



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.

June 2023

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH GENERAL MEETING

June 15, 2023

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

JOANNE HERRMANN

MOLLY KELLEY

JANET MASCARO

ELLEN O'BRIEN

PATTI SMITH

GERRIE ORR

NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

The meeting was attended by Pam Diulus, Janet Mascaro, Carolyn Green, Diane Donovan, Maria Kitay, Jane Orringer, Phyllis Palombo, Joanne Herrmann, Mary Ann Gonot, Theresa Magnotta, Molly Kelley, Judy Kern, Gerrie Orr, Mary McCormick, and Ellen O'Brien. The meeting began with the recitation of the Christ Child prayer.

No minutes from the March meeting were available.

Treasurer's Report- No Treasurer's report was available.

Corresponding Secretary Report- Mary Ann Gonot sent out 40 thank-you cards to those who donated to the Christmas Appeal. Mary Ann Gonot read a Thank-You note from Debbie McCarthy for our contribution of \$1000 to Blessings in a Backpack. She also reported that Lisa Gaydos and Stacy Doepken will send thank you notes to the vendors who donated money or goods to our Red Wagon.

Angels' Closet- Molly Kelley is anticipating that we will be holding our coat closet on 4 Saturdays only. Attendance is quite low during the week due to school, work obligations etc. The time will be 12-4 as we do not want to hold the event at the same time as the Al-Anon meeting which is held at 10-12.

Newsletter/Directory- Judy Kern has extended the newsletter deadline from June 2nd. She would like to feature the Red Wagon event and would like committee chairs to provide information for each raffle.

Layettes- Charlotte Collins did not attend. Nothing to report at this time.

Membership- Patti Smith provided information via email:

There are dues renewal forms still out. Please return the forms as soon as possible.

National- There is an email sent every month from National about events occurring. If you do not receive it, Ellen O'Brien will be happy to send it to you.

Need for new programs to support- A discussion was held with many ideas concerning how we can expand our ministry. Ideas included donating to the Diaper Bank, having a diaper drive through the church, finding a program for older adolescents, age 13-17, asking for book donations from Half Price Books or Girl Scout Troops, and purchasing a vending machine for books which other CCS chapters have in their stores. Another suggestion was to "Adopt a School" to support. Pam Diulus has asked that we obtain information on various ministries and contact numbers for the next meeting.

Continued. . . .

Red Wagon- A general discussion about Red Wagon for next year was held.

1. A date was set at the Field Club for 4/27/2024.
2. The room fee will increase from \$1450.00 to \$3000.00 even with having a sponsor which is currently Connie Kunz.
3. Maria Kitay brought up the possibility of another venue, the Chadwick, which is in Wexford.
4. Ellen O'Brien felt that many people attended our event because of the venue and she does not want the CCS to give that up. She feels that ticket prices will need to increase to cover the cost and suggested at least \$60.00.
5. Gerrie Orr agreed that people are used to going there since that has been our venue for years. She looked into other country clubs and most do not have the scenic location and have steps to enter.
6. Judy Kern and MaryAnn Gonot made the point that everybody's prices have increased and that attendees rave about the Field Club.
7. Theresa Magnotta provided a spreadsheet to look at *Expenses versus Intake* and determined that we lost \$13.00 for tickets for meals this year.
8. A profit of \$8530.02 was made this year which is lower than previous years. * *Donation count may change the Red Wagon total. Please review future newsletters.*
9. Joanne Hermann made the suggestion that perhaps the lunch reservation could include a ticket for the grand raffle or the purse or basket raffle. Joanne also feels that we must do something to encourage more people to attend.
10. Diane Donovan suggested that we might have a \$500.00 free raffle, separate from the others, which each person making a reservation will be automatically entered into.
11. Pam Diulus summarized that it seems the members want to raise the ticket price, stay at the Field Club venue and give out a raffle ticket of some type. She indicated these should be discussed with next year's Red Wagon chairperson.

United in Service Event- This is a National Event in November to honor Mary Virginia Merrick. The theme this year is "Find a Need and Fill It." NCCS is asking that we find out where our chapter can fill a gap of need in our community and create a project around it. A plan is needed and a form describing what we did is due by 12/15/2023.

NCCS Conference- "Share the Vision" will be held in Potomac, Maryland on September 29-30, 2023. Pam Diulus noted that NCCS conferences are very beneficial for obtaining new ideas and she would hope some representatives would attend.

Agenda for Next Meeting- We will be discussing new projects and members are asked to research some ideas and provide contacts.

Prayer requests were made for Baby Clementine, Marlene, a friend and Anita.

Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Mascaro



ANGELS' CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

Angels' Closet hopes to open mid October on Saturdays only. The schedule still needs to be coordinated with All Saints. More info will be available at the next General Meeting in September. Thank you!

LAYETTES

... From Charlotte Collins

Mary McCormick is delivering 15 Layette Bags to West Penn Hospital.

Stacy Doepken will be making deliveries to Magee Hospital sometime in August and Ellen O'Brien will be delivering to Genesis of Pittsburgh.

Next packing of Layette Bags will be sometime around the beginning of August. I will email the committee the exact date once all orders of merchandise have been received.

