



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.

May, 2025

RED WAGON LUNCHEON

Our Red Wagon luncheon held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, was a great success! We had 118 attendees. Many of them complimented us and thanked us afterward for such a beautiful luncheon. Our profit was over \$9000. Thank you to all who generously donated baskets, wine, gift cards, money, purses, silent auction items and door prizes. We appreciate your support for our most important fundraising effort! A big thank-you to all the committee chairs and committee members for their great work and creative effort put into planning and running this event. Pending member approval, next year's luncheon has been tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, April 18, 2026.**

The following are reports from the 2025 Red Wagon Fare:

- **Purse Raffle:** **PAM DIULUS, JAN MALLOY, AND MARY ANN GONOT** were chairs of this year's Purse Raffle. Six beautiful designer purses were donated to the raffle. One purse secretly contained a \$100 bill, which was also donated. A special thank you goes to all who donated a purse and also the \$100 donation. This year's net income for the Purse Raffle amounted to \$900.
- **Basket Auction:** This year there were 30 prizes on the Basket Auction table with a wide variety of themes appealing to all ages. The Basket Auction brought in over \$2,500.00 in revenue to help fund future CCS projects. **THERESA MAGNOTTA**, chair, would like to thank all those who contributed in some way to make the raffle a huge success by putting together a basket, donating gift cards and/or basket items or purchasing raffle tickets at the Red Wagon Fare. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!
- **Basket of Cheer:** This year our members donated 36 bottles for our Basket of Cheer, consisting of a beautiful selection from our Pennsylvania's Fine Wine and Spirit stores. **MOLLY KELLEY**, our raffle chair, displayed four quilted carry on floral bags each containing nine bottles for four lucky winners. Our "Cheer bags" brought in a total of \$340. A special thanks again to all who supported our Basket of Cheer Raffle!
- **Silent Auction:** This year's Silent Auction was chaired by **STACY DOEPKEN** and **LISA GAYDOS**. This year's auction included 13 items that were well received and many of the items generated significant bidding activity. Our Silent Auction brought in a revenue of \$1225. Stacy and Lisa have reported that they enjoy chairing the Silent Auction, and they are grateful to our generous donors, whose annual contributions ensure the continued success of our blessed organization!
- **Money Raffles:**

50-50	- Profit \$211
20x your money	- Profit \$500
Grand Prize Raffle	- Profit \$860

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

Pittsburgh Field Club Red Wagon 2025 April 26



RED WAGON DONORS 2025

Often items are donated to the Red Wagon but not in time to be included and acknowledged in the program. And sometimes items are donated but are inadvertently left out of the program altogether. We apologize for this oversight.

One of our newer and very helpful members, Janie Orringer, donated multiple gifts cards (Panera, Jersey Mike's, Starbucks, Trader Joes, Target and Macy's), wine and liquor for the Baskets of Cheer, and a lovely Patricia Nash 15th anniversary purse.

Thank you **Janie Orringer** for your generosity and devotion to Christ Child. Each item was gratefully received and used for the Red Wagon this year. Our guests who won any of your donations were thrilled to receive it.

Our long time member, Mary McCormick, donated a generous monetary gift to the Red Wagon. Thank you **Mary McCormick**, your donation is a great help in furthering the ministries of Christ Child here in Pittsburgh.

A special thank you also goes to **Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saville** for the very generous monetary gift to the Red Wagon (in memory of Paul's mother and our former member, *Althea Saville*). We are very grateful to the Saville's for being faithful and constant supporters of our organization, allowing us to greatly further our mission of helping children in Pittsburgh who are in need.

ANGELS' CLOSET

... *From Molly Kelley*

Angels' Closet will open in the Fall. Information on our current coat supply, items and sizes needed, as well as distribution dates and time for volunteers will be published in an upcoming newsletter.

BACKPACK FOR HUNGER

... *From Gerri Orr*

There is no news for Blessings in a Backpack at this time. Updated information will be included with future newsletters as it is received.

DIAPER PROGRAM

... *From Carolyn Green*

The Christ Child Diaper program is continuing with great appreciation and success. We currently donate to six missions including St. James, Genesis, BirthRight, Right to Life's annual Walk-A-Thon, and a new mission, Catholic Charities. We provide diapers with our annual Angels' Closet if a family has toddlers or babies. Our missions are growing as the need for diapers is increasing. We look forward to more growth as we try to keep up with that very important need!

