



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 2019

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear CCS members,

Happy Fall! So far it has been a beautiful one and I hope you are enjoying the sunny days and warm weather! Our leaves should be beautiful this year!

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 when you are available. Once again, during our Angels' Closet, our chapter will be providing a book to every child who receives a coat. We wish to thank Carole Gilardi's friend's granddaughter who provided us with many books from various children's reading series. She wanted to donate them to children who weren't as fortunate as she was in having so many books. We thank her for her wonderful, giving spirit! Half-Price Books of Monroeville is also graciously donating children's picture books so that we can continue to help in the national effort to build literacy skills.

Our membership list has been emailed to our members. For those members who have not yet paid dues and want to continue, please send your dues in ASAP to Diane Donovan. As was announced at our last meeting, Mary McCormick will no longer be able to be our membership chairperson due to traveling and living out of the state for a few months per year. We are sad to see Mary end her time as chairperson and we thank her for her service for all of these years. I am happy to report that Patti Smith has stepped up to take her place. Thank you Patti! We are looking forward to working with you!

Our My Stuff Bag committee will be dissolved and our new ministry entitled "Backpacks for Hunger" will take its place. We are currently exploring options for how to carry out this program. The Board will meet on November 14th to discuss this. Thank you to Joyce Orr who did the research on this program and to Gerri Orr for helping her out. Both Joyce and Gerri will co-chair this new committee. More information will be provided at a later date.

This December, we will again be buying Christmas gifts for needy children at Conroy Education Center. We will be providing gifts for a class of children with special needs whose families are financially in need. More information will be provided at the next meeting in November.

Speaking of Christmas, don't forget about our Christmas luncheon which will be held at Scoglio's on December 9th. It is always a wonderful event and a chance to celebrate our organization and socialize with other members. Also, if you would like to bring potential members, please feel free to do so!!

Red Wagon planning will also begin in November. This year Suzette Venturini and Pam Diulus have graciously agreed to co-chair the event which will be held on April 25, 2020.

Lastly, with the holiday season fast approaching, I want to wish you and your families happy and blessed holidays!

In the name of the Christ Child,

Janet

ALL OF US CARE

... From Joanne Herrmann

The following information was provided to us by TARCIA REBEIZ (AOUC): The Youth Empowerment Project of Sharpsburg is holding an *Open House* on November 2, 11am-2pm at our afterschool facility, 1650 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215. All are welcome to come play games, eat, and learn more about this program.

There will be art and science projects, screen printing demonstrations, informational tables, food, and a raffle. Families will be able to buy or earn raffle tickets by participating in activities as they explore the offerings of the program.

Attendees can learn more about **All Of Us Care**, Middle Mania, our Peacemaker Project, Sustainable yoU, and our brand new Scholarship.

The event will also be a great way for us to show how much we appreciate our donors, including members of the Christ Child Society. Without you, our students wouldn't have the healthy snacks or Christmas gifts they look forward to, just to list a few of your generous donations.

Our programming is growing to meet the greater needs of our students, and we're excited to share this expansion with our community. We hope you will join us to celebrate the growth of the Youth Empowerment Project of Sharpsburg!

ANGELS' CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

Angels' Closet will open for 6 weeks starting Thursday, October 17th. We are hoping for a great response from the parishes, food pantries and agencies throughout the county. A lot of new beautiful coats await the angels who come to the Closet. Please check the schedule below for specific dates. Thanks in advance for your help!

ANGELS CLOSET 2019 SCHEDULE:

Thursday,	October 17 th	- 11:30 AM to 5 PM (OPENING DAY)
Thursday	October 24 th	- Noon to 5 PM
SATURDAY,	November 2	- 10 AM to 2 PM
SATURDAY,	November 9	- 10 AM to 2 PM
Thursday,	November 14	- Noon to 5 PM
Thursday,	November 21	- Noon to 5 PM (LAST DAY)



Depending on applications and inventory AND AVAILABLE VOLUNTEERS, we may open for another day or so after Thanksgiving.

CAMP AIM

... From Molly Kelley

Information on Camp Aim 2020 will be available next Spring.

LAYETTES

... From Charlotte Collins

Marian Flowers has been busy making deliveries to PA Concerned for the Unborn Child. In September she delivered 15 layettes to them. In October I delivered to Genesis of Pittsburgh, 16 Layettes and toddler clothes that were not being used for My Stuff Bags. We still have a few Layettes on our shelves, so our next packing will be postponed until the new year. I will contact committee members on exact date of packing.

Again thank you to all the people who have been knitting and crocheting blankets for the layette bags. We appreciate your talented work.

MEMBERSHIP

... From Mary McCormick

As of September 30, 2019, the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh has a total membership of 53 women. Of this number, 36 are active members and 17 are sustaining members. Our newest member is **MARIA KITAY**. She was installed at the September 14th General Meeting at our Christ Child Center. **Welcome Maria!**

NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
ENERGIZE INSPIRE ADVANCE
CONFERENCE 2019

... *from* ELLEN O'BRIEN

National held its biennial Conference in Bethesda Maryland September 27, 28 2019. The Conference began with the annual business meeting and was conducted by Carol Pickle, NCCS President 2018 – 2020.

