



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 2016

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REVEREND JEREMY MOHLER

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Advisor
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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear Members and Friends,

I wish to begin by congratulating our new board members, *Janet Mascaro* and *Diane Donovan*, and welcoming our two newest members of our chapter, **JOAN DRISCOLL** and **MELISSA MONARKO**. I look forward to working with our board and all of you for the continued success of the mission of the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh.

Thank you to Cheryl George and Kathy Fitzgibbon for organizing our Installation Luncheon. And to Ellen O'Brien for arranging for Fr. Thom Miller, who celebrated the Mass and delivered the invocation. Everyone who attended the luncheon enjoyed not only a beautiful afternoon at Wildwood Golf Club, but a wonderful lunch with a tremendous group of women.

Unfortunately, Fr. Kevin Poecking will no longer be able to continue as our Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Kevin's duties at Slippery Rock University and the distance from Pittsburgh prevent him from being our advisor. Bishop Zubik will appoint a new Spiritual Advisor for our chapter. We thank Fr. Kevin for his years with us.

I am excited about this upcoming year. We have found a wonderful new home at All Saints School in Etna and have been welcomed by Fr. Gretz and the staff at All Saints.

Monthly organizational meetings are already being scheduled for the *The Red Wagon Fare*. Our board has begun to explore fundraising ideas and the possibility of expanding our existing programs to further our commitment of helping children who are in need.

There is much to be thankful for. I am very fortunate to be a part of this group and I look forward to working with all of you for a very successful year.

Dottie Talarico, President

BISHOP ZUBIK APPOINTS NEW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

We have recently been notified that Bishop Zubik has granted permission for the **REVEREND JEREMY J. MOHLER** to serve as Spiritual Advisor to the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh, effective immediately. Fr. Mohler currently serves as Parochial Vicar at Saint Bonaventure Parish, Glenshaw. We welcome Fr. Mohler and look forward to his assignment as our Spiritual Director!

RED WAGON FARE

The 2016 Red Wagon Fare will be held on Saturday, October 15 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Diane George, Chair, along with Committee Chairs and anyone wishing to help with planning, will meet at our new location (All Saints) once a month from now until October to discuss ways to improve and execute this major fundraising event. Emails will be sent out reminding members of the meetings. As mentioned in the March, 2016 Christ Child newsletter, we have already made changes to the design of our PURSE RAFFLE, and we are also making a change to the BASKET OF CHEER RAFFLE.

Recently, Diane George, Cheryl George, Molly Kelley and Ellen O'Brien met with the coordinator at the Pittsburgh Field Club and some new and exciting ideas were presented. We discussed the locations of our table set-ups and the possibility of asking one of our members to volunteer as a speaker. The speaker could share her enthusiasm for the CCS, and let everyone know how terrific and rewarding being a member can be. Pat Schimmel will introduce our audience to our current Layettes Program. A time-line for the specific raffles and the presentation of speakers will be prepared. There are so many members that have great ideas and Diane hopes the members will step forward to email and share any suggestions or ideas they may have.

Please make note of the following information and **special requests** from the Committee Chairs. **Please keep in mind that the RED WAGON FARE is our ONLY major fundraising event of the year.**

BAKE SALE - Chair/Contact PATTI SMITH

ALL MEMBERS will again be asked to bring an item 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.

BASKET AUCTION - Chair/Contact JUDY KERN and PAT MAIDA

FYI There will be a sign-up for baskets/gifts at our June 16 General Meeting. If you are unable to attend this general meeting but would like to donate, please contact Judy or Pat to let them know. We are suggesting that members who are willing to donate to the Basket Auction begin planning their donation now. We ask that the basket/gift has a minimum value of \$100.

We usually have between 25 and 30 baskets. Possible themes can include lottery, sports, food/ethnic, sports, household, cooking/baking, scrapbooking, pet related, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, children, personal and family services, a combo of any.....whatever creative ideas you wish to present!

BASKET OF CHEER - Chair/Contact MOLLY KELLEY

FYI This year we are changing the Basket of Cheer Raffle. We will be selling individual tickets for \$10 and each purchased ticket guarantees a win of a surprise bottle of liquor or wine.

Although we are trying something new this year, we must still rely on liquor donations from our generous members! As in the past, if you are able to help, please bring your donation to any general meeting or call Molly for pick-up arrangements.

CENTERPIECES - Chair/Contact MARILYN DABKOWSKI and DIANE REICH

COACH PURSE RAFFLE - Chair/Contact CHERYL GEORGE

FYI The Coach Raffle will be moving to the Field Club's Sun Room for this year, in the area formerly used for the Silent Auction. A big "thank you" to Diane Reich and to all who have donated money to offset this year's Purse Raffle. Purse Raffle donation checks are still gladly accepted and can be made payable to the Christ Child Society and mailed to Diane Donovan, Treasurer.