MEMBERSHIP

... From Patti Smith

Our **current membership** number is **37**, which includes 27 active members and 10 sustaining members. Please be mindful that we are always looking to add new members to join us in our mission of helping the local children in need. If you have not sent in your 2023-24 Christ Child Membership Renewal form, please do so as soon as possible. If you are in need of a new form or have any questions or concerns, please contact Patti.

Please mark the following updates in your 2022 Christ Child Membership Directory:

ANN HART Winter address: 313 Lady Palm Terrace, Vero Beach FL 32963
Summer address: 1507 Grand Cypress Lane, Presto, PA 15142

JAN MALLOY 1300 Rutherford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
412-563-1046 (H) 412-983-1046 (C)
Email: hvmalloy@yahoo.com
Birthday: October 30

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

... From Gerri Orr

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization that partners with local communities to provide food for elementary school-aged children to take home on the weekends. The goal is to keep students from going hungry on the weekends. We have partnered with the group based at Verner Elementary school in Verona. They currently serve approximately 40-60 students. Students must qualify for the federally funded Free and Reduced Meal Program to be eligible to participate in the **Blessings in a Backpack** program.

NEWS FROM NATIONALS



The dates for this year's National Christ Child Society Conference will be

September 29-30.

The event will take place at the William F. Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac, Maryland (14 miles from Reagan Airport, 15 miles from Dulles Airport, 40 miles from Baltimore). This year's theme is **Share the Vision, Shape the Future.**

Information on hotel accommodations as well as the agenda and DC excursion itinerary that is being offered can be found at the National Christ Child Society website:

<https://www.nationalchristchild.org/national-conference-2023>.

If you are interested in representing our Pittsburgh CC Chapter, please contact Pam Diulus for more information. Registration fees as well as accommodations and expenses are eligible for reimbursement.

Red Wagon, April 29, 2023 ~ Pittsburgh Field Club



Welcome!



Basket Auction



Red Wagon 2023

The **Christ Child Red Wagon Luncheon** was held at the Pittsburgh Field Club on Saturday, April 29. This year 139 attendees and 2 student volunteers offered their support in advancing our Christ Child mission. We extend a special thanks to *Suzette Venturini* for chairing this year's event and also sincere thanks to all who supported the Red Wagon through their time, talent, gift donations and monetary contributions. All profits from the Red Wagon go directly to our service projects, including Angels' Closet, Layettes, and Blessing in a Backpack. The Red Wagon committees have offered the following reports and message of thanks:

- **Purse Raffle:** Many thanks to all who donated to the Red Wagon Purse Raffle! We had seven purses on display and received many compliments on the purse styles and designer brands. Our count revealed that we made \$710.00. This is quite a lot more, in fact double of what we made last year! Again, thanks for your generosity!
~Janet Mascaro and Carolyn Green
- **Basket Auction:** This year's Basket Auction was comprised of 30 outstanding baskets/prizes. The Basket Auction total income amounted to \$2485.00. The Basket Auction Committee would like to thank all those who contributed in some way to make our raffle a huge success by putting together a basket, donating gift cards and basket items or purchasing raffle tickets at the Red Wagon Fare. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!
~Theresa Magnotta
- **Basket of Cheer:** Thank you to all who generously donated a total of 27 lovey wine and liquor selections! Basket of Cheer ticket sales amounted to \$355.00. ~Molly Kelley
- **Silent Auction:** This year's Silent Auction included 10 unique and lovely packages with values ranging from \$100 to \$950. *Lisa Gaydos* and *Stacy Doepken*, Silent Auction Chairs, did an outstanding job soliciting the items and assembling the packages! In addition to the Silent Auction \$1315 revenue collected at the luncheon, \$2250 was received in monetary donations secured by our Silent Auction chairs.

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>	July	Diane Donovan, Charlotte Collins, Mary Ellen Ploeger, Carol Gilardi, Chris McCarthy, Ann Hart
	September	Patti Smith, Molly Kelley, Jean Lombardi, Carolyn Green
	October	Marlene MacDonald, Jan Malloy

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS FORM

This form is also available on our website: 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) 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

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2023

September 7	11:00 AM General Meeting
September 29-30	National Christ Child Society Conference, Potomac, Maryland

2024

April 27	Red Wagon Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club
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NOTEWORTHY:

- *Please remember to. . . note our new phone number (412-719-1066)*
 - . . . *check our website* www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org *for news and updates, including General Meeting minutes and newsletters*
 - . . . *follow us on Facebook*
- Special **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** to **Mary Ellen Ploeger** who celebrated her 90th birthday on July 13!
- The 2023 National Christ Child Society Conference will be held September 29-30 in Potomac, MD.
- Our Christ Child Society sends very special **"GET WELL"** wishes to **Marlene MacDonald**, our Treasurer. Marlene broke her hip in early Spring and has undergone hospitalization and continued rehab. Please keep Marlene in your prayers. We will continue our listings in the newsletter for "Donations to Christ Child" as soon as Marlene has fully recovered.
- Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for our next newsletter to Judy Kern by September 15.