



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.

January 2019

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear CCS members,

I hope everyone had happy and blessed holidays! I would like to thank the members who planned our Christmas luncheon - Pam Diulus, Mary Ann Gonot, and Theresa Magnotta. It was truly wonderful and a great start to the Christmas season!

This Christmas, our My Stuff Bag committee bought Christmas gifts for 13 needy children at Conroy Education Center. We also received a large donation of toys and clothing from the giving tree participants at St. Bonaventure Church, which were included as much as possible depending on the children's wish lists. According to Mrs. Randy Green, the teacher of the class for whom we bought, the children were thrilled and she was very impressed with our generosity.

The National Christ Child Society held its National Day of Service on **Saturday, October 27, 2018**. Our chapter participated by providing a book to every child who came for a coat and adding a book nook, where we read to the children if they wished. I submitted a report to NCCS on our event and I was sent a wonderful letter from which I would like to share: *"Congratulations on your wonderful National Day of Service Project! Your chapter did an excellent job of adding a literary element to an existing program. The "book nook" concept not only reached out to children, but also involved their parents, a key element in establishing reading habits at home. You brought in a community partner with the bookstore that not only donated books, but also sorted them for age appropriateness. Your success was summarized by the children: "Some of the kids wanted to read the books rather than try on coats!" Your creative idea impressed the judges of the National Day of Service Award committee. Although you were selected as a runner-up, the award winning Pasadena Chapter was also impressed by your program- enough so that they insisted on sharing the award money with the Pittsburgh chapter!"* Our Pittsburgh chapter was given \$250 by Pasadena in recognition of our contribution to challenging poverty through reading. We are grateful to the Pasadena chapter for their generosity in sharing their prize money to help with our literacy initiative.

As we begin the new year, our Red Wagon planning will be our focus! Please donate a basket, bottles of cheer, gift cards or whatever you can to help our cause. Watch for your invitation to the Red Wagon event which will be held on April 27, 2019. Please plan to attend and bring along lots of family and friends! We'd like to greatly increase our attendance at this most important annual event!

Please refer to the **Dates to Remember** section for upcoming meetings. Here's to a happy, healthy, and productive New Year!!

In the name of the Christ Child,

Janet

★ **RED WAGON** ★

By Janet Mascaro

★ The committee is busily planning for the Red Wagon Luncheon! Thanks to Ellen O'Brien for our new, colorful design for
★ Save the Date cards and for the upcoming invitations! Your invitations should arrive by the beginning of March and RSVP
★ will be April 15th. The cost will continue to be \$40.00. Please invite your friends and relatives to this event on April 27th
★ for a great lunch and a fun time! 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 looking into food ven-
★ dors who specialize in candy, cookies, and baked goods and who will provide us with a percent of their sales.

★ Our menu will be Chicken Salerno, Mediterranean Salad and lemon pound cake with strawberry fruit salsa for dessert. If
★ you have special dietary needs, we will have gluten free/vegan items available.

★ So please plan to attend and bring along family and friends. We would like our attendance to grow so that we can in-
★ crease our resources for our mission to provide for needy children.

★ **ALSO...A REMINDER:** *PLEASE BRING YOUR BASKET OF CHEER DONATION FOR MOLLY KELLEY TO THE*
★ *MARCH GENERAL MEETING*
★

★ **NATIONAL NEWS** ★

During the NCCS Convention, Matthew Deevers, PhD delivered the keynote address "Seeds to Trees: Cultivating Persistence in Ourselves, Our Chapters and Our Programs." Just as the tiny redwood seed has the capacity to grow into the tallest of trees, Matt reminded us each person is born with the capacity to persist and thrive. A variety of life conditions determine the outcomes. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can disrupt the growth and development of a child with long lasting consequences.

Matt highlighted three factors that affect behaviors and commitments of humans in every level and sphere of life. He calls these factors the ABCs of Persistence.

A = ABILITY: Our drive to learn, to understand our world, and to feel competent in daily life.

