



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 2020

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Vice-President

PAM DIULUS

Treasurer

DIANE DONOVAN

Recording Secretary

SUZETTE VENTURINI

Corresponding Secretary

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHARLOTTE COLLINS

CAROLE GILARDI

JOANNE HERRMANN

MOLLY KELLEY

MARY MCCORMICK

JOYCE ORR

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Dear CCS members,

Happy New Year! As we usher in the next decade, I wish you happiness, peace and good health in 2020!

During the Christmas season, our organization both gave and received many wonderful gifts for children. The Religious Education classes at All Saints Church donated layette items which will be used in the upcoming packings. The Ladies of Charity from St. Bonaventure Church in Glenshaw included us on their Angel Tree. They generously donated hats and gloves, arts and craft supplies, games, and activity books with crayons and markers. We then gave these items to All of Us Care to give as Christmas gifts to the children in their care. We also had received a generous supply of sweatshirts for My Stuff bags last year which we provided to All of Us Care for their children this Winter. We purchased Christmas gifts for nine disadvantaged, special needs students at Conroy Education Center. Finally, the Girl Scouts of Sacred Heart School in Shadyside held a book drive of new and gently used books for our literacy initiative. They collected over 250 picture books which will be used during our Angels' closet in October. We are thankful for the spirit of giving which we received over the holidays!!!

Our Christmas luncheon held at Scoglio's on December 9th was a wonderful event!! A very big Thank You to the ladies who consistently plan this event every year- Mary Ann Gonot, Pam Diulus and Theresa Magnotta.

Now begins our busy time with Red Wagon Planning. Pam Diulus and Suzette Venturini are co-chairing the event. As always, donations will be needed of baskets, designer purses, bottles of cheer, and door prizes (boxed and at least \$10.00 value). If you have not yet had a chance to sign up for a committee or donation, please contact Pam or Suzette. Please invite friends and family to attend! We need to up our attendance so that we can make enough money to provide for our ministries.

Unfortunately our membership is decreasing. Sadly, this year, 4 of our members passed. We grieve their loss and will miss them and their dedication to our organization. Three members have moved or resigned. But fortunately, we added two new members! Because of this, we remaining members need to do more and more to continue our programs and our fundraising. Please help in whatever way you can. It may be a sacrifice, but otherwise, we will not be able to continue our good works for children.

Similarly, we will be holding an election and installation of new officers in May. Please consider donating your time to serve as an officer. New members are welcome to participate! Everyone is valuable and the CCS of Pittsburgh will not be able to continue without you!!

In the name of the Christ Child, *Janet*

Red Wagon Fare 2020

CO-CHAIRS: PAM DIULUS AND SUZETTE VENTURINI

We are beginning plans for our Red Wagon Fare which is scheduled for **April 25, 2020** at the Pittsburgh Field Club. The following is a list of our current committee chairs:

RESERVATIONS/REGISTRATION	Chairs: <u>Marian Flowers, Mary Ann Gonot</u> (Dolores Butch, Jean Lombardi)
BASKET AUCTION	Chair: <u>Theresa Magnotta</u> (Judy Kern)
DOOR PRIZES	Chairs: <u>Joyce Orr, Gerri Orr</u>
PURSE AUCTION	Chairs: <u>Janet Mascaro, Carolyn Green</u>
BASKET OF CHEER	Chair: <u>Molly Kelley</u>
MONEY RAFFLES	Chair: <u>Diane Donovan</u> (Charlotte Collins)
PUBLICITY	Chair: <u>Carole Gilardi</u>
VOLUNTEERS	Chairs: <u>Suzette Venturini, Joyce Orr, Gerri Orr</u>
CENTERPIECES	Chair: <u>Doris Delserone</u> (Phyllis Dombrowski, Pat McKenna, Joan Driscoll, Joanne Herrmann)
SILENT AUCTION	Chairs: <u>Pam Diulus, Mary Ann Gonot</u> (Phyllis Palombo, Marlene MacDonald)
PRINTING/MAILING	Chair: <u>Ellen O'Brien</u>
SOLICITATIONS	Chair:



