



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.

September, 2026

Spiritual Director

REVEREND JAMES GRETZ

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PAM DIULUS

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THERESA MAGNOTTA

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SUZETTE VENTURINI

Corresponding Secretary

MARY ANN GONOT

Board of Directors

CHARLOTTE COLLINS

MOLLY KELLEY

JANET MASCARO

PATTI SMITH

GERRIE ORR

Newsletter

JUDY KERN

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 ~ MINUTES

The meeting opened with the recitation of the Christ Child prayer.

Marlene MacDonald has stepped down as Treasurer. President Pam Diulus asked the members to consider taking an office.

Janet Mascaro received a thank you from Jim, who does the website, for our donation to him of \$100.

Corresponding Secretary, Mary Ann Gonot, reported that Molly Kelley was in the hospital for nine days, went home, and then returned to the hospital. She is now home again. Mary Ann also reported that the Christ Child Society has received a generous donation from Gretchen Coyne.

Angels' Closet - There was no report for the Angels' Closet, as Molly Kelley was not in attendance.

Newsletter - Judy Kern will send out an email to the program chairs asking for input for our next newsletter. It was noted that the Christ Child Membership Directory was last published in 2022 and should be updated. Our Christ Child brochure, last published in March of 2024, also will need to be updated.

Layettes - In June the Ladies of Charity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel donated 61 sleepers along with 10 onesies, one package of wipes and one tube of diaper rash cream. In June, deliveries were made to the following: 23 layettes to Magee Hospital by Stacy Doepken; 15 layettes to Genesis of Pittsburgh by Patti Smith; 10 layettes each to Mary's Place and St. James Parish by Charlotte Collins. All of these places were very grateful for our help. The yearly budget requested by Charlotte is approximately \$3,500 - \$4,000.

Membership - It was noted that five trees were planted in honor of Joanne Herrmann, our Christ Child member who has recently passed away. At the present time we have 26 active members and 9 sustaining members.

Publicity - Christ Child ad notices were submitted this summer to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Matthew (All Saints) parish bulletins.

Diaper Bank - Chairperson Carolyn Green asked members present if anyone was willing to take on some deliveries.

Project Team - Chairperson Diane Donovan reported that we would like to donate \$1,600 for Adopt a Class, \$1,300 to the Foster Love Project (\$50/bag for 26 bags), and \$1,200 to St. James in Wilksburg. **Backpacks for Hunger** has been replaced by the **Foster Love Project**.

....continued....

...*Minutes of the September 8, 2026 General Meeting – continued.*...

Mary Ann Gonot reported that we need to have new letterhead and new memorial cards printed. She also indicated that she would like us to make a donation to the Charlie Batch Foundation of \$500 - \$1,000.

Proposed Budget - Copies of the proposed budget for July 2026 to June 2027 were distributed to all members present. Per discussion, some changes were made to the proposed budget: Adopt a Classroom Program: Conroy – 10 children and Bradley Center –15 children at \$60 per child for a total of 1,500. The proposed budget for layettes was increased to \$3,500 - \$4,000 from \$3,000. The proposed budget for the Holiday Luncheon was decreased from \$900 to \$200. The proposed budget for Diapers for Diaper Mission was increased from \$3,000 to \$3,500. Fran Stewart mentioned two projects: 1) Caring for Creation, a free swap clothes program at St. Theresa of Calcutta Parish. She will send this information to St. James Parish; 2) donating monies to CCD programs at churches. She will contact the CCD director at the Diocese regarding needy parishes for service projects for the Christ Child Society.

The next meeting will take place at the Etna location on Saturday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m. At that meeting, our new members will be inducted. The November meeting will take place on November 10, at 11:00 a.m. at the Eat'n Park on Banksville Road. The Christmas party is tentatively set for Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at Cucina Vitale at 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Requests - Prayers were requested for Molly Kelley, Walt (Janet Mascaro's brother-in-law), and for Helen, a friend of Suzette's.

Respectfully submitted, **Suzette Venturini, MLLS** - Recording Secretary

Of special note. . .

Project Team is a newly formed committee. We started last November to help organizations with gifts or monetary donations for children. Our services included St. James, Foster Love, Adopt a Class and the Women's Shelter to name a few. This spring, we donated to Foster Love Store and St. James. The Mother of Mercy fund is ongoing and will develop in September. All of the services and donations that we provide are greatly appreciated. If you feel any organization needs our attention, please let Diane Donovan know.

Red Wagon Luncheon Recap (from Chairpersons: Janet Mascaro and Carolyn Green)

Our Red Wagon fundraiser, held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, was a wonderful success. With a total of 98 attendees, the event received numerous compliments and expressions of gratitude for the beautiful luncheon. After calculating Income and Expenditures, the luncheon generated a profit of approximately \$9,800.00. This achievement was made possible through generous donations including money, baskets, wine, gift cards, purses, and door prizes. The support of everyone involved in this crucial fundraising effort is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks are extended to all committee chairs and committee members for their outstanding work and creativity in planning and executing the event. Their dedication was essential to the luncheon's success.