Props are needed. If anyone has a "coach" —plastic or metal— large or small, please call Cheryl.

DOOR PRIZES - Chair/Contact PAT MAIDA and JUDY KERN

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE - Chair/Contact MARY ANN MCDERMOTT

FYI Grand prize raffle will be a \$1000 prize. Tickets will be \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

20 TIMES YOUR MONEY RAFFLE - Chair/Contact MARY ANN MCDERMOTT

50/50 RAFFLE - Chair/Contact CHARLOTTE COLLINS

INVITATIONS - Chair/Contact DIANE GEORGE

FYI Currently in design process. Finished invitations will be mailed in September.

PROGRAMS - Chair/Contact DIANE GEORGE and PAT SCHIMMEL

PUBLICITY - Chair/Contact CAROLE GILARDI

Newspaper, TV, or radio contacts are needed to forward our publicity. If you know of anyone we can contact, please call Carole.

REGISTRATION - Chair/Contact DIANE DONOVAN and JANET MASCARO

RESERVATIONS - Chair/Contact MARIAN FLOWERS, MARY ANN GONOT, LAURA MERZLAK

SILENT AUCTION - Chair/Contact PAM DIULUS and THERESA MAGNOTTA

FYI The Silent Auction will be located this year in the area formerly used by the Purse Raffle.

We are in need of game tickets for the PITTSBURGH STEELERS, PENGUINS, and/or PIRATES. These are of considerable interest to the silent auction. If you have access to tickets or know of someone who may be able to donate, please contact Pam or Theresa. Theater tickets, paintings, seasonal décor, any unique or specialty items are also desired. Please contact Pam or Theresa if you have any questions.

SOLICITATION LETTERS - Chair/Contact MARY JANE DIAMANTOPULOS

FYI In early May, 38 solicitation letters/emails were sent to our listing of RW vendors. We have already received some of our usual replies from the cultural district. During the last two years, some restaurants and small gift shops were added with only one new acknowledgment.

If you are a frequent customer of a store/vendor or know of someone who may be willing to contribute an item, a service, a restaurant gift certificate, etc., please contact Mary Jane. We would like to add new names to our solicitation list every year. All donors will receive a tax-deductible form.

FYI The beautifully designed **NOTE CARDS** created by **Barbara Fredette** will also be available for sale at our Red Wagon Fare.

News from Nationals

The National Christ Child Society has announced that the 2016 National Christ Child Society Convention will be held at the Marriott Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia from September 22-24, 2016. This year's theme will be **EMPOWERING OUR LEADERS: SHARING OUR IMPACT**. The convention experience provides many rewarding educational and networking opportunities. Please log on to NCCS President Anne Kelly's blog where you will find news from our National level. <http://blog.nationalchristchild.org>

ANGELS' CLOSET ...From Molly Kelley

We have a lot of work to do before the 2016 opening of Angels' Closet at our new home. I am hoping that we can get it organized in July. I will notify the committee when the dates are chosen to come to tag and hang the coats and sort accessories. **WE HOPE TO OPEN IN OCTOBER.** We also are planning an **OPEN HOUSE** for the agencies and nearby parishes and neighbors at **ALL SAINTS in ETNA. MORE TO FOLLOW IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER. THANKS TO ALL!**

CAMP AIM ...From Molly Kelley

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Camp Aim 2016 will open for 6 weeks beginning June 13th. The Christ Child volunteers have been asked to help on **JUNE 24TH..... ARTAPALOOZA DAY** and **JULY 19th..... PROM DAY.** If you are planning on coming please let Molly know a couple days before the event. Volunteers are welcome any day camp is open as long as you let me know ahead of time so I can notify them. Please see the enclosed Camp Aim schedule. **CHRIST CHILD AGAIN CONTRIBUTED a \$1,000.00 DONATION TO CAMP.** This money will go directly to the campers to help pay for special programs and supplies they need. **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELP !**

LAYETTES

...From Pat Schimmel

Theresa Magnotta and Mary Ann Gonot delivered 15 layettes to Mercy hospital in May. We have received a request from Mary Catherine Scanlon (*People Concerned for the Unborn Child*) for more layettes. New supplies have been ordered and a packing will take place sometime in June. Charlotte Collins will be ordering layette supplies.

MY STUFF BAGS

...From Laura Merzlak

Since the last newsletter, I have been able to deliver to another Shelter. A delivery of 30 bags was made on April 28 to the "VOICe, Victim Outreach Intervention Center" who have a shelter for women and children in the Cranberry Township area. Although it sits in a serene and beautiful setting, it is heart wrenching to think of the women and children housed there in order to escape abuse. If you are interested in learning more about this Agency, a website is available for viewing at www.voiceforvictims.com.

