



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.

December 2015

Dear Members and Friends:

A very warm hello to my Christ Child members. I first want to thank Suzanne Venturini for chairing our Red Wagon Fare. Thank you to all the chairs and their committees for doing such a good job. To Pam and Mary Ann and everyone that had anything to do with the Christmas party. Everyone's hard work and dedication is truly appreciated. I received a call from Deb Low —National Christ Child Society—letting me know our chapter was one of 27 chapters who will receive 200 "Good Night Moon" books to be used in our Layettes. The Follett Higher Education Group has donated 6,000 books for that purpose. Deb does not know when the books will be delivered. Since we are in the middle of finding a place to have our meetings and storing our supplies, the books will be delivered to my home. Let's pray Fr. Jim will give us the thumbs up for the classroom at All Saints. There are so many new and exciting things that our chapter is headed towards. With new members comes new ideas. With new ideas comes the excitement of new adventures. Mary Virginia Merrick is watching over us and helping us to continue to do her work. I wish all of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and may the new year bring you and your families good health and prosperity.

In The Name of the Christ Child,

Diane George
President

UPDATE....FINDING A NEW HOME FOR CHRIST CHILD

As most of the membership knows, we must vacate our current space in Lawrenceville and find a new home. Much effort has gone into finding space, and we think we have found something in the former All Saints School building in Etna. It is part of All Saints parish located on Dewey Street. It is accessible from Route 28, and several bus routes. Also, it is on one level, which would eliminate the problem of stairs that so many of us are finding difficult to navigate. We are waiting to learn the rental cost that we would be charged. Many other details would remain the same, including insurance (we would remain under the auspices of the Diocesan Insurance).

As soon as further details are available, the membership will be informed. In the meantime, please think and plan how you can be helpful once we do move. The Board has been discussing the need to rent a truck, packing details, who we can get to help us move, the costs involved, etc. Several supportive husbands have volunteered already (or been volunteered by their wives!). As the saying goes "Many hands make light work".

Please continue to pray for a successful move for our Christ Child Chapter here in Pittsburgh.

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NEWSLETTER

JUDY KERN

2015 National Christ Child Society Conference

...From Dottie Talarico

This year's National Conference was a wonderful opportunity for learning, sharing, networking and praying with other Christ Child members from across the United States. Approximately thirty chapters attended the conference. The workshop sessions and seminars were instructive on leadership orientation and development, the issues and challenges of poverty, communications, membership concerns and the best practices that we can use to continue to advance The Christ Child Society mission. The keynote speaker's presentation was entitled 'From the Best Kept Secret to the Best Told Story'. When we tell our story we will hopefully be able to grow our membership, increase our fundraising, and assist more children.

The conference ended with a Mass held in the Chapel of Blessed Sacrament, the parish that Mary Virginia Merrick attended. There was also an opportunity to visit and tour Mary Virginia Merrick's home, followed by a dinner at Stone Ridge School. The conference was an excellent opportunity to learn much more about the wonderful life of Mary Virginia Merrick and all that she did to help children in need. All in the name of the Christ Child. The Cause for The Canonization of Mary Virginia Merrick continues.

Thank you to the board and our membership for allowing me the opportunity to attend this very informative conference.

ANGEL'S CLOSET *...From Molly Kelley*

Angel's Closet closed its doors for the final time at 204 37th Street after another successful year of coat distribution. We distributed 376 coats over a six week period on three Saturdays and three Thursdays. We will be looking for help after the holidays to pack up the remaining coats and other items to move to our new location when found. Thanks to all who helped warm 376 angels this year!!!



CAMP AIM *...From Molly Kelley*

There is no news at this time for Camp Aim 2016. Upcoming Christ Child newsletters will keep you informed of updates. In the meantime, remember to check with Molly before you discard anything that you think might be useful for the camp activities! Art supplies, old toys, ties, material, craft supplies, jewelry and so much more....can be of use for campers!

MY STUFF BAGS *...From Laura Merzlak and Dottie Talarico*

Thank you to everyone who was present at our last packing in September. Your help is much appreciated! We were able to pack 92 bags. Thank you to Marian Flowers for delivery of the bags to the shelter. Please continue to be on the lookout for good quality items at reasonable prices. The items include any size children's underwear, socks and pajamas. There is no definite date yet for our next packing, but it should be in the Spring.

LAYETTES *...From Pat Schimmel*

A layette packing took place prior to the September 17 General Meeting at our Christ Child Center. Seventy-five layettes were packed. We still have some layettes available. New supplies are needed, but orders will not be placed until we are in our "new home." A packing will also take place after we have moved. Approximately 125 layettes have been packed this year.

2015 CHRIST CHILD CHRISTMAS PARTY



The annual Christ Child's Holiday Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 2, at Scoglio's in Greentree. The afternoon included a fun "Christmas Carol" game, lovely door prizes and a delicious lunch of Chicken Romano, Eggplant Parmagianna or Broiled Spots. Thirty-five members attended the luncheon.

MARY ANN GONOT and her daughter, **PAM DIULUS** chaired the lovely event.



