



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 2016

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As I begin to write this newsletter article, I can't help but think how the season of Fall is upon us. The children are all back in school, the weather is beginning to change, it is getting darker earlier in the evening, mums are now out on doorsteps, and Halloween is everywhere in the stores! Fall is an extremely busy time for all of us in the Christ Child Society. Molly has been very busy in our new room getting all of the coats, hats and mittens ready for distribution and all of the agencies have been notified that Angel's Closet will soon be "open for business."

Our layette packings and distributions continue and our Chapter will honor Mary Virginia Merrick on the occasion of her 150 birthday by participating in "Layettes of Love", a National Christ Child Society *Make a Difference Day*. Our members will be distributing coats and participating in a layette packing as our service to "make a difference".

Our Red Wagon Fare committee chairpersons have been very busy and hard at work to bring us yet another successful Red Wagon Fare. Please remember that as members of CCS we **all** need to work together and contribute to assure that our only fundraising event of the year is very successful. Please volunteer wherever there might be need. I encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us for a very enjoyable lunch and a fun afternoon to support The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh.

Ellen O'Brien and I will be attending the National Christ Child Society Convention in Atlanta, September 22 to 24, 2016. I am really looking forward to sharing all of the wonderful ways that our chapter's volunteers have made a difference in a child's life. I am sure that Ellen and I will have much to report on our return. I am proud to represent our Pittsburgh chapter and all of our dedicated members.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Red Wagon Fare on October 15th!

Dottie Talarico, President

A Message From Father Kevin~

I was very happy when I learned that Bishop Zubik appointed Father Mohler to the Christ Child Society as your next Spiritual Director. I very much enjoyed being part of the Christ Child Society for over eight years. It is a wonderful organization and blessing to our local community for those in need. When I learned of the dates for the new members and officer installation, as well as the Red Wagon Fare, I was sad that there were already conflicts with those dates on my calendar. In prayer, I realized that because of my distance and schedule, it was time for me to ask Bishop Zubik that another take my place so that CCS might have a new spiritual advisor for this year's events. I've spoken with Father Mohler about his new assignment and I'm confident he will be a great Spiritual Director. If you haven't met him already, I'm sure the Society officers will welcome him as they did me. Whenever I was able to participate with CCS, I was grateful for those who welcomed me, prayed with me, laughed at my jokes and encouraged me. I will miss you all. Please feel free to visit me in Slippery Rock anytime and I ask for your prayers for me, my parish and the college students here. I will continue to pray for the Christ Child Society and the success of your work "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

In Christ's love, *Father Kevin*

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND JEREMY MOHLER

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

RED WAGON FARE



The Red Wagon Fare, our major fundraiser of the year, is fast approaching! We are hoping that **Saturday, October 15, Pittsburgh Field Club**. . .is noted on everyone's calendar! The support of **all** our members, *active and sustaining*, is paramount to the success of our Red Wagon Fare. This year we are very pleased that **Trooper Robin M. Mungo** of the Pennsylvania State Police will be our guest speaker. Trooper Mungo spoke to us several years ago, and we are all looking forward to having her join us again!

The committee chairs have been organizing the events for that day, and the following includes the most recent updates.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL (AND ACCESSORIES) RAFFLE

New to our Red Wagon Fare this year is the **American Girl Doll** raffle. The raffle will include the doll "LEA" (who will be retiring in December) along with a cookbook, matching aprons for child and doll, and a Halloween outfit. The raffle will be set up in the Sun Room and tickets will be sold for \$5 each or three for \$10.

BAKE SALE - Chair/Contact PATTI SMITH

ALL MEMBERS are asked to bring an item for the bake sale. Goodies of all types are welcome. Cookies will be needed for the "Cookie Walk" and will be sold for \$5.00 a dozen. Homemade jams and jellies are always in demand, and gluten free and diabetic items are welcomed. Our bake sale history indicates that whole pies and cakes do not sell well. Although we have enough boxes, Patti will need clean, new, unused **plastic grocery bags**. If you are able to supply these, please contact Patti. **MOST OF ALL!!!!**.....all members and guests are strongly encouraged to**BUY! BUY! BUY!** the bake sale items!

