



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.

October 2018

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND JEREMY MOHLER

OFFICERS

President
JANET MASCARO

Vice-President
PAM DIULUS

Treasurer
DIANE DONOVAN

Recording Secretary
SUZETTE VENTURINI

Corresponding Secretary
MARY ANN GONOT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE COLLINS
CAROLE GILARDI
JOANNE HERRMANN
MOLLY KELLEY
MARY MCCORMICK
DOTTIE TALARICO

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear CCS members,

Happy Fall!! It is hard to believe that Summer is over! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacations with family and friends!!

During the months of August and September, I have been working with a website developer to build a new and improved website. It is a work in progress and I hope to keep it updated so members can search for information and non-members can check us out and be inspired to join!! Please check us out at christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org.

Now begins our busy time with our Angels' Closet. Please refer to the "Angels' Closet" section of our newsletter for the schedule and plan to help out with this most important ministry.

The National Christ Child Society will be holding our 3rd National Day of Service on **Saturday, October 27, 2018**. Once again, chapters across the nation will be joining together to demonstrate the power of helping hands. Since literacy is an ongoing focus of NCCS, we will repeat last year's successful theme "**Make a Difference: Read to Me.**" As Mary Virginia Merrick once said; "The spirit of the Christ Child Society is one of personal love for the Christ Child expressing itself in the personal service for the least of His little ones." As part of this initiative, our chapter will be providing a book to every child who receives a coat. Half-Price Books of Monroeville is graciously donating childrens' books for all ages so that we can help in the effort to build literacy skills.

This Christmas, we will again be buying Christmas gifts for needy children at Conroy Education Center. We hope to provide gifts for approximately 20 children. Our "My Stuff Bag" committee will be incorporating this project into their ministry.

Red Wagon planning has begun! We are excited that our fundraising event is "springing forward" to April 27, 2019. Once again, we have a talented group of committee members who are working very hard to make it a success!

Please watch for your invitation to our December Christmas luncheon. Please plan to attend if you can. It is always a wonderful event!

If you are not already involved, please consider giving of your time and talent to our ministries. I know that time is precious, but so are our children and we know that "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

Lastly, it seems strange to end my message this way since it began with the mention of summer vacations, but since our newsletter will not be out again until January, I want to wish you and your families happy and blessed holidays! In the name of the Christ Child,

Janet

Red Wagon Luncheon has changed Seasons!

By Janet Mascaro

Our first Red Wagon planning meeting was held prior to the general meeting on September 21st.

Save the Date cards for Red Wagon will be sent in early October. Please encourage all of your friends and family who usually attended in October to attend in the Spring. The event will be held on April 27, 2019 at the Pittsburgh Field club.

As usual, we are asking for some donations for the event. Please note that you do not have to donate to everything! Every donation large or small helps to offset our cost!

Please let Judy Kern know if you are willing to donate a basket for the basket auction. The basket should have a value of at least \$100.00. Remember that two or more members can get together to create one basket. Ideas for basket themes can be found online by searching for "auction basket themes" or on sites such as Pinterest. Please let Judy know if you are willing to donate a basket by December 4, at our Christmas luncheon.

We also ask every member to donate a bottle of cheer. It can be wine or liquor- your choice! Please give your donation to Molly Kelly no later than our March 21st meeting.

For many years, Judy Kern and Pat Maida have donated door prizes. For that we are most grateful! They have done a wonderful job of shopping and wrapping for this give-away! However, this year, we would like members to help out in this area. If you are willing to provide a **NEW** boxed item with a value of no less than \$10.00, please inform Judy. We want to have quality items so if you have any questions or aren't sure about the item you want to donate, please ask Judy. We would like most of these items by our Christmas lunch on December 4, 2018.

We also accept \$25-\$30 dollar gift cards that we could use to "hide" in the purses for our purse raffle!

Our next Red Wagon chairpersons meeting will be held on November 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Website OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING! Please check us out at
christchildsofittsburgh.org



Our site will be updated as we go along. For those of you who miss our general meetings, we are going to publish the minutes of the meetings online. Also look for Red Wagon announcements as they come along as well as newsletters and dates to remember. Membership forms and donation forms are also available to download.

NATIONAL NEWS ~ GETTING NOTICED

In recent months, several of your fellow chapters have received great coverage from local news sources or recognition through their partner agencies. The National Board has spent much of its recent efforts developing resources for you to use to promote your chapters' good works in your communities. Many useful references can be found on the Marketing & Communications page of the NCCS website under the Member Resources tab to help you with your PR efforts!