LAYETTES

... *From Charlotte Collins*

Ellen O'Brien delivered 15 Layette bags to Genesis in February. They were thrilled to have the baby items. A delivery of 13 Layette bags was made to West Penn Hospital in April. Sara from the new baby department at West Penn was very grateful for our donations. She said the Layette bags will be put to good use.

There will be a packing of Layette bags within the next few months. I will contact all Layette committee members of the exact date. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

MEMBERSHIP

... *From Patti Smith*

Our current 2025-26 Membership Drive is underway! With last year's Membership Drive we recorded 35 members, 24 active and 11 sustaining. New membership/renewal forms were mailed the beginning of May. As noted on the new form, a response was requested by **May 31**. In order to

Continued.MEMBERSHIP

... From Patti Smith

continue our mission of helping children in need in our area, it is imperative that we work together to increase our membership. If you have not returned your 2025-26 renewal form and/or if you know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about our organization, please contact Patti.

NEWS ~ NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

The National Board of The Christ Child Society is busy planning the Biennial Conference. The conference will be held **September 12 & 13, 2025 in Bethesda Maryland**. The theme of the conference is "**Be The Light**". The site of the conference is the Marriot hotel on Pooks Hill Road in Bethesda. Information will be sent to each chapter later in the summer. If you have never had a chance to attend a conference or convention, please think about being a representative from our chapter. These events are a wonderful way to meet members of other chapters and learn what those chapters have for their projects, fundraising, and attracting new members.

PUBLICITY

... From Maria Kitay

I dropped off Christ Child brochures to LaRoche University at their chapel and at the Kearns Center. I sent an email to the Diocese of Pittsburgh with a write-up about the Red Wagon and received no response. ~Maria



May

Judy Kern
Suzette Venturini
Sandra DaCosta

June

Marilyn Dabkowski
Geraldine Orr
Stacy Doepken
Jane Orringer

July

Diane Donovan
Charlotte Collins
Carole Gilardi
Chris McCarthy
Ann Hart

August

Joanne Herrmann
Kathleen Lee
Janet Mascaro
Cheryl Geroge

Our Christ Child Society extends our deepest sympathy to:

Marilyn Dabkowski on the loss of her husband, **Don**, who passed away at the age of 92 on March 15. Don also leaves behind his children, Don Dabkowski, Karen McCaffrey, Jake and Gavin, as well as 3 grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins. Don worked his whole career for US Steel as an engineer. A Steelers fan, he enjoyed travelling, friends and being with his family.

Our deepest sympathy also goes to:

Mary Ann Gonot and **Pam Diulus** on the loss of their husband and father, **Carmen**, who passed away at the age of 88 on May 29. In addition to Mary Ann and Pam, Carmen also leaves behind three other children, Carolyn, Joseph and Douglas, as well as 6 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. His lifelong career as an educator included teaching at a number of local colleges, tech schools, universities, and eventually retiring from the Pittsburgh Public Schools system. Carmen was an avid sports fan whose notable characteristic was how he cherished family gatherings.

Christ Child prays for Marilyn, Mary Ann and Pam as well as their family.

May you Rest In Peace. . . Don and Carmen

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

From: United Way of Columbus Ohio
Charities Aid Foundation of America

In Memory of:

MARY KAY COLLINS From: Elaine Bucci Collins

DON DABKOWSKI From:

Dianne Dunnington
Dublin Bunco Moms
Karen and Gary Gajdik
Tom and Joanne Geyer
Wendy Graham
Bunny and Geoff Gwynn
Ann Hart
Charles and Frances Hays
and family

Martin and Joanne Hilliard
Holly Jackson
Mary Alice Jansen and Family
Marie and Michael Lowry
Ed and Sue Rieke
Steeplechase
Ally and Bricker Waid
Marilyn White

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 _____

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 Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324

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www.christchildsofittsburgh.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2026

April 18

Red Wagon Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club

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

NOTEWORTHY:

- Our Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh would like to give a very special thanks to . . .
JANET MASCARO AND CAROLYN GREEN
. . .for chairing our 2025 *Red Wagon Fare*! We recognize and truly appreciate all their efforts to plan and organize this major fundraiser for our organization! Once again, it was a lovely and successful event with very positive feedback by many of the guests who attended.
- It was decided at our last General Meeting that our next *Christ Child Membership Handbook* will be published in July of 2026.
- **Please remember** . . . **our phone number (412-719-1066)**
. . . **check our website** www.christchildsofittsburgh.org *for news and updates,*
including General Meeting minutes and newsletters
. . . **follow us on Facebook**
- Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for our next newsletter to Judy Kern by **August 22.**