



# 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 2017

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND JEREMY MOHLER

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### NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear Members and Friends,

A warm hello and welcome back from our short hiatus for our Summer months!

We are definitely facing our busiest season of the year as we will have so much that will be happening over the next few months. I think that this could be our Season of Opportunities. When I googled "opportunity" I saw various definitions, but Webster's reads that an opportunity is a favorable juncture of circumstances; a good chance for advancement or progress. This is what our chapter needs!

In the upcoming months we will have many opportunities to speak of **The Christ Child Society** to others. Decide to be Bold! It is difficult to come out of our comfort zone, but we need to communicate to others and let them know exactly what it is that The Christ Child Society does for our community. Speak of our mission and our programs to family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances and encourage them to join us in our endeavors! Invite them to The Red Wagon Fare, to one of our meetings or to a program to see what The Christ Child Society is all about! Remember you are all very special people who give of your time and talents to make our chapter successful!

Thank you to Charlotte and the Layette committee who have been continuing to work over the Summer to deliver layettes to those in need. Thank you to Molly for her work at Camp Aim and for all of her work on preparing for Angels' Closet. Thank you to Janet for Chairing our August meeting and thank you to Janet and to all of our Red Wagon Fare committee members who have been working so hard toward a very successful fundraiser on October 21st. So much work goes on behind the scenes for Red Wagon. Let's be sure to be very supportive of that endeavor!

As I said earlier, we are going to have a very busy Fall! More opportunities to make **The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh** known to others. All Christ Child Society members have a shared commitment to the mission of Mary Virginia Merrick. That is to find a need and to fill it. We do make a difference in a child's life. Remember... there is no limit to what can be done in the name of Love!

*Dottie Talarico*, President

# RED WAGON LUNCHEON

Plans for the Red Wagon Luncheon are very much underway! By now, you will have received the invitations and grand raffle tickets. Thanks to Ellen O'Brien for our new, colorful design! Please invite your friends and relatives to this event on October 21st for a great lunch and a fun time!

Our Red Wagon Committee has been very active over the past months. They are a wonderful group with lots of creative ideas. We once again have the Basket Auction, Silent Auction, Purse Raffle, Baskets of Cheer, 50/50 raffle, 20X your money raffle and, of course, our Grand Raffle for \$1000.00! This year we are also trying a couple of new things. We will not be selling bakery items but instead we will have vendors which provide us with a percent of their sales. We are working on vendors for children's clothing, Sabika jewelry and all kinds of tote bags. We will also be playing door prize Bingo!

Our menu will be Chicken Marsala, Mediterranean Salad and Pecan Ball for dessert. If you have special dietary needs, we have a vegetable stack lunch available with sorbet and berries for dessert.

This year we would like to focus on our mission. Our Bingo will be based on our charities and we will be actively recruiting new members by showcasing what we do.

So please plan to attend and make this one of the best fundraisers ever so we can continue our charitable mission for children in the Pittsburgh area!

## Committee Updates...

### Basket Auction—

*We have 24 gift baskets for our auction. We have a maximum set-up for 32. The gift baskets are valued at \$100 or more. Please contact Judy or Pat if you would like to donate! Please remember..... all baskets must be delivered to the Field Club on Friday, October 20 (Time: TBA).*

### Silent Auction—

*At this year's Red Wagon Fare, those in attendance will have the opportunity to bid on some very unique items that we have received so far for babies, young children, home decorating, the sports fan, the traveler, the art lover, and the theater buff. It will be a great time to pick up some wonderful gifts for yourself or that special person in your life! Additional items for the Silent Auction would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact one of the following committee members: Theresa Magnotta, Marlene McDonald, Pam Diulus, Mary McCormick or Suzette Venturini.*

### Purse Auction—

*Cheryl has all six purses and gift cards needed for the Purse Auction. Many thanks to all who donated!*

### Basket of Cheer—

*HELP! HELP! We need more to fill our baskets of cheer! Please bring your bottle to the September general meeting or contact Molly to make other arrangements.*

### Publicity—

*Carole Gilardi has sent requests to publicize our Red Wagon Fare to local parishes, the Post Gazette, community newspapers, the Pittsburgh Catholic and various online sources. Carole is asking members to notify her if they see any publicity regarding the Red Wagon.*

### Volunteers—

*Volunteers are still needed for the Red Wagon Fare. If you know of some young adult who would be interested in helping on October 21st, please contact Suzette or Joyce. Grandchildren (age 14 or older) are most welcome!*