Here are just a few examples of great PR. The opening of the Christ Child Society of South Bend, Indiana's Clothing Center which was recently highlighted during the "Moms First" Segment on their local TV station. The Second Saturday Program of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin chapter was featured on a local podcast called EIG Community Connection and congratulations goes out to our chapters in Central Illinois and Quad Cities for their recognition in the Catholic Post!

The Women's Care Center recently recognized the Christ Child Society of Columbus, Ohio, Duluth, Minnesota and Fort Wayne, Indiana for their service to babies and their families. Expectant parents earn shopping coupons for new baby essentials by attending child care classes offered at the Women's Care Center. These coupons are spent at Crib Club "boutiques" supplied and staffed by Christ Child members.

And CCS of Baltimore, Maryland was mentioned in the Caroline Center's summer newsletter for providing books to moms and children. The Caroline Center is a nonprofit job training center for women in Baltimore City. They provide tuition-free training for Certified Nursing Assistants and Pharmacy Technicians for women in need.

How did National know that these chapters had received recognition? They posted the good news on their Facebook pages! That way we were able to "Like and Share" their news to a larger audience. Post good news on your Facebook page so we can promote you too! If you need some help setting up a page and some ideas for best practices, watch for our webinar "Using Social Media to Connect People to Your Christ Child Society Chapter" to be posted on the Videos and Webinars page of our website in early September!

NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY CONVENTION 2018 MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

The National Christ Child Society held its Biennial Convention September 27 – 29, 2018 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. The theme of the Convention was “Sustaining Our Mission”, Love Leads to Action.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Keynote speaker was Dr. Matthew Deevers, who spoke on cultivating persistence, within us, and our mission.

WORKSHOPS/FRIDAY September 28

During lunch, speakers from Milwaukee reviewed their ‘Second Saturday’ program, which is designed to help parents and children increase literacy.

In the afternoon, representatives from Albany, Sarasota, and Washington DC presented different approaches to encouraging literacy.

NCCS officers gave reports for the national office and for the national budget in preparation for the Annual Business meeting to be held the next day, September 29. Time was allotted for Q & A with Board members.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTION OF NCCS OFFICERS/WORKSHOPS SATURDAY September 29

The Annual Business meeting was held Saturday September 29, 2018 during which the annual budget, bylaw amendments, nomination & election of officers were held. The newly elected officers will serve for a term of two years.

President	Carol Pickle	Pasadena CA
President-Elect	Molly Fanning	Columbus OH
Treasurer	Jean Phelan	Milwaukee WI
Recording Secretary	Loretta Haugh	Atlanta GA
Vice Presidents	Beth Barrett	South Bend IN
	Linda Henry	Northern Michigan MI
	Kathy Houck	Columbus OH
	Casey Long	Atlanta GA
Directors at Large	Lambi Newsham	Summit NJ
	Angela Schneider	Tucson AZ
	Tricia Boland Jones	Washington DC
Immediate Past Pres.	Marybeth Baucro	Cleveland OH

Afternoon Workshops on Membership, Fundraising, and Types of Fundraisers were held.

CLOSING MASS and DINNER

The closing Mass was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, with Bishop Jerome ListECKI presiding. The newly elected NCCS officers were installed immediately following Mass by the Milwaukee Chapter’s Spiritual Director, Father Bob.

Dinner was held at the Wisconsin Club, with the highlights being the announcement and presentation of several awards. National presents the Mary Virginia Merrick Award occasionally to those who have committed themselves to the mission and have given extraordinary service to the Christ Child Society. This year the award went to three people, Roseanne Anderson (Past NCCS President and Pasadena CA member), Joan Watkins (Past NCCS Board member holding dual membership in Texas Capital and Detroit MI chapters), and Patty Myler (Past NCCS President, Washington DC member, and recently appointed to the Commission for the Cause of Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God). These three women have given many years of work embracing the mission of Christ Child. They truly represent the best of the Society. The Red Wagon Award was given to the Fort Wayne IN chapter for their ‘Reading Rangers’ program promoting literacy. This award carries a \$500 prize to be used in the program.

The newly elected Board was formally introduced. Carol Pickle spoke about the next two years, encouraging the delegates to bring the ideas learned at convention to their home chapters, and find ways to use them in their programs.

