



# 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.

March 2016

### **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

## OUR NEW HOME..... ALL SAINTS PARISH, ETNA

Early in the fall of 2015, Christ Child received news that we would have to move from our home in the former St. Augustine High School. The Capuchin Friars have plans for a new building on the site. A search for a new home was begun. The hope was that we could find something that would be accessible to our clients (on a bus route, or easy to find via other transportation) and our members alike (first floor, storage space, adequate parking and meeting space). Lead by Mary Jo Kelly, many 'feelers' were put out looking for a space that fit our needs. The search included letters to pastors, realtors, asking friends and family. The Diocese Property Planning office was contacted and gave several suggestions. One of those sites suggested was to look into the former All Saints Parish School building in Etna.

Fr. Jim Gretz, Administrator of All Saints, agreed to show us space in the building. Mary Jo Kelly, Ellen O'Brien, and Fred O'Brien visited the building, the room available, and another room that can be used for meetings. With no hesitation, both Mary Jo and Ellen felt this space was perfect for Christ Child, and agreed to go forward with the rental process. It met our needs, including being on the first floor, plenty of parking, on a bus line, adequate storage space, and an affordable rent. The parish council and Fr. Jim agreed to the rental, the Diocese agreed, and papers were signed by all parties. We had our new home!!

Wednesday March 2, 2016 was moving day! Molly Kelley spent many hours researching movers, and engaged the most economical firm. She and Bob Kelley met the movers at the former site and supervised the move to All Saints. Many of the CCS Board members, and other members met at the site, and supervised the move in process. With many helping, things were put away and Christ Child was on its way to serving needy children. There is still work to be done to get the room ready for layette packing and Angel's Closet this coming fall. On Thursday March 17, 2016, the first meeting of Christ Child was held in the new space, and the rest of the membership got their first view of the new space.

A heartfelt thank you to all who worked to find this new space, organize and help pack for the move, and with the move in process. The office staff at All Saints has been very welcoming and helpful. Thank you Fr. Jim Gretz, along with the office staff Gerry Ferraro and Shirley Schmict, our friends at All Saints. We hope for many many years of mission collaboration at All Saints.



**LAST GENERAL MEETING**  
Our Lady of the Angels Auditorium, January 21, 2016

**Moving Day, March 2, 2016**



# Our New Location...



**All Saints School, Etna**



**All Saints School Entrance**



**Our new General Meeting Room**



**Sign reads....  
Welcome to the  
Angel's Closet**



**CC Members with All Saints' office staff, Gerry and Shirley**



**Fr. Jim Gretz, Administrator of All Saints, with  
CC Members**



**Moving in**



**Looking organized!**

## President's Message

*Hello my fellow Christ Child members.*

I hope all of you had a wonderful and blessed Easter. As I am writing this I am in California with my "West Coast Family". I will soon no longer be your President. Dottie will be serving as President starting in May. I know she will do a terrific job and wish her the very best in her reign as President. I would also like to welcome our new Vice President, Jan and our new Treasurer, Diane. I know they will do a great job as our new officers. I thank you for stepping up and helping us to continue making the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh a very special place. I would like to thank my officers, the Board and all the members of the Christ Child Society for their help and understanding. I am very excited about co-chairing the Red Wagon Fare with Pat Schimmel and getting started on the RW for 2016. May God's peace and blessings be with all of you.

*In the Name of the Christ Child, Diane George*

## June 2016 New Slate of Officers

The following nominations were made and approved by those in attendance at our March 17, General Meeting:

PRESIDENT:	Dottie Talarico
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Janet Mascaro
TREASURER:	Diane Donovan
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Mary Ann McDermitt
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Mary Ann Gonot

We are *very grateful* to the above officers for serving in these positions, and we pledge our support as we join with them to continue our mission to serve the needy children in our area. An Installation Lunch will be planned sometime in May. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

## 2016 Red Wagon Fare

After considering several different locations for our event, the Board has decided that we will once again host our annual Red Wagon Luncheon at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Please mark your calendar for the 2016 Red Wagon Fare on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15**. DIANE GEORGE will serve as our Red Wagon Chair along with the assistance of PAT SCHIMMEL. *Beginning with April, monthly meetings will be held for all committee chairs and for any other interested members who wish to help with the planning process.* An email will notify you when the next planning date has been set.

This year we hope to add some new things and to possibly change the location of some of our venues. We already have an American Girl doll donation and we are considering the addition of a "holiday boutique" with homemade items for sale. One change already in place involves the *Red Wagon Purse Raffle*. This past February, Cheryl George, Pat Maida and Judy Kern made a trip to Grove City Coach Outlet and bought 10 purses ....along with some wallets, scarves and wristlets.... for what we are going to call our new **COACH BONANZA RAFFLE**. Although we will no longer be asking members to donate purses OR restaurant gift certificates, we still **absolutely** need your support with cash donations to defray the cost of the items purchased. We are asking our members, including those who have donated purses or certificates in the past, to make a cash donation. We are suggesting \$50 to \$100, or whatever amount you can, to help us in this effort. Please make your check payable to the Christ Child Society with the notation "Coach Raffle" and mail it to *Charlotte Collins, 128 Carrie Ann Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068*. Cheryl would like to thank everyone for their generosity in the past and she is hopeful they will help her out again this year. We hope this new idea will spark a new interest in this venue. Please send your donation as soon as possible!

It's also not too early to plan a theme for your basket if you are donating to the Basket Auction. This year we hope to include a few children's baskets and we already have a commitment for a boy's basket. A possible new theme that we have not had before is a "pet" basket which could include assorted pet items of your choice. If you already have a theme in mind, please contact Judy Kern to let her know. We hope to keep members up-to-date on themes that are selected.

