



# 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.

## RED WAGON 2026

January 2026

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

REVEREND JAMES GRETZ

### OFFICERS

President

**PAM DIULUS**

Vice-President

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**MARLENE MacDONALD**

Recording Secretary

**SUZETTE VENTURINI**

Corresponding Secretary

**MARY ANN GONOT**

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**CHARLOTTE COLLINS**

**JOANNE HERRMANN**

**MOLLY KELLEY**

**JANET MASCARO**

**ELLEN O'BRIEN**

**PATTI SMITH**

**GERRIE ORR**

### NEWSLETTER

**JUDY KERN**

Planning for the Red Wagon Luncheon has officially begun! Janet Mascaro and Carolyn Green will be chairing the event which will take place on **April 18, 2026 at the Pittsburgh Field Club**. Please save the date! Invitations have been designed and will be sent to the printer in the week of February 16th. Our theme for this year is "*Spring in My Heart*." Your invitation should arrive by the beginning of March and RSVP will be April 2nd. The cost will continue to be \$50.00. Please invite your friends and relatives to this event for a great lunch and a fun time! We once again will have the Basket Auction, Silent Auction, Purse Raffle, Baskets of Cheer, 50/50 Raffle, 20x Your Money Raffle and, of course, our Grand Raffle for \$1000.00!

Our menu will be Chicken Piccata, with a Julienne Apple Salad and Berry Shortcake for dessert.

As in previous years, we are asking for donations of baskets, purses, wine, gift cards and door prizes. Baskets and purses must be valued at \$100.00 or more (value, not necessarily what you pay). Gift cards will also be part of door prizes so please donate **ANY** type for \$15-\$20. Suggestions include Giant Eagle, Wal-Mart, Target, Restaurant cards and Movie cards. If you donate to the **Basket of Cheer**, please give **only wine or liqueurs**.

The following members will be chairing each raffle so please direct any questions you may have to them:

*Baskets* - **Theresa Magnotta**

*Money Raffles*— **Charlotte Collins and Diane Donovan**

*Purses*- **Mary Ann Gonot**

*Door Prizes*- **Suzette Venturini** (For items or gift cards)

*Basket of Cheer* - **Molly Kelley**

*Silent Auction*— **TBD**

So please plan to attend and bring along family and friends! We would like our attendance to grow so that we can increase our resources to provide for needy children.



## 2026 Red Wagon Basket Auction - INFO

In the past our Basket Auction consisted of 30 baskets valued at approximately \$100 each. To continue this tradition, we desperately need your donations.

Here's how you can help:

- Partner with a friend to complete a basket and either bring it to the luncheon that day or arrange for a committee person to pick it up.
- Donate items to the committee that can be used to complete themed baskets.

Continued. . . . .

*Red Wagon Basket Auction INFO Continued . . .*

- Donate gift cards or PA lottery tickets that can be used in baskets or as stand alone prizes.
- Make a monetary donation so that items can be purchased for baskets.
- Solicit local businesses that you frequent such as restaurants, grocery stores, entertainment/sports venues, gift shops etc. for donations that can be used for prizes.

**Please Note:** If necessary, a donation request letter is available upon request to present to vendors.

If you have a question or plan to make a donation, please contact Theresa at 412-563-1751.

We are very grateful for any assistance that you can give us to ensure the success of this event.

~ Red Wagon Basket Raffle Committee

## ANGELS' CLOSET

*... From Molly Kelley*

The total number of coats distributed this past season was 415 to 10 agencies. Also included were hats and gloves and hand knit scarves knit by Gerrie Orr and her mom. Great work ladies! A very nice letter received from St. James Ministries (St. Mary Magdalene Ministry) will be shared at the February general meeting.

This is the latest Angels' Closet news to report at this time.

## BLESSING IN A BACKPACK

*... From Gerrie Orr*

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

## DIAPER PROGRAM

*... From Carolyn Green*

Our diaper program keeps growing with the addition of new charity programs. We now distribute diapers to Genesis, Birthright, St. James in Wilkinsburg, Catholic Charities, San Jose, and Holy Family Parish in Plum. Diapers are now also included with our coat mission. Some of these agencies receive diapers once a year and some of them we try to give diapers twice a year or every 4 months. The time frame that we deliver is getting more frequent and that is good! It is amazing the need for diapers and especially the larger size diapers that are requested. It is a well received mission. We gave St. James a special monetary gift this year. They were extremely appreciative !!!