Red Wagon Fare, November 7, 2015



YOUR CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY WANTS YOU

TO BE THE 2016 RED WAGON CHAIRPERSON

Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for the position of the 2016 Red Wagon Chair. The Red Wagon chair organizes, oversees, and directs the Red Wagon Committee as it prepares and presents the Red Wagon each year. The Chair is the main liaison to the Board and the membership regarding all information about the Red Wagon. A full description of duties and responsibilities of the Chair and all Subcommittees is available to all members. Please see Diane George for a copy.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY 2015 RED WAGON LUNCHEON 11/07/2015 INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

INCOME

\$	6,905.00	Lunch Reservations (Profit on this \$2,669.00)
\$	985.00	Red Wagon Donations
\$	3,520.00	Grand Raffle Ticket Sales
\$	1,085.00	Purse Raffle (Profit on this \$885.00)
\$	469.73	Bake Sale
\$	656.00	20 x your money (Profit on this \$556.00)
\$	85.00	Barbara's Cards
\$	3,280.00	Auction Baskets
\$	590.00	Silent Auction
\$	366.00	Basket of Cheer
\$	95.00	Grandma's Creations-Mary Jo Kelly
\$	706.00	50/50 Raffle (Profit on this \$353.00)

\$ 18,742.73 TOTAL FOR INCOME

EXPENSES

\$	90.87	Center pieces
\$	4,131.00	Lunches at Fox Chapel Field Club (166 Adult, 3 Child, 10 Volunteer meals)
\$	150.00	Valet Fee
\$	521.26	Printing Invitations, Envelopes, RSVP Cards, Grand Raffle Tickets
\$	142.00	Printing of Save the Date Cards
\$	122.00	Printing of Programs
\$	290.13	Postage for all Red Wagon mailings
\$	353.00	Payout on 50/50 Raffle
\$	200.00	Payout on Purse Raffle winnings
\$	100.00	Payout on 20 x your money winnings
\$	1,000.00	Payout on Grand Prize Raffle winnings

\$ 7,100.26 TOTAL FOR EXPENSES

\$ 11,642.47 Profit for Red Wagon Fare on 11/07/2015

* From Suzette Venturini.....2015 Red Wagon Chair *

This year's Red Wagon Fare was again held at the Pittsburgh Field Club in Fox Chapel, which has been the venue for quite a few years, although it was held approximately one month later than it has been in the past, with the idea that we might be able to attract more guests if the event was held later in the year.

This past year we lost three of our Christ Child members, Althea Saville, Audrey Friel, and Judy Fahey. We wanted to include a small write-up on each of these ladies for the Red Wagon Program booklet, and Ellen O'Brien graciously prepared these write-ups for the booklet.

As in the past, we received donations from area vendors which we were able to use in our theme baskets. Volunteers from Duquesne University again assisted and as usual, did a wonderful job.

Support from members of the Society, whether donations of cookies, theme baskets, bottles of cheer, items for the silent auction, or agreeing to chair the various committees, ensured that we again had a successful Red Wagon Fare.

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

In Memory of DAVID CASASENT

From: Barbara Fredette

In Memory of MARY KAY COLLINS

From: Elaine Bucci Collins

In Memory of THEODORE RECTENWALD SR.

From: Barbara Fredette

In Memory of ALTHEA SAVILLE

From: Paul Saville

In Memory of KARL SCHIMMEL

From: Mary Jo & Richard Kelly

In Memory of JIM WILDOW (Maryann McDermott's brother)

From: Mary McCormick
Mary Ellen Ploeger
Charlotte Collins
Marie Lowry



General Donations

From: Mrs. Gloria Grau
Carolyn Green
Saints Simon and Jude Church- Ladies of Charity
Dottie Talarico

CC DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

Please use the following donation form for any tribute gift or general donation to the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh. We hope to have this form available in the near future on our website at... www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.org

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of donation: ___\$50.00 ___\$25.00 ___\$10.00 \$ _____ other amount

___in honor of ___in memory of ___in thanksgiving for

Name _____

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please enclose this form and your check payable to the "Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh" and mail to:

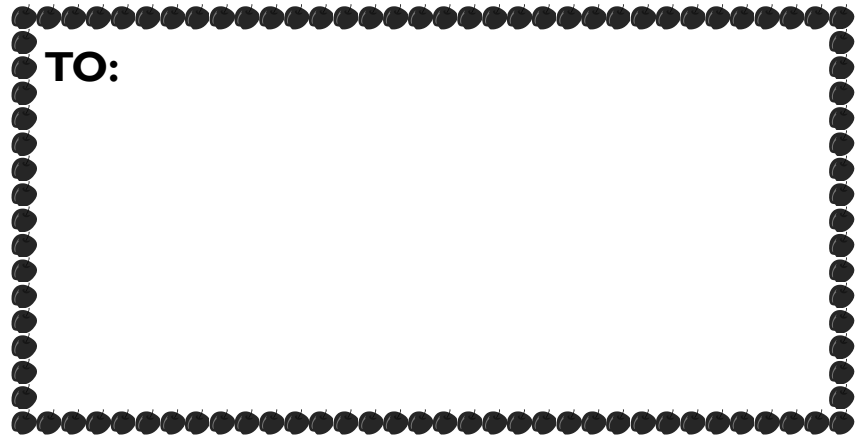
Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh
Charlotte Collins
128 Carrie Ann Drive
New Kensington, PA 15068

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

January 8

- **Board Meeting**—Panera's, Fox Chapel, 11:00—3:00

January 21

- **General Membership Meeting** Lunch 11:30, Meeting 12:15

NOTEWORTHY:

- A very special thanks to **Suzette Venturini** for her time and hard work in executing another successful Red Wagon Fare on November 7, 2015! A special thanks also to all her Committee Chairs!
- Our Christ Child Society truly appreciates the kindness of **DARLENE PAHEL**, who supplied us with all the beautiful pictures of our Red Wagon Fare! Darlene is the sister of Cheryl George. Our sincere thanks to Darlene!
- To **Mary Ann Gonot** and **Pam Diulus** ...a special thanks for a most enjoyable Christmas Luncheon on December 2 at Scoglio's!
- The lunch hostesses for our January 21 General Meeting are Kathy Fitzgibbon and Cheryl George.
- *The next publication of the CCS Newsletter is scheduled for March. Please submit all information for this newsletter to Judy Kern by February 20.*