



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.

December 2016

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

In this wonderful season of gratefulness and giving, our Christ Child Society members are a shining example!

I am so personally thankful for our members who work so diligently to make a difference in our Pittsburgh communities. A special thank you and acknowledgement...

...to Molly Kelley and her Angel's Closet committee for putting a smile on so many young Children's faces when they receive their new coats!

...to Pat Schimmel, Charlotte Collins, and the Layette Committee for assembling baby layettes, arranging for and participating in their distribution for newborn infants.

...to all the Red Wagon chairpersons who worked so diligently and selflessly donated so much of themselves. And to all those members who attended and contributed so much to the Red Wagon Fare. We were able to have a successful fundraising event to raise funds to continue our mission of assisting underprivileged children.

...to those chapter members who were present at our Open House at All Saints. They greeted our visitors and shared the Christ Child impact and explained *Who We Are and What We Do!*

With the New Year we will be celebrating our chapter's 25th Anniversary of its beginning. Our future challenges will be to expand our membership and the continuation and growth of our primary service projects with the hopes to impact the lives of even a greater number of underprivileged children! We need to remember that there is no limit to what can be done in the name of love.

Please remember that The Christ Child Society is The Best Kept Secret and we need to be The Best Told Story!

Wishing all of our members a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful New Year!

Dottie Talarico, President

Make a Difference Day 2016—Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

On October 22, 2016, nonprofit service organizations across the country banded together for 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY' and performed acts of service for their communities. The National Christ Child Society suggested that each Chapter have a Layette packing day. Here in Pittsburgh, our Chapter had an Angel's Closet distribution already scheduled. We welcomed children from birth to age 12, and outfitted them with warm jackets, hats and gloves. We served nearly 30 children and are confident that on Saturday October 22, 2016 we had made a difference in the lives of many children.

This was the first year that NCCS had suggested that all Chapters make an effort to be part of this day of service. In future years, CCS of Pittsburgh will be able to plan a Layette packing for that day, in solidarity with all Chapters of NCCS, and in honor of our Foundress, Mary Virginia Merrick.

Protecting God's Children Class

As you may know, All Saints Church has requested that members of our organization attend the "Protecting God's Children" class provided through the Diocese of Pittsburgh Office for the Protection of Children and Young People. We, as an organization, have decided to maintain a copy of each member's certificate received after attending that class.

There is no expiration to this certificate. Therefore if you have already taken this class and you have kept a copy of the certificate, you will not need to take it again.

Please do one of the following depending on your situation:

If you have your certificate, please make a copy and give it to Janet Mascaro at the general membership meeting in January or mail it to her at 1745 Outlook Drive, Verona, PA 15147.

If you do not have a copy of your certificate but have taken the class at any parish in the diocese, you are most likely in the diocesan data base. Please contact your parish's Safe Environment Coordinator. He/She can access the diocesan data base and reprint a certificate for you.

If you do not have a copy of your certificate and the Safe Environment Coordinator of your parish cannot access it for you, please inform Janet and she will contact the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Young People to determine if it can be accessed on their end.

If you have not taken the "Protecting God's Children" class, it is required in our licensing agreement with All Saints that you do so. Class locations and times are available throughout the diocese. Please go online to <http://diopitt.org> and scroll down to "Protection of Children and Youth" and then "Live Training Locations/Registration for Protecting God's Children/Virtus." There you can find classes in the Pittsburgh area and register for one of them. The class is approximately 3 hours long and need only be taken once. Make sure you get a copy of your certificate and then submit it to Janet.

CLEARANCES

At this time the diocese is not mandating that we obtain criminal and child abuse clearances for members of our organization as we do not regularly work alone, supervise, or guide children. However, in the future, we may be required to have state clearances depending on any new youth programs we may institute. If so, we will provide you with directions as to applying for them. They are free for volunteers. State law now mandates clearances every 5 years so many of you may have them but they may be expired.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

January—June 2017 GENERAL MEETINGS

Lunch Coordinators

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Barbara Fredette and Mary Jo Kelly

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Molly Kelley

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Marian Flowers and Diane George

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Carole Gilardi and Pat Schimmel

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mary McCormick and Mary Ann McDermott

NOTE:

Meeting dates are subject to change. Board Meetings will be announced. Meetings will take place at the Christ Child Center at All Saints School at 19 Dewey Street in Etna, unless otherwise noted. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. with the meeting to follow at 12:15 p.m.

Lunch Coordinators are asked to bring lunch for approximately 25-30 members. Paper products, silverware, cups and tablecloths will be provided. All receipts may be submitted to our treasurer for reimbursement.

