *Judy Kern* by *November 20*.