B= BELONGING: Our intense need to bond with others and to feel a connection to our work.

C = CONTROL: Our demand for some degree of freedom and choice in how we do what we need to do.

Having a well-balanced measure of Ability, Belonging and Control brings strength, structure and security to our identity and to our chapters, which in turn will support our drive to persist and flourish! We invite all of our chapter members to ask this question "What can we do to make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve, in our chapter organizations and for those we work with directly as volunteers?"

Matt Deevers' presentation materials can be found by clicking on the National Convention link under the News and Events tab of the Home page of nationalchristchild.org along with all of the other presentations given at Convention this past September.

***** VOLUNTEER HOURS**

The National CCS asks for a report of volunteer hours every year for our chapter. Please submit your number of hours to Janet Mascaro as soon as you can for the period of January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018. The national report is due in February. Remember to include any hours spent on the Christ Child Society which includes traveling to meetings, meetings, any set up or clean up for a meeting, committee work, correspondence, email, written planning, etc.

*** CLEARANCES

If you wish to work with children through our partnership with [All of Us Care](#), you will need current child abuse and criminal history clearances. Clearances for volunteers are free and are good for 5 years. To obtain your criminal background clearance, go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home>.

To obtain your child abuse clearance, go to <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>.

If you wish to take the "Protecting God's Children" class, please go <https://diopitt.org> and click on [Safe Environment Compliance](#) and then [Parish Volunteer](#). Click on **On-line** class or **Live** class and begin the registration process.

ALL OF US CARE

... From Joanne Herrmann

This Christmas the Christ Child Society donated well needed furniture to AOUC in Sharpsburg. We bought a table and six chairs for activities, and four lounging chairs. They needed new headphones for video games and listening to music...so we gave them 12 new sets.

ANGELS' CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

I am happy to report we had our best year since moving to the new center in Etna. Our final count for coats for this season was **342** !!

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.....PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING COAT SEASON ONLY, the telephone number at the center is **412-552-9211**. Many thanks!

CAMP AIM

... From Molly Kelley

Camp Aim is closed for now. We will be sending updates for the summer session as we receive them.

LAYETTES

... From Charlotte Collins

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Our Layette committee has been very busy making deliveries. Molly Kelley took a layette to NICU clinic. Marion Flowers delivered 10 Layettes to PA Concerned for the Unborn Child. I dropped off to the Genesis of Pittsburgh, 8 Layettes, 24 Baby Bottles, 24 Receiving Blankets and 30 Sleepers.

Donations of baby items, diapers etc., have been showing up at our center. Thank you to these generous people!

MEMBERSHIP

... From Mary McCormick

For the winter months, please contact Charlotte Collins if you have any information or questions regarding Christ Child **membership**.

MY STUFF BAGS

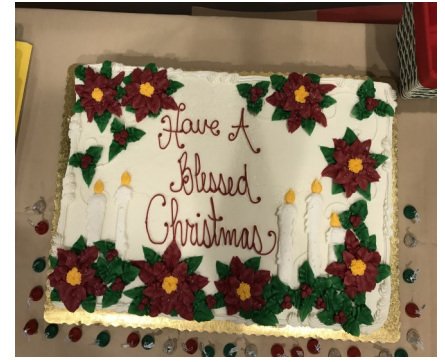
... From Dottie Talarico

The Ladies of Charity at St. Bonaventure Parish in Glenshaw once again graciously included The Christ Child Society on their Christmas Angel Tree. The parish was very generous and we received clothes and toys. Janet, Diane and Carolyn purchased some additional items, wrapped the gifts and we were able to deliver Christmas presents to 13 children at the Conroy school in Pittsburgh. I delivered additional toys and books to V.O.I.C.E. right before Christmas.

We still have clothing and some toys and books available, so as always please contact me if you know of any children who may be in need.

Happy New Year and Thank you!

Christmas Party - 2018



Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at Scolio's Restaurant December 4, 2018. About 40 members and guests gathered to enjoy one another's company, and take a moment to relax during this busy time.