An additional delivery was made by Diane George to the Hope Center in Tarentum. They were very thankful for everything the Christ Child has provided for the children.

We still have approximately 30 packed bags available for any other Agencies that may need them. Please contact me if you have any questions. I will be reviewing this project over the summer in order that we can continue to follow Mary Virginia Merrick and "nothing is ever too much to do for a child".

MEMBERSHIP

...From Mary McCormick

The 2016-17 membership dues forms were recently mailed to all members. Mary McCormick, membership Chair has asked that all dues and completed forms be returned to her no later than **JUNE 24**. Members are asked to complete every line of the form, regardless of whether or not there are any changes. Dues remain at \$50 for active members and \$75 for sustaining members. All members are asked to review the responsibilities listed for the membership level they choose.

Installation Luncheon

The 2016 Christ Child Installation Luncheon took place on Thursday, May 12 at the Wildwood Golf Club in Allison Park, with thirty two members attending. We were very pleased to have Fr. Thom Miller, Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, O'Hara, as the celebrant of our Mass. A special thanks to Fr. Thom as well as to Cheryl George and Kathy Fitzgibbon for planning the event!



Fr. Thom Miller, celebrant, with Ellen O'Brien



L to R.....Diane George, 2015 President, with 2016 Officers, Diane Donovan, Treasurer, Janet Mascaro, Vice-President, and Dottie Talarico, President



Presentation of Christ Child pin to new member, Joan Driscoll

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE....

We are very saddened to hear of the passing of SYBLE SHADLE, a former active member of our organization who passed away last October. Syble was a lovely lady whose company we enjoyed. She served on our telephone committee as well as the Red Wagon Committee (Purse Raffle) for a number in years. We ask our members of the Christ Child Society to please remember Syble in their prayers.

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

In Memory of DAVID CASASENT

From: Paula Casasent

In Memory of ANDREW STAURSKY

From: Mr. & Mrs. Francis Halbedl
Maryann & Carmen Gonot
MaryJo & Richard Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. William Lowry
Cheryl George
Patti Smith
Mary Pat Maida
Marian Flowers



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:

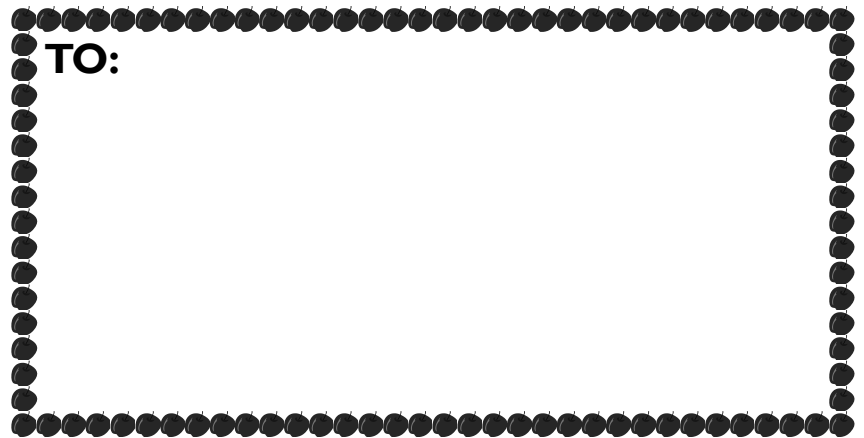
Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Diane Donovan
538 Springwood Drive
Verona, PA 15147

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| June 16 | - Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M., Lunch at 11:30 and General Meeting at 12:15 |
| August 10 | - Red Wagon Meeting 10:00 A.M. (ALL SAINTS) |
| August 18 | - Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M., Lunch at 11:30 and General Meeting at 12:15 |
| September 15 | - Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M., Lunch at 11:30 and General Meeting at 12:15 |
| October 7 | - Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M., Lunch at 11:30 and General Meeting at 12:15 |
| October 15 | - 2016 RED WAGON FARE , Pittsburgh Field Club 10:30 AM |

NOTEWORTHY:

- A special thank you to **Cheryl George and Kathy Fitzgibbon** for planning our lovely Installation Luncheon on Thursday, May 12.
- If any member is interested in serving on the National Christ Child Society Board, please contact Dottie Talarico.
- A special thanks to **Darlene Pahel**, sister of Cheryl George, who has agreed to serve as our Red Wagon Fare photographer again this year.
- *The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for September. This publication will include all last minute details of the October 15th Red Wagon Fare. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by August 20.*