



# 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.

February 2021

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND JEREMY MOHLER

## OFFICERS

President

**PAM DIULUS**

Vice-President

Treasurer

**MARLENE MacDONALD**

Recording Secretary

**SUZETTE VENTURINI**

Corresponding Secretary

**MARY ANN GONOT**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**CHARLOTTE COLLINS**

**CAROLE GILARDI**

**JOANNE HERRMANN**

**MOLLY KELLEY**

**JANET MASCARO**

**ELLEN O'BRIEN**

**PATTI SMITH**

**GERRIE ORR**

## NEWSLETTER

**JUDY KERN**

## CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH ZOOM GENERAL MEETING ~ NOVEMBER 24, 2020

*Submitted by Suzette Venturini, Recording Secretary*

The meeting was opened by President Pam Diulus with the recitation of the Christ Child prayer.

Minutes of the previous Zoom meeting on October 6, 2020 were read by Recording Secretary, Suzette Venturini. The minutes were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was given by Marlene McDonald. She indicated that the figures for November were not yet completed, but from November 1 until November 24, the balance was \$20,707.29. The beginning balance for October was \$11,830.06 and the ending balance was \$21,234.82. Receipts for October included \$7,305.00 for the Red Wagon, \$2,730.00 for Joyce Orr, and \$330.61 from the United Way.

Corresponding Secretary, Mary Ann Gonot, reported that cards were sent for each donation for Joyce Orr, and that lists of donors were sent to Don Orr.

## ANGEL'S CLOSET

Seven agencies sent lists of children needing coats. Two-hundred -twenty-three coats have been distributed. Molly Kelley has contacted agencies a second time but has not heard from them. She may try to contact them again. Last year over 400 coats were distributed. We will be getting another monetary donation from St. Bonaventure. Mrs. Kelley indicated that we are short on some sizes, although we do not have any requests at this time. Sizes needed are boys sizes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 16. You may be able to find coats on sale for \$15.00. Ellen O'Brien, Janet Mascaro, Maria Kitay, and Molly Kelley distributed coats on one occasion, Molly Kelley did several distributions herself, and she and Mrs. O'Brien did a distribution for Genesis (10 coats were given). Mrs. Diulus asked that Mrs. Kelley send out an e-mail about sizes needed.

## CAMP AIM

There is nothing to report on Camp Aim at this time.

## NEWSLETTER and DIRECTORY

Judy Kern reported that information for the next newsletter is due by February 5, 2021.

Continued. . . . .

### **BACKPACK FOR HUNGER**

Gerri Orr reported that she had reached out to Lisa but has not had a response; she will try again after the holiday. Ms. Orr asked if a line item for Backpacks can be put into the budget. We will discuss this at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Mascaro indicated that we had discussed supporting them monetarily but that we have never given them a monetary donation. Ms. Orr reported that it looks as though they are working with local food banks.

### **CCS CHAPTER LIAISON TO NCCS**

Mrs. O'Brien had no updates to report. Mrs. Diulus indicated that she completed the report for the *Day of Service*.

### **RAFFLE WRAP UP**

Mrs. Mascaro indicated that we netted over \$7,000 with the raffle. She also indicated that we have an April date booked for the next Red Wagon but that we can change that to another date in the fall if necessary.

**NOTE: *Since the publication of these minutes, it has been decided to move the Red Wagon to the Fall. The date has been tentatively set for Saturday, November 6.***

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Mrs. Mascaro noted that she puts the minutes and newsletter on the website. She has also put on some pictures as well as information about the *Day of Service*.

### **CONROY CENTER**

Gifts for the Conroy Center were discussed. Mrs. Green will check with one of the teachers and get back to us. She believes this will be on hold for this year.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Mrs. Mascaro's son Chris and daughter-in-law Katy have Covid.
- Mary Ann Gonot's niece, Michelle, has colon cancer.

The membership recited a prayer for them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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WITH HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION  
.....MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Christmas  
**PARTY**

The year 2020 was certainly one that we will never forget. It is sometimes difficult to look back and reflect on the all the challenges that Covid 19 has presented for our organization. With adjustments made to meet these challenges, we have done exceptionally well in keeping up with our mission to help children in need.

With new vaccines available for those who want them, we are more optimistic that soon our regular programs, meetings, Red Wagon Fare, and our CHRISTMAS PARTY can take place . So. . . . .

. . . . . If all continues to go well with the control of Covid 19, we are planning to hold our

**2021 Christmas Party**  
**Thursday, December 9 at Scoglio's Restaurant** (Greentree)

We hope to see you there!

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (All of Us Care)

... From Joanne Herrmann

Katy Power is the new Program Director of Youth Improvement

Since last spring, the kids have been receiving food packets to take home along with activity packets for projects at home.

Summer camp was held virtually on Zoom.

In the fall, Online School started with the children coming to the Center to do their homework.

The times have been difficult but Katy Power and her team have worked hard to help the children.

## ANGEL'S CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

Through "an order/ curbside pick-up system" at the CCS center, we were able to distribute 266 coats, hats, gloves and books to the *angels*. We were able to fill all orders that came in through 8 agencies.. Thank you again to the members who came and helped fill orders. The last order we filled was an order from Geraldine Muyango, right after Thanksgiving. That was the last time I saw Geraldine and her sister and children. I was informed late December that Geraldine had passed on December 27th from Covid, which she and 3 of her children contracted at a Salvation army party where she was distributing gifts... including coats. A walking Saint has gone to rest .....I will never forget her and her love of children and homeless people. **Rest In Peace, Geraldine.**

If any of you feel like shopping over the next couple months please feel free to go on the internet or stores and buy coats on sale, under \$23.00 Our inventory is low and we can use any size. Call Molly if you have any questions. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus, St. Sebastian Parish and Ladies of Charity, St. Bonaventure Parish and Mr. Saville. We have money for coats..... Yay!!!