In addition to committee chairs, we are in need of *baskets*, *purses*, *door prizes* (new, boxed, MINIMUM value of \$10), and *basket of cheer donations*! Also, if anyone is interested in serving on one of our committees, as well as the Grand Prize Raffle, 50/50 Raffle, and 20 x your money Raffle, we can use your help! This event has always been such a huge success because of the dedication and support of many of our members and volunteers. We know we can count on you again this year. Our next Christ Child meeting will take place on February 20. If you have bottles of cheer to donate, you can bring them to that meeting. Please contact Suzette or Pam if you have any questions. Since this will probably be the last Newsletter before our Red Wagon, please look for updates that will be sent via email!

BACKPACK FOR HUNGER

CCS of Pittsburgh has recently taken on a new mission. BACKPACK FOR HUNGER is a program that provides week-end food for children of families in need. These children have breakfast and lunch at school during the week but might not have enough food on the weekends. Food is sent home with each participating child every Friday. Each bag includes enough food for two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks. Within the offerings, there will be two fruits/vegetables and two proteins. (A one-day example is a breakfast bar, individual macaroni & cheese, applesauce, and pretzels.) Our Christ Child members can help with this project by attending any packings which take place at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. Packings are on Mondays at 11:30 am **unless otherwise noted.

BACKPACK FOR HUNGER 2019-2020 School Year Schedule:

January 27
February 10, 24
March 9, 23
April 13, **22—Wednesday evening at 7 PM
May 4, 18
June 1

Thanks so much for your support of Backpack for Hunger! We could not do this Program without you! Any questions, please call Joyce Orr (412-726-3762) or Gerri Orr (412-931-1173).

ALL OF US CARE

... From Joanne Herrmann

The Youth Empowerment Program (ALL OF US CARE) were absolutely delighted with the warm sweatshirts, candy, and gifts they received for Christmas from our Christ Child Society.

Tarcia Rebeitz (pictured far right), Director of AOUC, is so appreciative and thankful to CCS for all we do!



ANGELS' CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

After 6 distributions, I am quite happy to report that we were able to make 416 children a little warmer this winter. This was our best distribution since moving from Lawrenceville 4 years ago! We also gave out many books for the children to take home and some other clothing from our *MY STUFF BAGS*. THANK YOU TO THE BEST COMMITTEE IN THE WORLD!!
MOLLY KELLEY



CAMP AIM

... From Molly Kelley



No current news from 2020 Camp Aim! More information will be available in our May newsletter.

LAYETTES

... From Charlotte Collins

A Layette packing is scheduled for Monday, January 27th at 10:00. We hope to pack 100 layette bags that day so any amount of time you can give us will be greatly appreciated!



MEMBERSHIP

... Patti Smith



Patti Smith, our new membership Chair, reports that we currently have 37 active members and 11 sustaining members. We are always looking to increase our numbers, so please remember to reach out to family and friends who may be interested in sharing our mission to help children in need!

2019 CC Christmas Party



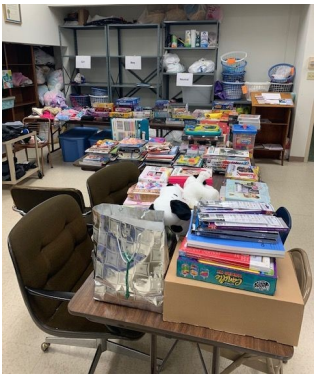
Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at Scoglio's Restaurant on December 9.