Also keep in mind our Silent Auction. Tickets to any sporting events as well as paintings and unique gifts make wonderful additions to this auction. Please contact Pam Diulus for more information.

We trust that everyone will step forward to support our 2016 Red Wagon Fare...our only major fundraiser of the year. Please know that we also look forward to any suggestions or new ideas that you can share to make our Fare a huge success!



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

Angel's Closet is now officially located in Etna at our new All Saints School location. Although all the coats and racks have been transferred in, there is still much organization that will need to be done. Our June newsletter will include a more detailed update of our inventory and needs for our Fall Angel's Closet season.

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

The 2016 Camp Aim will be held again at Carlynton High School from June 13 to July 22. I will email updates to our membership as to the specific dates that we can be of service. Please save any of the following items that you might be getting rid of, since the campers will put them to good use!

Block sets	Drawing pads	Makeup	Scarfs
Books	Electronic games	Markers	Stickers
Card games	Fabric	Nail Polish	Storage bins
Clothing	Gently used board games	Pillow cases	Sunglasses
Colored Pencils	Halloween costumes	Plastic Easter eggs	Terrible Towels or items..
Coloring Books	Hats	Play Dough	..Pittsburgh sports related
Craft and art sets	Jewelry	Purses	Ties
Crayons	Legos	Puzzles	Toys
			White T-shirts

You can bring items to any general meeting since we now have a storage area for them. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Kelley.

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

A packing was held on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and with great help, we completed 79 bags to be delivered to the Women's Shelter of Pittsburgh. Within 2 ½ hours, Carolyn Green, Janet Mascaro, Diane Donovan, Mary McCormick, Pat Schimmel, Charlotte Collins, Marian Flowers, and Dottie Talarico depleted our inventory! After the packing, we received notice from the Shelter that they are unable to accept any bags at this time due to construction and space constraints. We are looking for alternative agencies for possible deliveries. If you have any suggestions, please call Laura, 724-934-8973. We will pack in the fall, but in the meantime, please be on the lookout for pajamas and socks in any size if you find a good sale! We began this project in June, 2013, and have packed 375 bags! What a wonderful way to continue the work of Mary Virginia Merrick and thank you to our wonderful Members!!

## LAYETTES ...*From Pat Schimmel*

Our supply of items for our layettes is very limited. Now that we are in our new location, we will take inventory and orders will be placed for items that are needed. An email will be sent to all Layette committee members giving notice of the next packing date.

## MEMBERSHIP ...*From Mary McCormick*

We are very happy to welcome the following two members to our Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh:

**JOAN DRISCOLL** 115 Rodgers Drive West, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412-828-1669)  
**MELISSA MONARKO** 1317 Fox Hunt Road, Cheswick, PA 15024 (724-448-0869)

Our membership looks forward to including these ladies as we strive to continue our mission of help children in need! Since a new membership directory will not be published until the summer of 2017, please make note of the above info in your personal Christ Child directory. Also please make note of the following email change for Ellen O'Brien: ehobrien44@gmail.com

If you have any changes to your personal information, please notify Judy Kern.

## CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY...

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Laura Merzlak and her family on the passing of her dad, ANDREW STAURSKY SR., on March 11th. During this holy season of Easter, we offer our prayers that he may rest in the peace of Our Lord.

# A Very Special Note of Thanks.....

★ Our Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh would like to say a special *thank you* to **FRED O'BRIEN** for all his time and efforts to secure a new home for our organization. We are thrilled to be at All Saints School and we look forward to many successful years serving the needy children of our area at our new location. A special thank you also to Ellen O'Brien, for all the updates on our new home as well as the wonderful pictures included in this newsletter. Another special thanks goes to Mary Jo Kelly and Molly and Bob Kelley for their most important part in finding and settling our new home!

★ We would also like to extend a special *thank you* to **MEGAN MAIDA**, daughter-in-law of Pat. Megan and her husband, Bob, hosted a birthday party for their two year old son in January. In lieu of a gift for their son, guests were asked to bring a pair of pajamas or a child's book that would be donated to Christ Child's *My Stuff Bags* program. What a most kind and thoughtful gesture! Many thanks to Megan and all her guests for the lovely donations!

## DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

### In Memory of **DAVID CASASENT**

From: Barbara Fredette

### In Memory of **NORA MCMAHON**

From: Ceil McCabe

### In Memory of **DR. GREG HOYSON**

From: Laura and Stan Merzlak



### General Donations

From: William and Marian Adams  
Eileen Benec-Bohan, Trustee of the Benec – Bohan Survivors Trust

## 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](http://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

- April** - **General Meeting**—To be announced
- April** - **Red Wagon Meeting**—To be announced
- May** - **Installation Luncheon**—To be announced
- October 15** - **Red Wagon Fare**

#### NOTEWORTHY:

- A special thank you to **Kathy Fitzgibbon** and **Cheryl George** for serving as lunch hostesses at our last general meeting at Our Lady of the Angels on January 21, and to **Janet Mascaro** and **Diane Donovan** for serving as the hostesses at our first general meeting at our new location, All Saints on March 17!
- If any member is interested in serving on the National Christ Child Society Board, please contact Dottie Talarico.
- Carole Gilardi* has agreed to serve as our PR contact for our 2016 Red Wagon Fare. Carole is looking for any newspaper, TV, or radio personnel that we can target for sending Red Wagon news. If you know of anyone we can contact, *please* call Carole.
- The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for June. This newsletter will be a very important source of information relative to our Red Wagon Fare and our participation in Camp Aim. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by May 20.*