



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 2017

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JUDY KERN

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As I wrote this article our area of Pittsburgh was in the midst of a beautiful snowfall. But now, with the season of Spring upon us, the days get longer, the temperatures get warmer and we begin to see new growth. At this same time we will be celebrating Easter which, of course, is the commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Both of these remind us of and symbolize renewal, rebirth and hope.

So, what a better segue into what we in our chapter have to look forward to in the near future.

Many thanks to DORIS DELSERONE, PHYLLIS DOMBROWSKI, DIANE DONOVAN, JOANNE HERRMANN, MARY JO KELLY, JANET MASCARO and MARY MCCORMICK. They are the members of the *Strategic Planning Committee* who met in February to begin to formulate our goals for 2017-2018. We discussed the priorities for our chapter and the direction of our future as an organization. We also spoke about membership recruitment and the continuation and possible expansion of our service programs. There were many great ideas presented and much discussion and we were able to define what we felt were the most important areas for our chapter to consider as the major goals for the next two years.

In the last couple of months I spoke with and met with several different agencies that have expressed an interest in working with the Christ Child Society and receiving our services to benefit the children that they work with. I am excited to share this information about these new possibilities with all of you, so that we will be able to serve more underserved children in the Pittsburgh area.

On March 29th, I will be traveling to Columbus, Ohio to meet with MaryBeth Baucio, the President of the National Christ Child Society, and representatives from the Ohio chapters. The idea is for us to join forces and the agenda will include the sharing of ideas from our chapters. Hopefully, I will be able to bring back some new information that will be helpful to us in Pittsburgh.

As we begin this year of our twenty-fifth anniversary of the inception of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Christ Child Society I know that the chapter has come a long way, and I also realize that it is because of you, our wonderful members.

I wish you and your families a very Happy and Blessed Easter!

Dottie Talarico, President

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: **Protecting God's Children Class ~ REMINDER** :
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• If you have not already done so, please send JANET MASCARO a copy of your certificate indicating that you attended the "Protecting God's Children" class. You can mail her a copy to

**1745 Outlook Drive
Verona, PA 15147**

Our goal is to have all certificates on file by April 1. Thank you.
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ANGELS' CLOSET 2017 ... *From Molly Kelley*

After depleting a good number of coats during our 2016 season, we have approximately 30 new coats for Angels Closet so far for 2017. Winter coats can be hard to come by at this time, and we will need to concentrate on increasing our supply in early fall.

Camp Aim 2017 ... *From Molly Kelley*

Camp Aim is scheduled to begin on **June 12th** and will be held again at Carlynton High School in Rosslyn Farms (Carnegie). Our Christ Child "volunteer dates" will be announced sometime in May. Please remember to save any craft items, art supplies, light-weight materials for sewing, jewelry, etc. Books and board games (they do not have to be new!) are needed for the activities room. Anything "black and gold" or sports memorabilia are also requested.

A special thanks to MARGIE DIDOMENICO for making over 50 bracelets for the campers!

LAYETTES ... *From Charlotte Collins*

In January, PAM DIULUS and THERESA MAGNOTTA delivered 25 layettes to Mercy, 26 layettes to Magee and 10 layettes to West Penn Hospital. In February, DOTTIE TALARICO delivered 2 layettes to Roselia House.

JOANNE HERRMANN has been a great help with purchasing all the diapers and wipes for each of our packings. Our wonderful "Knitter Ladies", Bertha and Shirley, have been busy knitting us more blankets. They have supplied us with an additional 22 afghan's this month. Our next scheduled layette packing is Thursday, April 6, 11:00 a.m. An email will be forwarded to the Layette Committee as a reminder.

The Girl Scout troop from St. Ann's has expressed an interest in volunteering their services to help with a packing. At this time I have not heard back from them.