I wish you all a better 2021.. Stay safe



## CAMP AIM

... From Molly Kelley

There are no updates on Camp Aim at this time. Members will be notified of updates as we receive them.

## LAYETTES

... From Charlotte Collins

The Layette Committee packed 92 Layette bags on December 10, 2020. Thank you to Pat Schimmel, Ellen O'Brien and Janet Mascaro for your help that day.

The ladies making our crocheted blankets have been at a standstill since the COVID-19 virus hit us. We hope that they will be back knitting and crocheting for us very soon as we are out of blankets.

## MEMBERSHIP

... Patti Smith

Our Christ Child organization currently includes 50 members (35-active and 15-sustaining.) In order to continue our mission of helping children in need it is important that our membership continues to grow, especially as active members move to sustaining. Please always be mindful as you talk with family, friends and neighbors to take every opportunity to encourage their interest in sharing our mission. The 2021/22 Membership Application and Renewal Form will again be mailed in April. If you would like any additional copies for potential new members, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW.

In the name of Christ Child....peace and good health to all!

## BACKPACK FOR HUNGER

... Gerri Orr

Backpack for Hunger Program is not scheduling any packing at this time. Christ Child members will be notified when the Program resumes.

## Just A Reminder. . . .

Every member of the Christ Child Society, including in-coming new members, must take the Diocesan "Protecting God's Children" workshop. Information on these workshops, as well as on-line classes, can be found at [diopitt.org](http://diopitt.org)

If a member wants to work directly with children through the Youth Empowerment Program (AOUC), the following documents are required:

- A child abuse clearance <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- A criminal background clearance <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.Jsp>

Clearances for volunteers are free and are good for 5 years.



### February:

Phyllis Palombo  
Marian Flowers

### March:

Connie Kunz  
Delores Butch  
Mary Jane Diamantopulos

### April:

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### May:

Judy Kern  
Suzette Venturini  
Sandra DaCosta

## CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

### *DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS FORM*

*This form is also available on our website: [www.christchildsofittsburgh.org](http://www.christchildsofittsburgh.org)*

\_\_\_\_ IN HONOR OF \*      \_\_\_\_ IN MEMORY OF \*      \_\_\_\_ IN THANKSGIVING FOR \*

\_\_\_\_ OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_

\* NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation of: \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION FROM:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

*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:

**Marlene MacDonald**  
**642 Pennridge Road**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15211**

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh is  
a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organiza-  
tion. Your donation qualifies as  
a charitable deduction.

# CHRIST CHILD MOURNS

. . . . *From Ellen O'Brien*

One of our original members, MARGIE DIDOMENICO has passed away. Margie joined Christ Child during the very first year we were organizing in 1992. Many of us are asked 'how did you learn of Christ Child' or 'when did you join'. Margie happened to read in the Pittsburgh Catholic of our retreat and decided to call the reservation number and attend the retreat. From that day, Margie joined Christ Child and became one of our most devoted members who contributed much time, talent and treasure to our mission serving children because of our love of the Christ Child.

Margie (she never let anyone call her Margaret!) leaves her husband of 68 years, Phillip, her three children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was a talented artist focusing on painted china. She sold her work and also conducted classes to teach others how to paint china. No craft or hand work was too difficult for her to tackle.

For years National Christ Child conducted regional workshops for Chapters located near one another. Margie attended one of these workshops in the late 1990's in Ohio and came back with a great fundraising idea. Pittsburgh would host a luncheon, with the Red Wagon as the theme. Other chapters did this each year, and she was convinced we could too. She chaired the Red Wagon for several years, and it became a great success with a devoted following. This is only one example of her devotion and commitment to Christ Child. She served as Treasurer and was on the Board for many years.

I want to add a personal note of my love and gratitude to Margie. We worked on many Christ Child projects and she was always willing to lend a hand and be part of any endeavor. I have missed seeing her these last years when she was ill. I am so grateful that we were part of one another's lives.

Rest in Peace dear Margie, and may The Perpetual Light Shine upon you.

## DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

*From:*

**Fredrick and Ellen O'Brien** (Christmas Gift)

**Network For Good**

*In lieu of their Giving Tree:*

**Ladies of Charity of St Bonaventure Church**

### **IN MEMORY OF:**

*From:*

**FR. JACK O'MALLEY** . . . . . Mary Jo Kelly

**JOYCE ORR.** . . . . . Mary Jo Kelly  
Nuclear Medicine Department of St. Clair Hospital  
St. Clair Health Corporation Board of Directors

William and Patty Hetrick

**ALLAN RATHBONE** Marilyn Dabkowski

# Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

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[www.christchildsofittsburgh.org](http://www.christchildsofittsburgh.org)

FIRST CLASS MAIL



## Dates to Remember

### CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

#### 2021

MARCH 11	Christ Child Zoom General Meeting 6:30 P.M.
APRIL	2021-22 Membership Application/Renewal Forms mailed
MAY 19	Membership Application/Renewal Forms Due
NOVEMBER 6	<b>Red Wagon Fare</b> , Pittsburgh Field Club <u>tentative date</u>

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#### NOTEWORTHY:

- The next Christ Child Zoom Meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 6:30 pm. Members are strongly encouraged to participate! Any questions, please contact Pam Diulus.
- **Thursday, December 9**, Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh ~ CHRISTMAS PARTY ~ Mark your calendar!
- The next scheduled publication of the CCS newsletter will be in May 2021. Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by Friday, **May 7**.