The National Christ Child web site will have all Convention materials in PDF form available. Please check this web site for more information.

ALL OF US CARE

... *From Joanne Herrmann*

Volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday's from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Even an hour is helpful. No skills necessary. Just your love and time.

Contact Tarcia at (412) 623-9783.

Thanks All!

ANGELS' CLOSET

... *From Molly Kelley*

ANGELS' CLOSET GRAND OPENING.....

Coat requests are coming in nicely. We will be ready to help the children stay warm starting **OCT 11TH AT NOON**. If you have signed up to help in the closet please come early the first day if possible.

ANGELS' CLOSET HOURS

OCT. 11	-	Thursday	NOON TO 5 PM	
OCT.18	-	Thursday	NOON TO 5PM	
OCT. 27	-	Saturday	10 AM TO 2 PM	(NATIONAL CCS LITERACY DAY)
NOV.1	-	Thursday	NOON TO 5PM	
NOV. 8	-	Thursday	NOON TO 5PM	
NOV.17	-	Saturday	10 AM TO 2 PM	(CLOSING DAY)

Thanks Molly K ☪

CAMP AIM

... *From Molly Kelley*

CAMP AIM IS CLOSED FOR NOW. A BIG **THANK YOU** TO THE COMMITTEE who went two days this summer to help the campers at lunch and at Prom. Thanks again! Molly Kelley and Camp Aim Staff

LAYETTES

... *From Charlotte Collins*

I'm glad to report the Layette committee has been very busy the past few months.

Twelve ladies helped with a packing on August 29th. I think it was the hottest day in August but they all did a wonderful job. We were able to pack approximately 130 Layette bags. Great job ladies and thank you for your help!

There were a number of deliveries made in August and September. I took 16 Bags to Genesis of Pittsburgh. Pam Diulus and Theresa Magnotta delivered 25 bags to Mercy. Marian Flowers delivered 10 Bags to PA Concern for the Unborn Child and Janet Mascaro delivered 1 Bag to South Hills Interfaith Movement.

We have been receiving many thank you notes from these organizations. It is a great feeling to know that we can truly help people in need. As Mary Virginia Merrick said "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

MEMBERSHIP

... *From Mary McCormick*

The Membership Committee is looking for new members to help develop a plan for expanding Christ Child. This would not entail a lot of meetings. Please give it some thought. If you are interested, please contact Mary McCormick at 412-897-3552.

MY STUFF BAGS

... *From Dottie Talarico*

Over the summer months we delivered clothing to Genesis three times. They are always very appreciative. We are looking forward to working with Conroy School in Pittsburgh at Christmas to hopefully make a child's holiday just a little bit brighter. More details to follow in the coming months.

As always ...if any member is aware of any agency or a family who may be in need of clothing, please contact me.

CHRIST CHILD MOURNS

In early September, our former President Dottie Talarico's husband Jim passed away after battling cancer. He was 76, and left his 3 sons, 4 stepsons, and many grandchildren. He was a native of Akron Ohio, and a graduate of the University of Akron.

We extend our sympathies to Dottie and the entire Talarico family as they mourn their husband, father and grandfather. May he Rest in Peace, and May the Perpetual Light Shine upon Him.

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

James Talarico

FROM:

Cheryl George
Pat Maida
Theresa Magnotta

IN HONOR OF MARRIAGE:

**Jessica Lee Saville and
Andrew Elliott Pfeiffer**

Jacquelyn and Michael Saville



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

November 14, 2018

DECEMBER 4, 2018

March 14, 2019

APRIL 27, 2019

June 20, 2019

Red Wagon Chairpersons' meeting - 10:00 AM

Christmas Luncheon at Scoglio's (Mini-meeting)

General Meeting

RED WAGON SPRING LUNCHEON

General Meeting

Committees and Board of Directors will meet on an as needed basis.

NOTEWORTHY:

- Don't forget to check out our new Christ Child website at www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org
- Our thanks to **CHARLOTTE COLLINS, PAT SCHIMMEL and LAURA MERZLAK** for providing a tasty lunch to our members attending the September 20 General Meeting!
- Lunch Coordinators for our **MARCH** General Meeting will be **MOLLY KELLEY and MARIAN FLOWERS.**
- Lunch Coordinators for our **JUNE** General Meeting will be **SUZETTE VENTURINI and DOTTIE TALARICO.**
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in January. Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by **Friday, January 4th.**