



# THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

April 2013

308 South Scott Street, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, In 46624 (574) 288-6028 (fax) 288-4282 (e-mail) officer@christchildsb.org

## Mission Statement

The South Bend Chapter of the Christ Child Society is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

## Executive Board

President:

Kathy Seidl

President Elect:

Judy Kuzmich

Vice President (Fundraising):

Peg Riggs

Vice President (Membership):

Anne Watson

Vice President (Clothing):

Sue Walsh

Recording Secretary:

Mary Kay Bean

Corresponding Secretary:

Rose Wray

Treasurer:

Pat Hillebrand

## Derby Day Invitations in Mail Soon

A great group of Christ Child ladies showed up on March 13 to a stuff-and-sort -the-invitations for the upcoming Derby Day on May 1 at Windsor Park Conference Center. You should be receiving yours in the mail around the first of April. Extra tickets for the Derby drawing can be picked up at the center or by contacting Pat Corcoran (272-6464) or Barb Fedder (272-1881).

Tables of ten guests will be available so if you would like to be seated with your friends you may return your reservation card with their names on the back. To add to the ambience of the occasion, please feel free to use your imagination to create your own unique hat.

## New Member Coffee Planned for May 15

On May 15 at the Center Christ Child will be hosting the New Member Coffee at 9:30 AM. Ask your friends and relatives to come and hear what Christ Child is doing to help the children of our community. Call Kristy Botich (291-7523) or email (wbotich@sbcglobal.net).

## Chapter Honors Marjorie Bycraft With Mary Virginia Merrick Award

The recipient of the 2013 Mary Virginia Merrick award is Marjorie Bycraft . The bi-annual award was presented at the spring luncheon on March 27.

A member of Christ Child since 1976, Marjorie has "done it all" at the Center over the years. She is a past Board member, serving on many committees in this time. was Board president in 1998-1999 and was one of the original members of the Endowment Committee.

Marjorie not only purchased clothing for the Center for 14 years but also during this time and continuing today she and her husband provided storage space for the clothing at John's business warehouse.

Named a Dame in the Order of Malta in 1994, she assisted in the process that led to a \$15,000 grant from the Knights of Malta for the Center's move to Scott Street. In following years the Bycrafts remained involved in the grant process which led to \$43,500 in additional funding in five years of grant submissions to the Order of Malta.

Some of the comments from members who nominated Marjorie included "dedicated to Christ Child," "always comes to the Center with a smile," and "lives her faith."

"Marjorie and John facilitated the purchase ,storage and distribution of clothing to our children cheerfully, efficiently and lovingly, said one member and another "Marjorie and John are the 'Christ Child couple.'"

Thank You, Marjorie (and John), for all your hard work and dedication.



## CALENDAR

- Apr 3,10,17,24 ..... Restock/  
Inventory Center 9:00 am
- Apr 15 . . . . . Board Meeting  
Center 9:30 AM
- Apr 24.....In Memoriam Mass  
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM
- May 1.....Derby Day
- May 15...New Member Coffee  
Center 9:30 AM
- May 15..... Membership  
Renewal Due

## Book Club

*The Daughter's Tale*  
by Lady Mary Soames  
April 17  
Catherine Koscielski  
(232-4794)

## From the President . . . . . Kathy Seidl

This is such an exciting time for the world with the election of a new Pope to lead the Catholic Church. Please remember Pope Francis in your daily prayers. He has a most difficult job to perform and needs our prayers and support.

*Thank You* to Marjorie Bycraft, the recipient of the Mary Virginia Merrick Award, for all she has done over the years for Christ Child. She exemplifies who the Christ Child member is. *Thank You* to everyone who sent in the nominations for this award.

*Thank You* to Follett Company for their very generous donation of 5,000 new children's books. These books are for children from preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It is such a thrill to see the excitement on the faces of the children at the Center when you give them a book to take home.

*Thank You* to the Nominating Committee for their many hours of work selecting the new members for the 2013-2014 board. These ladies are Norma Villanucci, Chairperson, Judy Kuzmich, President-Elect, Sheila Emge, Mary Beth McGrath, Andrea Incropera and Katy Gregg.

*Thank You* to the four new board members for saying "Yes" to being on the 2013-2014 Board. Kristy Botich, Andrea Incropera, Jane Kanouse and Linda Rakow have committed to serve a three year term. These ladies were unanimously elected at the spring luncheon/meeting by the members. Congratulations to them for their commitment to Christ Child.

*Thank You* to Norma Villanucci and Sandy Krizmanich for the wonderful job of planning the Spring Mass and Luncheon/Meeting. It was a beautiful Mass and enjoyable Luncheon/Meeting.

Remember, when *you* are called upon to help or serve on a committee for Christ Child, *please* say "Yes."

As of March 17, 2013, Clothe-a-Child 1 campaign has received \$74, 225.75 in donations. A huge *thank you* to everyone who contributed so generously.

Please call Carol Holt (259-0461) or email Kristy Botich (wbotich@sbcglobal.net) with the names and addresses of any prospective members for Christ Child. The New Member Coffee will be May 15.