BASKET AUCTION - Chair/Contact JUDY KERN and PAT MAIDA

We have an excellent number and line-up of baskets this year! Donors include Barbara Fredette, Mary Jane Diamantopulos, and Mary Jo Kelly, Angie Slocum, Connie Kunz, and Kathleen Lee, Marian Flowers and Mary Ann Gonot, Diane Donovan, Janet Mascaro, and Carolyn Green, Laura Merzlake, Mary Ann McDermott, Judy Kern, Pat Maida, Marie Lowry, Phyllis Dombrowski, Doris Delserone, Joan Driscoll, Joanne Herrmann, JoAnn Livingston, and Pat McKenna, Charlotte Collins, Cheryl George, Ellen O'Brien, Ann Hart, Ceil McCabe and Gretchen Coyne, Molly Kelley, Dottie Talarico, Mary McCormick, Joyce Orr, and Suzette Venturini. Some of the themes include Toys R Us, Soup & Such, Chocolates, Crab Boil, Halloween, Christmas, Fall, American Girl Back to School, Child's Arts & Crafts, Mr. and Mrs. Snowman, Floral Money Bouquet, Talbot's, Camping, Legos, Irish Basket, Restaurant Gift Cards with Plant, and Shark Sweeper. *In order to prepare the display card for each gift, Judy Kern asks that donors call or email her with their basket contents as soon as possible.*

BASKET OF CHEER - Chair/Contact MOLLY KELLEY

It has been decided that the Basket of Cheer will keep the same format as previous years. Molly, however, **STILL NEEDS LIQUOR and/or WINE DONATIONS!!** If you are able to contribute to the basket of cheer and have not already done so, please contact Molly.

CENTERPIECES - Chair/Contact MARILYN DABKOWSKI and DIANE REICH

Table centerpieces will be pumpkin-themed and each centerpiece will be awarded to one person at the table.

COACH PURSE RAFFLE - Chair/Contact CHERYL GEORGE

The purse raffle will be somewhat different this year. All items, including 10 purses, a wallet, umbrella, make-up bag, scarf and three wristlets are from **Coach**. There will be no dinner certificates or cash prize. As in previous years, the "Coach Raffle" will be set up in the hall area closest to the Sun Room.

DOOR PRIZES - Chair/Contact PAT MAIDA and JUDY KERN

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE - Chair/Contact MARY ANN McDERMOTT AND MARY McCORMICK

Grand prize raffle will be \$1000. Tickets will be \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Three tickets have been mailed with each invitation. Additional tickets can be purchased the day of the Fare. The winner will be drawn after the luncheon and need not be present to claim the prize.

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

Envelopes will be available for each person at the table to participate if they wish. Table guests can place any amount from \$1 to \$10 in their envelope. After all envelopes are collected, one envelope will be drawn and the winner will get 20 times the amount they placed in their envelope.

50/50 RAFFLE - Chair/Contact CHARLOTTE COLLINS

Tickets will be sold throughout the event and the winner will be announced during the luncheon.

PROGRAMS - CHARLOTTE COLLINS

All information to be included in the program should be sent to CHARLOTTE COLLINS by September 23.

PUBLICITY - Chair/Contact CAROLE GILARDI

Announcements have been submitted to several "calendars" including PG, Whirl, Pittsburgh Catholic and Trib Media. Also notices have been submitted to all parishes of members plus a few more.

REGISTRATION - Chair/Contact DIANE DONOVAN and JANET MASCARO

Registration will begin at 10:30 am. A flyer listing all available raffles with locations will be passed out to all guests.

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

Red Wagon reservations were mailed on September 8. If you need additional invitations to be mailed, please contact Marian Flowers.

SILENT AUCTION - Chair/Contact THERESA MAGNOTTA AND MARLENE MACDONALD

The Silent Auction will be again be located in the Sun Room. Some of the items listed to date include a *Kate Spade* purse, a necklace, a Pittsburgh-themed, hand designed lamp, and a Christening outfit. If you can donate to the Silent Auction, PLEASE CONTACT THERESA OR MARLENE. ITEMS ARE STILL NEEDED!

SOLICITATION LETTERS - Chair/Contact MARY JANE DIAMANTOPULOS

Mary Jane reports we have had a very good response from the solicited vendors. We have approximately 25 items, including gift cards, theatre tickets, and cultural passes that will be grouped into Basket Auction and/or Silent Auction gift packages.

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

***Every attendee will receive a favor that includes a fortune cookie (which will have a saying of Mary Virginia Merrick) and treats.