## LAYETTES

*... From Charlotte Collins*

There will be a Layette packing on **Saturday, February 28 at 10:00 am** at the Christ Child Center. Stay warm and looking forward to seeing you soon!

## MEMBERSHIP

*... From Patti Smith*

The 2026-27 membership renewal form will be mailed in May, with four weeks the allotted time for final monies to be tabulated by the Treasurer. **New members owe no dues the first year** but will fill out the form. The final updated roster will be sent to Nationals. For our records, if anyone has email, phone or address changes before forms are sent, please feel free to let Patti know. This is helpful for any other communications. If someone is interested in possibly joining, Patti will gladly send a form to them. The forms will also be available at the Red Wagon. If you have any questions, *please contact Patti at 412-766-3723 or email at [pattiwishesupeace@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiwishesupeace@yahoo.com).*

## NEWS ~ NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

Save the date! The National Christ Child Society Convention will be held this year from September 10-12 at the Embassy Suites, Dublin Ohio, which is close to the Columbus Airport. Details will be coming soon!

## PUBLICITY

*... From Maria Kitay*

After reaching Father James Gretz of St. Matthew Parish, he suggested that we place a blurb in the bulletin. The Christ Child Society was mentioned in the Angels' Place newsletter thanking us for their participation in our Angels' Closet.

## 2025 CHRIST CHILD

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christ Child **Christmas Party** was held on Wednesday, December 3 at Cucina Vitale (formerly Scoglio Restaurant in Greentree). The afternoon included a delicious meal along with prizes and a brief general meeting. A special thank you goes to **PAM DIULUS, MARY ANN GONOT** and **THERESA MAGNOTTA** for planning the lovely event and putting all who were present in the Christmas spirit!

*\*\* A special thanks to Ellen O'Brien for serving as our Christmas Party photographer!*





## Batch A Toys Wrapping Party

Throughout the month of December, groups and organizations are invited to meet at the Charlie Batch Foundation Center in Homestead to wrap gifts collected for the "Batch a Toys" Holiday Drive for underprivileged children in the Pittsburgh area. On Tuesday, December 16, seven Christ Child members and four friends of Christ Child took part in this Christmas gift wrap at the foundation center. Once again, the well-organized event was a fun and very rewarding experience that we all enjoyed!



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN  
2025 BRADLEY CENTER CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOPPING**

Members of our CCS volunteered to Christmas shop for nine designated students of the Bradley Center of Pittsburgh. The Bradley Center is committed to improving the lives of children and families affected by trauma, mental illness, and behavioral health challenges. Our members who participated were given a name tag that included the student's first name and the gift the student was asking for. Members who participated could then shop and be reimbursed for the gift that was purchased. After the gift collection, our President delivered the gifts to the Bradley Center for distribution.



**JANUARY**

**Mary McCormick  
Paula Casasent  
Theresa Magnotta**

**FEBRUARY**

**Phyllis Palombo**

**MARCH**

**Dolores Butch**

**DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH**

From: **Frederick and Ellen O'Brien**

*In Memory of:*

**Carmen Gonot**

**Patti Smith**

**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) organization. Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction.

# Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh

P.O. Box 11324

Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1324

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



## Dates to Remember

### CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2026

March 11

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Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am  
Eat'n Park, Banksville Road

April 18

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Red Wagon Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club

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

#### NOTEWORTHY:

- Just a reminder....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](http://www.christchildsofittsburgh.org) *for news and updates,*  
*including General Meeting minutes and newsletters*  
. . . **follow us on Facebook**
- We are very happy to welcome three new members to our Christ Child Society: **Angela Honchar, Patricia Peters and Fran Stewart.** We look forward to working together with them as we advance our mission of helping children in need.
- Minutes of the February 11th General Meeting that was held at Eat'n Park will be emailed to our members as soon as they are available and approved.
- Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for our next newsletter to Judy Kern by **Monday, May 11, 2026.**