Our Spiritual Director, Father Jeremy Mohler, was able to be with us, and offered a beautiful blessing over the gathering. Mary Ann Gonot and her daughter Pam Diulus chaired the luncheon, and made all the arrangements. They planned some fun Christmas themed games for us, with prizes for the winners. Theresa Maggotta gathered basket donations (including a beautiful hand sewn table runner with matching placements that she made!) for a lovely raffle display. Were you one of the fortunate winners?

Janet Mascaro held a brief business meeting prior to the lunch, and reminded us of the upcoming Red Wagon scheduled for April 27, 2019. In the Spirit of Christ Child, Carolyn Green reported on the gifts that our Chapter would be giving to some of the neediest students at the Conroy Center which is part of the Pittsburgh School System. The Conroy Center serves children who may need early intervention for physical, mental or other developmental issues, and many are living below the poverty line. It is a perfect match for our Chapter to reach out a helping hand to these children.

It seems as though this luncheon is one of the few times during the year, we can get together and enjoy one another, catching up on personal news, remembering the best of times as well as our losses. We renew connections with members whom we haven't seen for a while, and strengthen those connections we see regularly. This fellowship truly makes a Christ Child Chapter different from so many other charitable endeavors. Our shared spiritual and personal connections help us bring the love of Christ to our work.

JUST A REMINDER. . .



OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING! Please check us out at

christchildsofypittsburgh.org

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

James Talarico

From:

Judy Kern

CHRISTMAS DONATION:

Frederick and Ellen O'Brien



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.christchildsofypittsburgh.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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



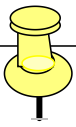
Dates to Remember

2019....

February 11	10:00 AM Red Wagon Chairperson Meeting
March 14	10:00 AM Red Wagon Chairperson Meeting
March 14	11:30 AM General Meeting
	Lunch Coordinators will be MOLLY KELLEY and MARIAN FLOWERS .
APRIL 27	RED WAGON SPRING LUNCHEON
June 20	General Meeting
	Lunch Coordinators will be SUZETTE VENTURINI and DOTTIE TALARICO .

NOTEWORTHY:

- **PLEASE BRING YOUR RED WAGON BASKET OF CHEER DONATION TO THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING!**
- We have additional clothing, toys and books leftover from the holidays. If you know of any person or organization that may be able to use these items, please contact **Dottie Talarico**.
- Please make sure to note the telephone number at our center that will be used during coat season only: **412-552-9211**.
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in April. Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by **Friday, April 5**.



Additional News from the **National Christ Child Society. . .**

Do your New Year's resolutions include Christ Child Society?

Mary Virginia Merrick once said, "I resolved to do something every day for the Christ Child...I was confident that it was His work and He would supply my deficiency".

What can each of us do in 2019 for the Christ Child Society? Maybe you will resolve to increase your participation in your chapter in 2019 or perhaps you have said yes to a leadership role within your chapter. Maybe you pledge to bring more awareness to the work we do and plan on encouraging others to join the Society. This is a perfect time of year to decide if there is more that you can do!

We encourage all our members to explore the www.nationalchristchild.org website Member Resources tab for inspiration and guidance. We address chapter activities from board leadership and program development, to attracting new members and best practices for sharing news about your chapter. The Chapter Guide (formerly known as the Operating Manual Guide "OMG") has been recently updated and can be found under the heading of "Leadership Resources". The Chapter Guide is a complete "how-to" for every area of chapter life and is a resource for all chapter leaders – not just the chapter president. Members can also find information shared at our most recent Convention in Milwaukee on the web site. Click on National Convention link under the News and Events tab to find a wealth of information offered from the various seminars.

We are highlighting just a few of the resources at your fingertips to remind you as you work on your New Year's Resolutions that, in the Christ Child Society, you are not alone and have the National Office and National Board members by your side. We are grateful for your dedication to children and families in your communities and hope that you will utilize the many resources available to you and your chapter. You don't have to make it up as you go. Many have gone before you and are willing to share their expertise. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2019!