WHAT'S STILL NEEDED...

We are in need of student helpers for several events throughout the day. A lunch will be provided for them. If you have grandchildren or know of any young ladies who are of high school age and may need service hours or are willing to help, please contact Ellen O'Brien as soon as possible.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY PLANS OPENHOUSE

Our Christ Child Society is planning to host an Open House at our new Christ Child Center on Sunday, November 6. The event will begin with Mass at 10:00 at All Saints Church, followed by a "Meet and Greet" reception at our new location, 19 Dewey Street, Etna, which is across the street from the Church. Donuts and coffee will be served and we are hoping to introduce people of the area to our mission and work. More information will follow by email.



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 October 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

September 2016 – June 2017 GENERAL MEETINGS

Lunch Coordinators

Thursday, September 15, 2016	Marian Flowers and Molly Kelley
Thursday, October 20, 2016	Charlotte Collins and Mary Ann McDermott
Thursday, November 10, 2016	Janet Mascaro and Diane Donovan
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.

CAMP AIM

...From Molly Kelley

This past summer for six weeks, 175 campers from Allegheny county enjoyed the outdoors and indoors of CAMP AIM. **Christ Child** had the pleasure of two days of "hands on help" with the kids. Some of our duties included tie-dyeing, sewing, arts and crafts. We also participated on PROM DAY with making 200 corsages and other flower arrangements for the Prom-goers. **Christ Child** again became LUNCH LADIES serving a pasta lunch to 250 campers and staff, funded by our donation. Our funds also paid for the BRAKE DANCING PERFORMANCE at the prom!! Many thanks again for all the donations of shirts, ties, games, art supplies, makeup and so many other things!! A BIG HIP HIP CAMP AIM from the campers and staffSee you next year...

Molly



ANGELS' CLOSET ...From Molly Kelley

2016 Angel's Closet Schedule

THURSDAY, October 6	11:00 am. - Grand Opening!
Saturday, October 22	10 am to 2 pm
Thursday, October 27	11:00 am to 4:45 pm
Thursday, November 3	11:00 am
Saturday, November 12	10:00 am to 2 pm
Thursday, November 17	11 am

We still have a lot of tagging and hanging to do before opening day. THAT DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED. I WILL NOTIFY THE COMMITTEE....I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEW COAT SEASON...see you soon!

Molly

LAYETTES

...From Pat Schimmel

Eleven members of the Christ Child Society recently gathered at our Center and packed approximately 80 layettes. Ten of the layettes were immediately delivered. The room was very warm and uncomfortable but everyone was cheerful and very productive. We packed until we ran out of some of the items. The members stayed and hung up the coats that were in bags from our move. Those present were Laura Merzlak, Molly Kelley, Joanne Herrmann, Marlene MacDonald, Mary McCormick, Charlotte Collins, Diane Donovan, Janet Mascaro, Carolyn Green, Theresa Magnotta and myself. A packing has been scheduled for September 15 after our general meeting. Thank you to all the members of the layette committee and everyone who helped. A special thank you to Pam Diulus, Mary Ann Gonot, Theresa Magnotta, and Marian Flowers who deliver the layettes.

MY STUFF BAGS

...From Laura Merzlak

We still have approximately 30 bags available for delivery. These were packed in the Spring and we were not able to deliver them to the Women's Shelter at that time. The Women's Shelter of Pittsburgh is still in their construction phase and have asked for very limited items, since they do not have storage space. Their wish list included new pj's and robes for teenage girls and boys as well as socks for the kids. If you find any of these items on clearance racks, please purchase and send your receipts to Diane Donovan for reimbursement. Also, if you have any cell phones or smart phones which are no longer being used, the Shelter is collecting them as well. All items may be left in the Angels Closet. We are continuing to interview other agencies to see what their needs may be. Dottie & I are hoping to have all inventory for the "My Stuff Bags" in the Center this fall. We will follow up on this project and packing sometime after the Red Wagon Fare. Again, there are bags available for delivery if you know of any current needs. These are in the Angel's Closet room. Thank you all for your support!

MEMBERSHIP

...From Mary McCormick

Mary McCormick reports that we currently have 56 Christ Child members registered. We have 43 active members and 13 sustaining members. Mary has prepared a new spreadsheet listing our current members with their most current information. If you have not received a copy, please contact Mary. We are hoping to publish the new 2017-18 Christ Child Directory in July of 2017. We are always looking for new members and ask that you keep in mind if there is anyone you think may be interested in joining us in our mission of helping children in need, please contact Mary.