MY STUFF BAGS ... *Joyce Orr and Dottie Talarico*

Six *My Stuff Bags* were delivered to Roselia House at Catholic Charities in February. The Women's Shelter is not in need of our supplies at this time. Contacts have been made with several agencies with the possibility of CCS working with them. Updates on *My Stuff Bags* will be included in our June newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP ... *From Mary McCormick*

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh 2017/2018 Membership Application/Renewal forms will be mailed to all active and sustaining members on March 31, 2017.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ◆ These renewal forms and the dues checks must be received and postmarked no later than April 29, 2017 to renew you membership at **\$50 for active members and \$75 for sustaining members.**
- ◆ Dues for forms received with a postmark after April 29, 2017 will be **\$60 for active members and \$85 for sustaining members.**

The change in dues is being implemented to assure the names of all members will be on the roster as of the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1, 2017.

RED WAGON LUNCHEON

From Janet Mascaro

The Red Wagon planning has officially begun! The date for this event is October 21, 2017 at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Committees have been formed and many members have volunteered their time to work on these committees. **Thanks for such a great response to signing up!!** There will be a meeting of the chairpersons of each committee at 10:00 AM on April 20, 2017 prior to the general meeting. Following is a list of committees and members. The chairpersons are designated with a *.

Printing/Mailing- *Ellen O'Brien, Mary Ann McDermott, Julie Quigley

Gift Baskets/Door Prizes- *Judy Kern, Pat Maida, Ellen O'Brien

Purse Auction- *Cheryl George

Basket of Cheer- *Molly Kelley, Mary Ellen Ploeger, Joann Herrmann

Money Raffles - *Diane Donovan, Charlotte Collins, Carolyn Green

Publicity- *Carole Gilardi

Reservations and Registration- *Marian Flowers, *Mary Ann Gonot, Ellen O'Brien,
Mary Ann McDermott, Marilyn Dabkowski

Solicitations- *Mary Jane Diamantopulos

Volunteers- *Suzette Venturini, Joyce Orr

Centerpieces- *Pam Diulus, Marlene MacDonald, Theresa Magnotta, Joan Driscoll

There may be 1-2 other committees added based on discussions from our Red Wagon Chairperson meeting.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! With your help, I know we will once again have a very successful event!!!

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

Lunch Coordinators

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Marian Flowers and Diane George

Carole Gilardi and Pat Schimmel

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.

A FOND FAREWELL

At our January meeting we learned that our member Diane Reich is moving to Florida. We will miss her greatly as a friend, and as a member who has contributed so much to the mission of Christ Child. Diane has taken care of delivering yarn and picking up the knitted blankets, supported the Red Wagon in quiet, generous ways, chaired the Silent Auction Committee, and in many other ways that were just done with a servant's heart. Almost unheralded is the support of her husband Sam Reich. He has donated time, talent and treasure to our mission. The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh bids you adieu Diane and Sam, and wishes you all the best with your new life in Florida. May you be blessed with good health and a wonderful life in Florida. And since we are in the month of St. Patrick....

**“May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rains fall softly on your fields.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the Palm of His Hands.”**

In The News. . . .



- ◆ Ellen OBrien is working on a plan for a Mass and lunch to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the inception of the Pittsburgh chapter of CCS. This would be held on Mary Virginia Merrick's birthday in the Fall of 2017. More details to follow.
- ◆ We have contacted several agencies and sites that may be in need of our services of Layettes and My Stuff Bags. Several agencies expressed an interest and will contact us when they are in need.
- ◆ We agreed that our chapter members who are interested will commit to assisting at the Volunteers of America's All of Us Care after school program in Sharpsburg. We thank Joanne Herrmann volunteering to organize and chair this new project. More details to follow at our future meetings.
- ◆ A Membership Meeting was held in February and our concerns are Membership recruitment. There were many good ideas discussed. Our hope is that each member will be the representative for their particular parish. Our plan is to compose a letter to the pastors of each parish introducing The Christ Child Society, and explaining *Who We Are* and *What We Do*. At this same time we would request that an invitation to new members be in their parish bulletin. We would also like to ask the CCS representative of the parish to have a CCS display after Masses at each parish. Hopefully, we could have this "membership drive" in the Fall.
- ◆ **We Need You!!** **Someone to manage chapter website and updates!**
- ◆ **We Need You!!** **Someone to look into Retreat possibilities for 2017!**