Thirty members and seven guests gathered to enjoy a delicious luncheon, play a fun holiday game, win door prizes, centerpieces, and lovely gifts, including a beautiful Christmas quilt handmade by Theresa Magnotta. Our Spiritual Director, Father Jeremy Mohler, was also present and offered a blessing over the gathering. Our special thanks go to **MARY ANN GONOT**, **PAM DIULUS** and **THERESA MAGNOTTA** for all their efforts to make our Christmas get-together a perfect kick-off to the holiday season!

IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Below are some donations that were made to our Christ Child Society. Books were collected by the Girl Scouts of Sacred Heart School in Shadyside for our literacy initiative, and they were distributed through Angels' Closet.

Donations of hats, gloves, arts, crafts and more were also made by the Ladies of Charity from St. Bonaventure in Glenshaw. These donations were then presented to ALL OF US CARE.



DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

IN MEMORY OF:

MARY PAT MAIDA

SANDY KERN

KAREN (KELLY) CALLOWAY

DONATION TO CCS:

From:

Patti Smith

Cecilia McCabe

Joyce Orr

From:

Fred and Ellen O'Brien

CHRIST CHILD MOURNS. . . .

In recent months our Pittsburgh Chapter of Christ Child has lost 3 members and a daughter of another member. We pray that the families of these faith filled and extraordinary women find comfort knowing their loved one is in the Presence of God.

. . . . **MARYANN McDERMOTT** passed away in October of 2019, after a long battle with declining health. Mary was the sister-in-law of another member, Charlotte Collins. She leaves her husband of 53 years, Patrick, 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Despite her difficult health issues, Mary continued to support Christ Child and its mission to needy children. Most notably she was a Board Member and Secretary for a term. She always had a smile and took her struggles with grace. Mary rests with God now, and we pray that her family while missing her here on earth is grateful to know she is in the Hands of God.

. . . . **JOANN LIVINGSTON** was a sustaining member who passed away in October of 2019. As a sustaining member, she consistently supported Christ Child with prayer and monetary donations. She was an extremely charitable person, who lived her faith. Joann leaves her husband Ron of 64 years, 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. We thank Joann and her family for her support and pray that they find peace knowing she is at rest with God.

. . . . **ROSE C. PLUTNICKI** passed away in December 2019. She was the youngest of the 6 daughters of Adam and Wanda Plutnicki. Rose, with two sisters, Barbara and Margaret were long time members of Christ Child. They supported our mission and participated in many of our ministries. Rose helped with the Red Wagon Luncheon every year. One particularly memorable contribution was chairing the table decoration committee the year we featured wedding dresses for our fashion show. She was able to get a small wedding cake from Prantl's and this unusual centerpiece became dessert for our attendees. Rose and her sisters took pride in their Catholic faith and supported many charitable causes. Rest in the Peace of the Christ Child, Rose.

. . . . **KAREN KELLY CALLAHAN** in December of 2019 after a long and hard fought battle with breast cancer, passed away. Karen, age 63, was the oldest child of Mary Jo and Dick Kelly's 8 children. She leaves her husband Sam, her 2 daughters, and her 6 grandchildren. Karen was an amazing woman who did not let life's challenges define her. In addition to raising her family, she was a graduate of the University of Maryland and became a Chemical Engineer. Karen attended our Red Wagon Luncheon every year, in support of our Christ Child Chapter and her Mom's commitment to Christ Child. Karen, we know that you Rest in the Peace that only God can give.

CC DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS ~ DONATION FORM

This form is also available on our website: 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 (From) _____

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please enclose this form and your check payable to "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.christchildsofittsburgh.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

January 27

LAYETTE PACKING

Christ Child Center — 10:00 AM

January 27

BACKPACK FOR HUNGER PACKING

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church— 11:30 AM

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 - Pittsburgh Field Club, Fox Chapel

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:

- Our special thanks to **JANET MASCARO** and **DIANE DONOVAN** for providing our delicious lunch for the November 21 General Meeting!
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in early May 2020. **It will feature the highlights and current information available from our 2020 Red Wagon Fare.** Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by Monday, **May 4.**