



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.

January 2025

RED WAGON LUNCHEON

It's that time of year again! We are beginning to plan for the **Red Wagon Luncheon** to be held on Saturday, **April 26, 2025** at the Pittsburgh Field Club. *Save the Date* cards have been ordered and will be sent out by the end of January. Our theme for this year is **"Spring into Action"**.

We will be discussing details at our February meeting. So please plan to attend because we need everyone's help to have a successful event!

Red Wagon Chairpersons

Carolyn Green and Janet Mascaro

Committee Chairpersons

Baskets - Theresa Magnotta

Cheer - Molly Kelley

Centerpieces - Maria Kitay

Door Prizes - Gerri Orr

Money Raffles - Charlotte Collins and Diane Donovan

Printing - Ellen O'Brien

Purses - Pam Diulus and Mary Ann Gonot

Reservations - Chris McCarthy

Silent Auction - Stacy Doepken and Lisa Gaydos



If anyone was missed, please contact Janet at: mascaro.janet@gmail.com.

Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh Welcomes New Spiritual Director

Our Christ Child Society welcomes **FR. JAMES GRETZ** as our new Spiritual Director! Fr. Gretz, ordained in 1994, has held many assignments in various parishes of the Diocese. He has served as Director of Worship in the Diocese, as well as many other boards, including McGuire Memorial in New Brighton, Pa. He is an Adjunct Professor of Theology in Saint Vincent Seminary. He has served All Saints Church in Etna for many years and in 2022 was appointed Pastor of the newly created parish of St. Matthew which includes All Saints, St. Bonaventure, Holy Spirit (Millvale) and St. Aloysius (Reserve Township). Fr. Gretz has also been a Spiritual Director of other organizations prior to CCS. On behalf of our entire membership, we extend our warmest welcome to Fr. Gretz and look forward to his spiritual support as we continue our mission of helping children in need.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FR. JAMES GRETZ

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

Christmas Party 2024

OUR 2024 CHRIST CHILD CHRISTMAS PARTY was held on Tuesday, December 10 at Cucina Vitale (formerly Scoglio's, Greentree). Seventeen members and eight guests attended. The afternoon included a brief general meeting, lunch, games, door prizes and a Christmas raffle. A lovely Christmas nativity scene was given to each attendee as a take home favor. Our special thanks goes to PAM DIULUS, MARY ANN GONOT and THERESA MAGNOTTA for all their time and efforts in planning this special Christmas get-together for our membership! We would like to extend a special thank you also to *Cheryl George* for her kind donation to our Christmas party.



Batch A Toys Wrapping Party

The Charlie Batch Foundation, founded in 1999 by quarterback Charlie Batch provides year-round educational programming to more than 3,800 children ranging in ages from 4 to 18, across 22 school districts in eight western Pennsylvania counties. Throughout the month of December, groups and organizations are invited to meet at the foundation's headquarters in Homestead to wrap gifts for underprivileged children in the Pittsburgh area. On Monday, December 16, eleven Christ Child members and eight friends of Christ Child took part in this Christmas gift wrap. The well-organized event was a fun and very rewarding experience that we all enjoyed!



ANGELS' CLOSET

... From Molly Kelley

After seven weeks of distribution of coats to eight agencies, we totaled 160 coats. Many other distributions from other organizations such as the Pittsburgh Fire Fighters, Pittsburgh Steelers, etc., were in the same time frame. So considering that, we did OK for the children who came and received our coats, hats, gloves, and scarves for 2024. We will still be distributing probably another 40 or 50 coats to St. James Ministries for them to keep and use for clients coming in this cold winter. Thank you again to all the committee who came to help. Also **thank you** for the generous donation of 60 coats from our friends, the Knights of Columbus, St. Sebastian Chapter, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish. Mr. Santucci is a pleasure to work with and is very dedicated to the coat program. I hope next year perhaps we will try "one day after school try-ons" in addition to Saturdays.

Stay warm every one and Happy New Year to all!



Molly Kelley

DIAPER PROGRAM

... From Carolyn Green

The diaper program gave out diapers to Casa San Jose organization and to five families that came to our coat ministry. In February we will drop off diapers to Mary Magdalene Ministry at St. James in Wilkinsburg. In order to grow our mission, I will be in contact with Genesis and Birthright to see what their needs may be, as well as investigating other organizations that may have a need for diapers.