REMEMBERING MARY LEE SCHNEIDER and ANNE DELLA SALA

Christ Child has lost two former members in recent months. On November 23, 2016 our former member, *Mary Lee Schneider*, passed away. Mary Lee was a lovely lady who had a heart of gold. A Pittsburgh native, she raised 4 children with her husband Bob. She was always upbeat and ready to help with Angel's Closet and other Christ Child projects. Like many who grew up here, she still had long time friends in the area. Dorothy Gloniger, another CCS member, had known Mary Lee since they were in grade school. A short 35 days after Mary Lee passed her husband *Bob Schneider* passed away December 28, 2016. At their respective Funeral Masses, their 3 surviving children and 6 grandchildren recalled all the good times and the sorrowful times that their family had shared.

Our long time member *Anne Della Sala* passed away December 22, 2016. Anne and her friend Althea Saville would come to Christ Child meetings together, and always lend a hand to help. Anne worked with Angel's Closet and our Layette program. She was a quiet and sweet lady, who lived her life in service. Anne was the mother of 3 children, further blessed with 8 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Her son gave a beautiful tribute to his mother at her Funeral Mass mentioning her love of family, the successful Pizza shop she and her husband owned, and her deep faith in God.

May Mary Lee, Bob and Anne Rest in Peace and May the Perpetual Light shine upon them and all the faithfully departed through the Mercy of God. Amen

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

Laura Garcia

Bob Schneider

Mary Lee Schneider

Anne Della Sala

FROM:

Kathy Fitzgibbon

Ellen O'Brien

Ellen O'Brien

Ellen O'Brien
Jerry and Diane Donovan



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:

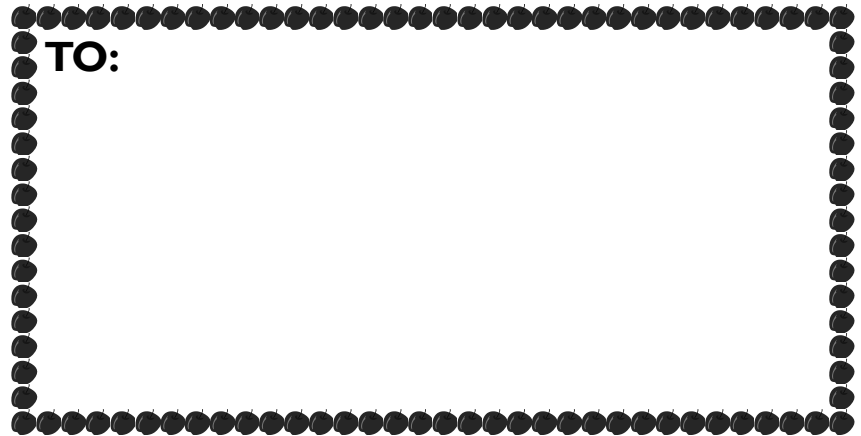
**Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Diane Donovan
538 Springwood Drive
Verona, PA 15147**

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, April 6	LAYETTE PACKING	- 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 20	RED WAGON MEETING	- 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 20	GENERAL MEETING	- 12:15 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 29	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM AND CHECK ARE DUE	
Thursday, May 18	GENERAL MEETING	- 12:15 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 15	GENERAL MEETING	- 12:15 p.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 21	RED WAGON FARE, Pittsburgh Field Club	

NOTEWORTHY:

- Once again, we would like to extend a very special thanks to **DARLENE PAHEL**, sister of Cheryl George, who served as our 2016 Red Wagon photographer. We sincerely apologize for the misspelling of her last name in the December issue of our newsletter!
- Thank you to our Lunch Coordinators for the January 19 General Meeting: *Ellen O'Brien* and *Charlotte Collins* and for our March 16 General Meeting: *MaryJo Kelly* and *Mary Jane Diamantopulos*, and to *Ellen O'Brien* for the Irish soda bread!
- Lunch Coordinators for our April 20 General Meeting are **Marian Flowers** and **Diane George**.
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in June. Please submit all information for this newsletter to **Judy Kern** by May 20.