Using the themes of *Energize* and *Inspire*, conference sessions focused on Literacy with Megan Cox Gurdon speaking on her research and the importance of reading aloud to children. She has written a book "*The Enchanted Hour*" encouraging parents, care givers, teachers and all who work with children to understand the importance of reading aloud to a child. There was a presentation of how CCS chapters implement the literacy project. These presentations were from five chapters of differing sizes. Our local chapter's implementation was simpler than others, and in comparison effective given our size and volunteer availability. We parallel Fort Wayne Indiana in many ways.

There was an excellent presentation addressing the process of finding and applying for grants to fund and *Advance* our mission. The speaker works for Candid, an organization that guides nonprofits like Christ Child from beginning to submission of an application for a grant.

Prior to the opening of the conference, Patty Myler, past President of NCCS, led an optional tour of Washington DC's thrift shop (The Opportunity Shop), many sites of historical interest, Mary Virginia Merrick's home, and her grave site. For anyone with an interest in the origins of The Christ Child society, it was an excellent way to get insight into her spirituality and how her faith drove her to begin and guide Christ Child for nearly 60 years.

There will be a binder in our Christ Child Center, available for all to look at. Also the NCCS web site is a very good way to get information about National and other Christ Child chapters.

I was honored to represent Pittsburgh at this conference, and I urge all our members to consider, prayerfully, going to a conference and/or a convention. The opportunity to meet and network with other chapters and their representatives is so valuable, and gives a sense of connectedness that is so important to our mission serving children in need. We do have a line item in our budget every year, to provide for representatives to attend these meetings. And it's fun! Next year's convention is in Tucson Arizona. Check the website for further information [www.nationalchristchild.org]

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

E. W. DELSERONE, M.D.

RICHARD KELLY

BARBARA JEAN LEVERSEDGE (niece of Phyllis Dombrowski)

PAT MAIDA

RONALD RUFFALO

JIM TALARICO

From:

**The Delserone Family
Ellen O'Brien
Joyce Orr**

**Doris Delserone
Phyllis Dombrowski**

Phyllis Dombrowski

**Joyce Orr
Mary Ann Gonot**

Mary Ann Gonot

**Doris Delserone
Phyllis Dombrowski**

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

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www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

November 14, 2019

10:30 AM Board of Directors' Meeting

November 21, 2019

11:30 Lunch 12:15 - General Meeting

— Diane Donovan and Janet Mascaro - HOSTESSES

December 9, 2019

Christmas Luncheon—Scoglio Restaurant, Greentree

February 20, 2020

11:30 Lunch 12:15 - General Meeting

— Joyce Orr and Gerri Orr - HOSTESSES

March 19, 2020

11:30 Lunch 12:15 - General Meeting

— Molly Kelley and Carole Gilardi - HOSTESSES

April 25, 2020

RED WAGON FARE

May 21, 2020

Installation Meeting (Date may change due to availability of lunch site)

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

NOTEWORTHY:

- We ask for your prayers for our Christ Child member, **MARY ANN McDERMOTT**, who passed away on Saturday, October 12. Since our newsletter was in print at that time, our **"Christ Child Mourns..."** for Mary Ann will be included with our January newsletter.
- Our special thanks to Charlotte Collins for providing the lovely lunch for the September 19th General Meeting!
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in January 2020! Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by Monday, **January 6.**

“National News” - August 2019

Benefits of Belonging to a National Organization

When Mary Virginia Merrick first formed the Christ Child Society in 1887 in Washington DC, it was with the vision of forming chapters throughout the country to serve impoverished children. By 1916, the National Child Society was a reality! You may think of yourself as a local chapter member rather than part of a much larger organization. There is no denying the incredible work you do in the communities you serve, **but together**, as a whole, we can have a much larger voice and impact.

NCCS, through its Executive Director, Moira Lynch, office staff and Executive National board, help interested individuals start chapters – assisting them through the entire formation process. Chapters are given all the necessary tools they need for success and NCCS is always on hand to answer questions and lend support. Patricia Gonzales, who recently formed CCS of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, says “that as the chapter is recruiting new members, it is a benefit to refer them to the National website, so they can see that we are a legitimate organization”. She also found that attending the annual meeting that NCCS hosts for all of the chapters was extremely beneficial to her. Patricia was able to network with other chapter leaders and learn about program development and fundraising alternatives.

Chapters from one to 100 years old benefit from being part of NCCS. We are constantly gathering information from other chapters – impactful programs that make a difference; fundraising ideas that really work; inventive ways to attract new members; and how to apply for grants with success. We funnel this information to you, chapter leaders and members, through annual meetings, webinars, social media and our website. We are the liaison between chapters and we often put chapter leaders together who can help each other. We are constantly searching for donations that can benefit all of our chapters. Recently, our NCCS office has been helping chapters get their Facebook pages up and running. Jeanette May, President of the Albany chapter, attended a National conference seminar on organizing a chapter Facebook page. She was unable to find a member to take this on at the time and it was left on her to-do list. Jeanette said she “will be forever grateful to NCCS for setting up Albany’s Facebook page. It has already made a difference in communicating with members and friends of the chapter”.

Whatever your chapter needs, NCCS is a phone call or email away! Make sure several members from your chapter attend Conference 2019 in Bethesda, September 27-29th, where we will all gather to share and learn! We assist you, our chapters, 5,500 members across the country, so you are able to better serve the under-resourced children in your communities.