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

... *From Gerrie Orr*

Blessings in a Backpack is a non-profit organization in the United States (locally represented in Verona) that feeds school children who currently are fed during the week on the federally funded Free and Reduced Meal Program and are at risk of going hungry on the weekends. Our Christ Child Society voted to support this local organization and last September we sent a check to *Blessings in a Backpack* in the amount of \$500.

~*Gerrie*

LAYETTES

... *From Charlotte Collins*

In October Stacy Doepken delivered 25 Layette bags to Magee Hospital. As always, they were very happy to have our bags. Magee has asked that we only use tightly knitted blankets that are approximately 36 x 36 so the infants can't get their little fingers through the blanket holes. At this time, we will use some other type of receiving blanket for them, possibly a thermal blanket. We are now looking into other options that perhaps can be used.

In November we delivered 10 Layette bags to St. James Parish in Wilkinsburg. That was the first time we delivered to them. They were very grateful and asked for more in the future.

We took snowsuits for the infants to St. James Parish. These were items that Molly had as extras. We are looking into using diapers that are prepackaged in a set of 12 diapers verses packaging diapers ourselves. This will facilitate less handling of diapers and will also be more germ-free. ~*Charlotte*

MEMBERSHIP

... *From Patti Smith*

Our current membership stands at 24 active members and 11 sustaining members. We are always looking for new members to join in our mission of helping children in need within Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. Please remember to share any opportunity you may have to introduce others to our organization and encourage their participation in our mission!

PLEASE MAKE NOTE~ ~

Our Christ Child Society **Membership Application/Renewal forms for 2025-2026** will be mailed in the Spring. The information included with each form that is returned will be used to update and prepare our new **2025 Membership Directory** which we anticipate will be available in August. Please be sure to complete your form clearly and accurately!

NEWS ~ NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

The National Christ Child Society Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska on September 19-21, 2024 has been described as "an epic event, packed with amazing vibes, insightful sessions, and the kind of networking that sparks real connections!" Although our local chapter of the Christ Child Society was unable to send a representative this year, we are hoping to have representation for the 2025 convention. This year's convention will be held September 12-13 at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda, Maryland. If you may be interested in attending the 2025 conference, please contact Pam Diulus. More details will be published as they become available.

PUBLIITY AND MARKETING

... *From Maria Kitay*

I shared our Christ Child brochure and information about our programs at the ASPIRE (Adult Single People: Inspiring, Relating, Evolving) Ministry meeting on December 13th. I hope to connect with Saint Matthew's Ladies Guild to arrange a time where we can meet to discuss partnering with the ministries in our building in Etna. ~*Maria*

. . . REMEMBERING **JOAN DRISCOLL**

Joan Driscoll was a member of Christ Child for several years. At the age of 81 she passed away in September 2024 after a long illness, leaving her four children and two grandchildren.

Joan also left a legacy of professional accomplishments and community service. Some of the other interests she had were traveling, gardening, and her most cherished role as Grandmother.

We remember Joan as a Christ Child member committed to the Mission of "Nothing is too much to do for a child". We will keep her and her family in our prayers. Rest In Peace Joan.

. . . NOTABLE

Our former member **Connie Kunz's husband Jack** passed away in late December 2024 at the age of 90. He left Connie along with their seven children and fifteen grandchildren. Christ Child prays for Connie and their family. Rest In Peace Jack.

DONATIONS TO THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

From: Cheryl George (Christmas party donation)
Corp. United Way of Columbus Ohio

In Memory Of

MARIAN FLOWERS

From: Cynthia Rottinghuis



January

Mary McCormick
Paula Casasent
Theresa Magnotta

February

Phyllis Palombo

March

Dolores Butch

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

DONATIONS, TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS FORM

This form is also available on our website: www.christchildsocietyofpittsburgh.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

2025

February 20

Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am

March 20

Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am

April 26

Red Wagon Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club

May 15

Christ Child General Meeting - 11:00 am

NOTEWORTHY:

- *Please remember . . . 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*
- Thank you to our Committee Chairs for their information and updates included with this newsletter. A very special thank you also goes to *Ellen O'Brien* for her contributions to this newsletter.
- The 2025-26 Membership Renewal and Application Form will be mailed this Spring. Please keep in mind that the information submitted on each form will be used to update and publish our new 2025 Membership Directory sometime in August.
- Please **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** and submit all information for our next newsletter to Judy Kern by **May 1**.