**Mark your calendar!
Christ Child Christmas Party
Thursday, December 1, 2016
Scoglio's Restaurant**



www.christchild.org

PEG HOLL, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF CHRIST CHILD IN PITTSBURGH PASSES AWAY

Our local Pittsburgh Chapter of Christ Child has lost one of its Founding Members. **Peg Holl** passed away June 24, 2016 at the age of 84 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. Peg and her husband Rich moved here to Pittsburgh in the early 1990’s from Denver Colorado. Peg was a native of San Francisco, born of Irish immigrant parents. She and Rich had 4 children, 3 of whom survive her along with her husband of 65 years, 6 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Peg was a woman of great faith, a daily Communicant at St. Scholastica’s Parish, and a woman who put her faith into action with many charitable endeavors. She loved playing bridge, and to all who knew her was a woman with a wonderful sense of humor. I remember having lunch with her and others one day, and out of the blue she asked if I was going to ‘go out with my boyfriend’ this coming weekend ! Of course she was referring to my husband.

All of us in Christ Child have been the richer for knowing Peg, and along with her husband Rich, and her family, we mourn her passing. Please remember Peg and family in your prayers. We have received notice from her estate that a bequest has been made to Christ Child in Peg’s name. We, as the Pittsburgh Chapter of Christ Child, are so grateful for this generous donation.

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

In Memory of PAT DOUGHERTY From: Edward F. Dougherty

In Honor of JOYCE CARNEY From: James & Gretchen Coyne

In Memory of DAVID CASASENT From: Ellen O’Brien

In Memory of PEG HOLL From: Marie Lowry
Pat Maida
Ellen O’Brien
Sue and Bill Rielly

In Memory of SYBLE SHADLE From: Cheryl George



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 _____

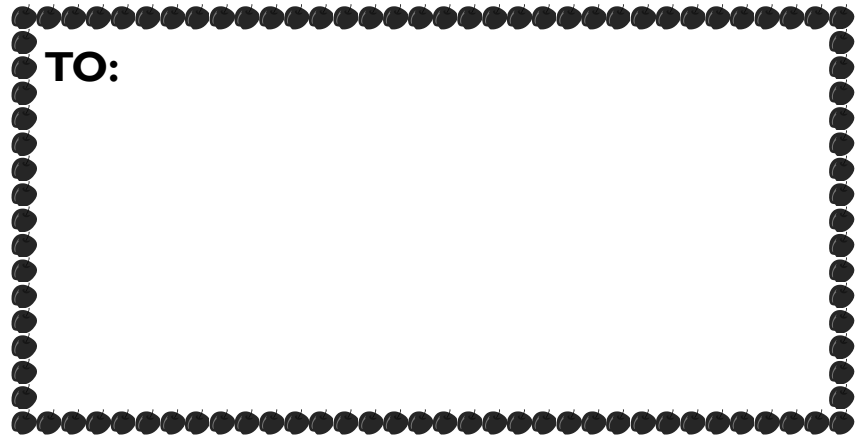
Please enclose this form and your check payable to the “Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh” and mail to:
Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Diane Donovan
538 Springwood Drive
Verona, PA 15147

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 7 | - Red Wagon Meeting—Christ Child Center—10:00 am |
| October 15 | - RED WAGON FARE , Pittsburgh Field Club 10:30 AM |
| October 20 | - General Meeting at 12:15, Lunch at 11:30 |
| November 6 | - Christ Child Society Center—OPEN HOUSE |
| November 10 | - General Meeting at 12:15, Lunch at 11:30 |
| December 1 | - Christ Child Christmas Party—Scoglio's, Greentree |

NOTEWORTHY:

- It was a pleasure to meet **Fr. Jeremy Mohler**, our new Spiritual Advisor, who joined us for lunch at our September 15 General Meeting. We look forward to working with Father as we continue our mission to help children in need!
- A special thanks to Dottie Talarico for serving the delicious lunch at the August 18 General Meeting.
- A special thanks to Marian Flowers and Molly Kelley for serving the delicious lunch at the September 15 General Meeting.
- A special thanks to Mary Ann Gonot and her daughter, Pam Diulus for chairing our annual Christmas Party this year.
- *The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for December. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by December 5.*