Our next year's Red Wagon luncheon is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17, 2027, at the Pittsburgh Field Club.**

...**From the Red Wagon Basket Auction Committee**...*A Special Thanks.*...

The Red Wagon Basket Auction Committee would like to thank all the members and friends of the Christ Child Society for donating prizes for the raffle baskets and/or purchasing raffle tickets for this year's Basket Auction. This year's lucky winners took home 27 prizes consisting of various items such as PA lottery tickets, gift cards, luggage, picnic supplies, and much more! The raffle netted a profit of \$2,400 to help fund our 2026-2027 missions.

...**REMEMBERING JOANNE HERRMANN** It is with much sadness that we have been informed that our Christ Child member, **Joanne Herrmann** passed away on Monday, June 1. She leaves behind her husband, Gene, two children and several grandchildren. Joanne was a devoted member of Christ Child for many years, and served on our Board of Directors. We are very grateful for her service to our Christ Child Society and will keep her and her family in our prayers.May you rest in peace, Joanne.

Red Wagon Fare, April 18, 2026



ANGELS' CLOSETFrom Molly Kelley

All updated information on Angels' Closet will be forwarded to all of our members when it is available.

FOSTER LOVE PROJECT

All updated information on the Foster Love Project will be forwarded to all of our members as it becomes available.

DIAPER PROGRAMFrom Carolyn Green

The Diaper Mission is becoming very popular with a few of our contacts. They are now calling us if they are in need of diapers. This year is the first year that two of the Missions called! There is a real need for diapers in charities that we deal with. At our last meeting we had Fran who volunteered to take over the Diaper Mission for Casa San Jose. Thank you, Fran, for volunteering for that Charity. We also had Angie who volunteered for the Diaper Mission at Birth Right. Thank you, Angie, for volunteering for that Charity. The picture that accompanies this article is one of the helpers from Casa San Jose taking in the diapers that were given to them. God bless all these little ones who wear the diapers donated from the Christ Child Society to Mary Magdalene Charity at St. James, Birth Right, Casa San Jose, Genesis and Catholic Charities for their annual Mother's Day event.



LAYETTESFrom Charlotte Collins

As noted in the September 8 General Meeting Minutes. . . . June has been a busy month for the Layette committee.

The Ladies of Charity from Mt. Carmel Parish donated 61 infant sleepers along with 10 onesies, some diaper rash cream and wipes. We are very grateful for the donations. Stacy Doepken delivered 23 Layette Bags to Magee Hospital. Patti Smith delivered 15 Bags to Genesis of Pittsburgh along with knitted blankets. I delivered 10 Layette Bags to Mary's Place in Brookline and 10 Bags to St. James Parish in Wilkinsburg. Please contact Charlotte (412-398-5211) if you know of any other places that may need our help!

MEMBERSHIPFrom Patti Smith

Our Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh Roster was sent to Nationals in July. Our 2027-28 renewal will begin in late Spring of 2027. New members will pay no dues for the first year of membership. Anyone who knows of an interested person, please have them contact Patti Smith.....or invite them to a general meeting! Our Christ Child Society info is available on our website: www.christchildsofppittsburgh.org

NEWS FROM NATIONALS

Please check the National Christ Child Society website (nationalchristchild.org) for all updated news.

PUBLICITYFrom Maria Kitay

We are continuing to collect new books to add to our library for distribution to support our mission. Each layette has the book "Good Night Moon" and during the coat drive, a family can select a book to read to their child.

On the marketing/publicity front, we have applied for a grant to publicize our organization through the National Christ Child Society. We were able to select two congregations, St. Matthew and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.



SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Patti Smith Molly Kelley Jean Lombardi Carolyn Green	Marlene MacDonald	Lisa Gaydos Ellen O'Brien Maria Kitay Pam Diulus Mary Jo Kelly	Marie Lowry Gretchen Coyne Mary Ann Gonot

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

From: Our Lady of Mt. Caramel – Respect Life Committee
Gretchen Coyne

From:
Paul and Linda Saville
Debra Niemiec
Kathleen Lee

For:
(In memory of Althea Saville)
Phyllis Dombrowski
Angie Slocum

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS FORM

This form is also available on our website: www.christchildsofityofpittsburgh.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"
and mail to:

Theresa Magnotta
1317 Fallowfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Dates to Remember

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

2026

OCTOBER 17 . . . 10:00 AM

General Meeting (All Saints Church in Etna)
Induction of new members and officers

NOVEMBER 10 . . 11:00 AM

General Meeting (Eat'n Park, Banksville Road)

DECEMBER 9 . . . 11:30 AM

Christmas Luncheon (Cucina Vitale Restaurant)
661 Andersen Drive, Suite 100, Pittsburgh 15220

2027

APRIL 17

Red Wagon Fare – Pittsburgh Field Club

Noteworthy:

- Our phone number: (412-719-1066)
 - Our website: www.christchildsofityofpittsburgh.org (for news and updates, including general meeting minutes and newsletters)
 - Follow us on Facebook
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