**Please remember....  
Red Wagon Reservations are due by  
Saturday, October 7**



## ANGELS' CLOSET 2017 ... From Molly Kelley

ANGELS' CLOSET OPENING KICK OFF for the coat season will be

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH at 10 AM.**

We will be open four Thursdays and two Saturdays. We will also try an evening distribution on **Wednesday, December 6th**, to perhaps find some families that can't make the other dates. If any committee members can stay after the September general meeting, we can get started marking and hanging the new inventory. A complete schedule will be sent to members. Let's get those kids ready for a predicted very cold snowy winter!! Thanks!!



## CAMP AIM 2017 ... From Molly Kelley

Thank you to all of Christ Child Members for your donations of "stuff " collected. A special thank you to **MARGIE DiDOMENICO** for making many, many beautiful bracelets for Prom. Again "personal hands on help" was truly amazing! HIP HIP CAMP AIM!!!



Christ Child ladies serving lunch at Camp Aim shown with music director who received our donation of new instruments for the Music Department..



Christ Child member.....  
**PAT SCHIMMEL** helping a Camper on Dino Day... where our ladies were taught by Carnegie Museum to run stations for the campers to learn about dinosaurs. What a fun HOT day we had! Thanks to all who helped!!

## LAYETTES ... From Charlotte Collins

I am glad to say that we were able to service many in need with our Layettes in the past few months. Pam Diulus and Theresa Magnotta delivered 39 Layettes.... 12 to Magee, 12 to West Penn and 15 to Mercy Hospital. Charlotte Collins delivered 17 to Genesis of Pittsburgh. With all of this we have depleted most of our inventory. Therefore, we will have a packing on

**Thursday, September 21 @ 10:30 in the coat room.**

This will take place before our General Meeting. I hope the Layette committee can help at this time. I will send a reminder a week before this date to the Layette committee members.

## MEMBERSHIP ... From Mary McCormick

The 2017 CC Membership Directories are now available. If you have not received your copy, they will be available at the September 21 general meeting, or you can call Mary at 412-897-3552.

## ALL OF US CARE ... *From Joanne Herrmann*

I was saddened to hear that Ruby Wilkosz, the Director of *All of Us Care* has resigned her position to spend more time with her family.

I know that many people will miss her and know that she did a fantastic and caring job for AOUC..

Tarcia Rebeiz, the new Interim Director can be reached at 412 782 5344. X703.

Summer is almost over and Fall is upon us. The Summer Program at *All of Us Care* was very successful and quite busy for all the children. Ruby Wilkosz has done a terrific job with many activities from visiting Heinz Field to a trip to Laurel Valley.

Thanks to those who donated your time, food and drinks. Please remember that food and drinks are always accepted and needed all year round. You can bring goods to any Christ Child meeting, and I'll be happy to deliver them to AOUC at 1650 Main Street in Sharpsburg. Or, call me at 412 855 4292.

Volunteers are needed every day Tuesday through Friday from 3 - 6 pm at the center. You can call Tarcia at 412 782 5344 X703 for other volunteer hours, or to suggest activities for the children (ages 7 - 16).



## MY STUFF BAGS

... *Joyce Orr and Dottie Talarico*

Over the summer months ten **My Stuff Bags** were delivered to Genesis of Pittsburgh and ten bags were delivered to Jeremiah's Place. Joyce and I are delivering clothes this week to The Mars Home for Youth in Mars, PA. This organization provides intensive "in home" support for children ages 9-18 who have suffered a traumatic event and needed to be removed from their home. Mars Home for Youth is an inpatient facility which provides therapy and schooling during the day.

*All of Us Care* has also expressed an interest in receiving clothing for some of their students.

We do not have any bags packed at the present time so as soon as we hear the needs of the resource programs we will let our committee know.

### NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY REPORT

NCCS is hard at work planning The National Conference that will be held September 29-30, 2017 in Bethesda Maryland.

*Friday's* seminars will begin with a presentation of our Layette Programs and evaluation of the contents of the layettes along with available resources that should be included with each. A second seminar will teach everyone how to use social media, including Facebook, to raise awareness of and support for our chapters and our programs.

*Saturday* will begin with a workshop on Membership. There will also be discussion regarding literacy and public relations and tips on reaching target audiences which would be helpful in attracting new members.