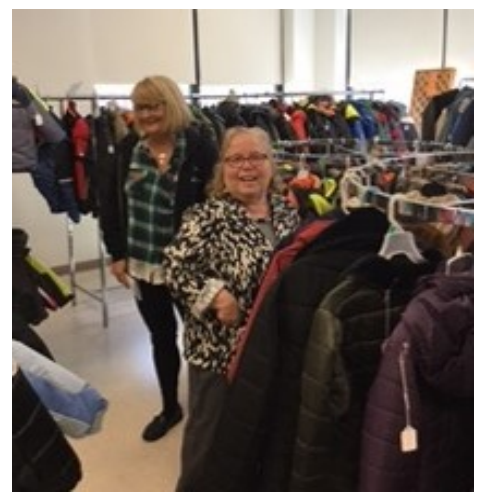
Open House



Our Christ Child Chapter held an Open House on Sunday November 6, 2016 in our center in the All Saints School building. We provided coffee, donuts, juice and water to parishioners after the 10:00 AM Mass. Mary McCormick set up a table to show our projects and demonstrate "Who We Are and What We Do". Parishioners toured the CC Center, and marveled at the beautiful coats we have available to give to our clients, the number of newly packed Layettes, and the My Stuff Bags ready for children who's Moms have fled a dangerous situation.

We had 10+ members and a few husbands attend Mass and then welcomed the All Saints parishioners. Close to 50 people came to see what CCS is all about. They included the Celebrant of Mass, Fr. Gerald Lutz a priest in residence at All Saints, and Bernadette Calvino, Religious Education Director for All Saints. It was a great opportunity to meet the people of All Saints and introduce ourselves.

CCS would like to say big **THANK YOU** to all the members who came and were part of this effort and especially Jim Talarico, Dottie Talarico's husband, who picked up donuts, coffee, juice, and waters. Mary Ann Gonot's husband Carmen, also joined in and helped welcomed our guests. We were paid a surprise visit by Jack Friel, husband of our late member Audrey Friel. The Open House was a great success, and we accomplished our objective of meeting our neighbors, and spreading the word of our efforts as a Christ Child Chapter.





2016 RED WAGON-FARE

Red Wagon Fare—2016

The 2016 Red Wagon Fare, held on October 15 at the Pittsburgh Field Club, welcomed 156 attendees. Our guest speaker for the event was Trooper Robin Mungo of the Pennsylvania State Police. Our profit for this fundraiser totaled \$11,754.72. Copies of the Income and Expense Report for the Red Wagon will be available at the January 19th general meeting. A special thanks to our Committee Chairs, our members, donors, attendees, student volunteers, and all who worked to make our event a success! Another *very special thanks* goes to DARLENE PAHEL, sister of Cheryl George, who served as our photographer again this year. We hope you will enjoy the enclosed Red Wagon pictures shared with us by Darlene!

2016 Christ Child Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held this year on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at Scoglio's Restaurant in Greentree. Mary Ann Gonot and her daughter, Pam Diulus, served as chairs. There were 36 attendees. The lunch included a choice of Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmagianna or Broiled Spots. The meal was topped by a delicious holiday-themed cake. The event included lovely door prizes, a gift raffle, and a personal holiday favor for each guest! A very special thanks goes to Mary Ann and Pam, who came up with clever, creative and fun-filled ways to win the door prizes. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all who attended!



LAYETTES

...From Pat Schimmel

The Layette committee packed 50 layettes after the general meeting on September 15. Ten layettes were delivered to PCUC (People Concerned for the Unborn Child). More layettes will be delivered to Mercy Hospital after the Christmas holiday. We have recently heard from Magee Hospital, West Penn and Birth Right that they, also, are interested in receiving layettes. More updates on layettes will be available in our March newsletter.

MY STUFF BAGS

...From Dottie Talarico

My Stuff Bags has been on somewhat of a hiatus at the present time. We do have some bags that are packed and ready to deliver if they are requested. We are working with a couple of sites and the Family Promise Organization, but the **My Stuff Bags** are only needed on a sporadic basis. We know that the need is there. Our focus needs to be on identifying agencies or sites to connect with so that we can continue to help our Pittsburgh communities. That will have to be one of our New Year's projects! We also need a Chairperson for this committee, so if anyone is interested, please contact me!

MEMBERSHIP

...From Mary McCormick

We would like to welcome our new Christ Child member: **JENNIFER MCKAY, 15 Maplewood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223 (412-719-7554) Birthday: January 28.** Jennifer will join us with Angel's Closet and My Stuff Bags. We look forward to working with Jennifer as we continue our mission of helping children in need! Since our 2017 Member Handbook will not be published until July of this year, please be sure to add Jennifer's information to your current Member Handbook.