The Conference will end on Saturday evening with the celebration of Mass and a dinner.

A report and additional information regarding the Conference will be given at our October meeting.

### Christ Child General Meetings

September 21, 2017

October 19, 2017

November 16, 2017

March 15, 2018

April 19, 2018

May 17, 2018

June 21, 2018

## IN THE NEWS. . . .

The Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh has been chosen to be featured in an annual publication.

The mission of The Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania is to share the history of Catholicism in our region of Pennsylvania from its beginning to the present time. One of the ways that they do this is through their annual publication that is titled, "Gathered Fragments".

At the lay apostolate's meeting they were impressed with our chapter and our mission for children and they decided to feature our organization. The editors were very interested in hearing our story.

More information will follow as to the date of publication sometime this Fall.

## WE NEED YOU....NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE—OCTOBER 28, 2017



This year to honor our Founder Mary Virginia Merrick's birthday and 130 years of The Christ Child Society's service, our chapter will be taking part in the **NCCS Make a Difference Day**. We hopefully will be doing a project related to children literacy with a *Read To Me* theme.

Hopefully we will be able to take advantage of the books that Janet Mascaro was influential in having donated to our chapter. Thank you, Thank you Janet!

Please be supportive of this opportunity to help children and also to tell our chapter's story and be involved with our community. More information will follow regarding this service day.

## DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

### IN MEMORY OF:

*David Steinman*

*William Lowry*

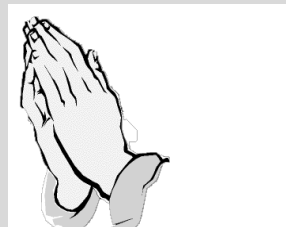
*Patricia Dougherty*

### FROM:

Madeline Steinman

Mary Jane Diamantopulos  
Cheryl George  
Judy Kern

Ed Dougherty



## 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.christchildsofiypittsburgh.org](http://www.christchildsofiypittsburgh.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:

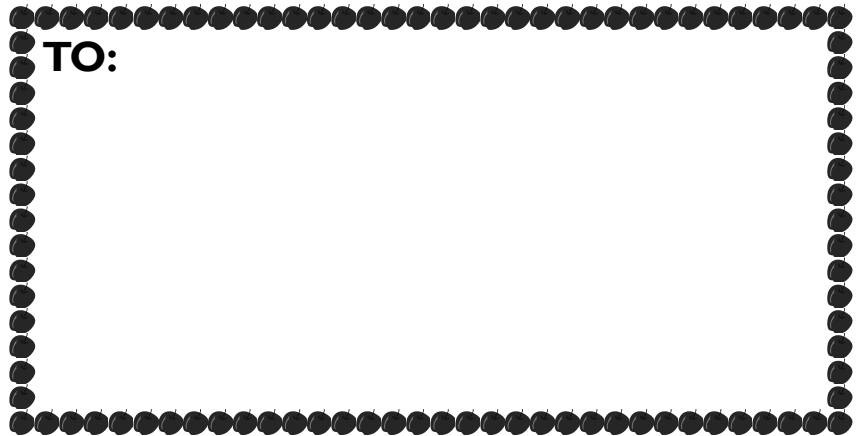
Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh  
Diane Donovan  
538 Springwood Drive  
Verona, PA 15147

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

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Thursday, September 21</b> | - GENERAL MEETING - 12:15 P.M. LUNCH 11:30 A.M.                                     |
| <b>Thursday, October 19</b>   | - GENERAL MEETING - 12:15 P.M. LUNCH 11:30 A.M.                                     |
| <b>Saturday, October 21</b>   | - RED WAGON FARE, PITTSBURGH FIELD CLUB   |
| <b>Thursday, November 2</b>   | - CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH -<br>25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS & LUNCH |
| <b>Thursday, November 16</b>  | - GENERAL MEETING - 12:15 P.M. LUNCH 11:30 A.M.                                     |
| <b>Tuesday, December 5</b>    | - CHRISTMAS PARTY   |

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### NOTEWORTHY:

- Please remember that RED WAGON RESERVATIONS are due by Saturday, October 7!
- All Basket Auction gifts are due at the Field Club on Friday, October 20 (Time TBA), unless other arrangements are made.
- Thank you to Cheryl George who served a tasty lunch at the August General Meeting!
- Many thanks to Ellen O'Brien who has set up a "Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh" Facebook page!
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in December.  
Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by December 7.