ANGELS' CLOSET 2016 ...From Molly Kelley

Our 7 week distribution has come to an end with a total of 280 children being helped to stay warm this winter. Our totals are down but there were a lot of coat drives and giveaways this fall. Perhaps next year we will go back up in number as there were a few communication problems between agencies and our new location that will be better known. We will continue to help through the winter if we are needed. ALL SAINT'S PARISH will call if coats are requested. Please keep in mind anyone can buy coats. If you see bargains after the holidays feel free to JUST BUY THEM IF THE PRICE is \$22.00 or UNDER. We are low on boys size 10/12 and girls sizes 5/6 and 7/8 . Also women and junior girl's sizes are needed. Hats and gloves are also always needed.

Keep your receipts and copy them. Send originals to Diane Donovan for reimbursement. Many thanks to all who helped this year. May you all have a wonderful Christmas Season!

Molly



National Christ Child Convention 2016—Atlanta, Georgia

The Biennial Convention of the National Christ Child Society was held in Atlanta Georgia September 22 – 24, 2016. The theme of the Convention was “Empowering Our Leaders – Sharing Our Impact”. Our Pittsburgh Chapter of CCS sent President Dottie Talarico and Board Member Ellen O'Brien to represent the Chapter.

Sessions were held on understanding what skills are necessary to survive in poverty, the middle class, and the wealthy class, fundraising, communications and membership. The Keynote speaker was Julie Francavilla, a communications consultant from Seattle. She encouraged the delegates to bring the message of “Be Bold” back to their Chapters, think ‘outside the box’, start or try a project that may seem too big too difficult to set in place. Many of the sessions were dedicated to highlighting how Chapters of different sizes, different ages, could implement ideas and initiatives to “Be Bold”.

An update was given on the status of Canonization of Mary Virginia Merrick by Roseann Anderson, a Past President of NCCS. Also, delegates had an opportunity to tour Elizabeth's Garden, one of the projects of the Atlanta Chapter of CCS. This is a garden for children with disabilities named in honor of a teacher who loved children and dedicated her professional life to children. The garden includes plantings specifically for sensory stimulation, and for growing edibles.

The final day of the Convention, Mass was held in the Cathedral of Christ the King, said by Atlanta Bishop Wilton D. Gregory. Each Chapter donates a layette and as part of the Offertory delegates brings them up to the altar in procession. Layettes are given to recipients in the city where the Convention is held. It is a powerful statement of the essence of CCS, offering spiritual and material goods to the Christ Child for His Little Ones.

Dottie and Ellen are very appreciative of the confidence shown by our membership in sending them to the Convention. Please consider going to a Convention or Conference in the future, to learn and to glean ideas for serving the Christ Child.

May They Rest in Peace.....

Members of our Christ Child Society are asked to keep in their prayers the following Christ Child members who have recently passed away:

Mary Lee Schneider

and

Anne Della Sala

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

In Memory of MARTIN S. BURKE From: James and Gretchen Coyne

In Memory of MARY KAY COLLINS From: Elaine Bucci

In Memory of PAT BEIERSCHMITT From: Doris and E.W. Delserone, M.D.

In Memory of DON FLOWERS From: Cynthia M. Rottinghuis (daughter)



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY HAS RECEIVED A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000, WHICH WAS BEQUEATHED TO US IN THE WILL OF OUR RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBER, **PEG HOLL**.

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:

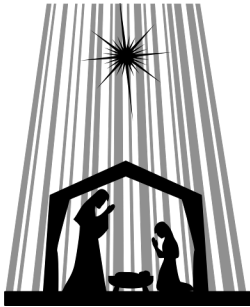
**Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Diane Donovan
538 Springwood Drive
Verona, PA 15147**

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

Thursday, January 19, 2017

General Meeting - 12:15 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 16, 2017

General Meeting

NOTEWORTHY:

- A special thanks to Janet Mascaro and Diane Donovan for serving a lovely lunch at our November 10 General Meeting.
- Our next General Meeting to be held at our Christ Child Center will be on Thursday, January 19. Barbara Fredette and Mary Jo Kelly have volunteered to be our lunch hostesses.
- A very special thanks from the Christ Child Society to Darlene Pabel, sister of Cheryl George, who served again as our Red Wagon photographer this year. We sincerely appreciate her willingness to take and share all the wonderful Red Wagon pictures with us!
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter is for March. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by February 24.