*Think Spring!*

## The Spotlight is on . . . . . Mary Beth McGrath

Mary Beth comes to the Center each week to help in the waiting room and the Intake room. She assists in Spanish translation with our clients and she runs a "tight ship" in the waiting room. She keeps everyone on task and things running smoothly. Mary Beth is a current board member and had an idea that we should give a book to each of our clients' children. How could we do that? We now have the "A Book For A Child Program" that has been so very successful.

Some of her many accomplishments: taught at Penn High School for many years and is dearly loved (and missed) by everyone there: keeps in contact with her "Penn friends" and picks up used clothing donations from the school for our Center; and is fluent in Spanish and French.

Also, she loves to travel with her family and friends; dearly loves to go to Atlanta to "babysit" for her nieces; is a member of St. Pius X parish; cared for her Mother for many years at home until she moved to a retirement community; and with a friend began a program at St. Adalbert parish for Spanish speaking parishoners to learn "every-day English."

Most importantly, Mary Beth has been accepted in a provisional year in the Order of Malta and will be formally notified and approved by the Pope in June with the installation in November as a Dame of the Order of Malta at St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Thank You, Mary Beth, for all you do for everyone!

## Membership News

In keeping with the Technology Committee's goal of renewing membership and sending out the directories in a timely manner, membership renewals will be mailed out to the members in April. They must be returned by May 15 in order for the committee to update the records. This time is needed to gather and input all of the members' information, to lay out the directory and to send it to the printer.

If a renewal is not received on time, the member's information will NOT be in the directory. No phone calls will be made to remind you that we have not received your renewal form and check. The goal is to have all information entered so that the membership directory can be sent to the printer and distributed by September 1.



### APRIL

- 1 Winifred Farquhar
- 3 Lorraine Hull
- 4 Deborah Spillman
- 6 Barbara Szewczyk
- 6 Diane Coiro
- 7 Cheryl Meyer
- 11 Mary Kubiak
- 11 Sheila Marshall
- 13 Mary Hintz
- 13 William Killilea
- 14 Joan Biltz
- 14 Denise Collins
- 18 Della Dewald
- 18 Louise Lauer
- 21 Cleo Kowalski
- 21 Debra Low
- 21 Julann Bauer
- 22 Mary Thallemer
- 22 Cynthia Pankiw
- 26 Tami McNally
- 27 Theresa Veldman
- 28 Kristy Botich
- 29 Madeline Deyerling
- 29 Mary Jane Severyn
- 29 Esther Cyr
- 29 James La Bella
- 29 Evonne Corbett
- 30 Karen Clifford

Deadline for next newsletter  
April 15

Ann Korb (277-6443)  
ack339@aol.com

## Gifts and Memorials

The beautiful Gold Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society, as an In Memoriam or in recognition of a special occasion or accomplishment. A donation can be made in memory of deceased friend or relatives who will also be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. The card also makes it possible to celebrate happy occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries in the same way. When requesting a Remembrance Card, members are asked to print legibly since the names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor's name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Jane Horning (272-4160)

### In Memoriam

Bishop John M D'Arcy (Betsy Cooke, Esther Cyr, Ann Korb)  
 George Ambler (Phyllis/Earl Kubale)  
 Duane Begman (Wally/ Margaret Moore)  
 Harold Berger (Jim/Pat Short)  
 Helen Jo Butterworth (Tee/Cal Miller)  
 Barbara Cady (Phyllis/Earl Kubale)  
 Nancy Collins (Julie Considine)  
 Judy DeWinter (Rosemary Herzog)  
 Monabelle Diltz (Esther Cyr, Donna Oakley)  
 Patrick Donald Donahue (Gratia Eades)  
 Rudy Fermi (Joe/Marie Burt)  
 George Hoffman (Tom/ Maureen Cahir)  
 Rita Jun (Kenneth/Dorothy Anderson, Carol Bauer, Marie Brady, Faegre Baker & Daniels, Esther Cyr, Renee Hochstetter, Thomas/Janice Kleppe, Lois Leliaert, Julie/ Philip Schreiber, Christopher Spataro, Jean Conner, Michael/Pati Gleason, Michelle/David Remley, C.J./ Marian Winters)

**In Memoriam**  
 Member  
 Bishop John M. D'Arcy

Douglas Kaczorowski (Marie Burt)  
 Joseph Kambol (Bill/Marian Bickel)  
 Dr. Donald E Kotoske (Mary Tice)  
 Joyce Legge (Pat/Fred Hillebrand)  
 Dominico Schimizzi (Kay/Frank Catanzarite)  
 Patrick Simeri (Judy Kuzmich, Marquis/Rosemary Anderson, Sonny/Dee Tepe)  
 Marilyn Solomon (Trudy Strantz)  
 Amelia Wieland (Elizabeth Styles)  
**Special Occasion**  
 John Bycraft - Get Well (Barbara Dillon)  
 Charles McCarthy (Pat Corcoran)  
 Bill/Mary Jo Miller - 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Elva Gable)  
 Marietta Squibb (Carol Bauer)  
 Pat Sult - Get Well Soon (Darlene Heck)

## March Board Meeting Notes

- The Layette of Hope project, after a late start due to budget concerns and a couple of snow days, is complete. 3,000 mini layettes have been delivered to the Women's Care Center. Next year we hope to have a grant for this project. Mary Kay Bean, chair, would like to thank all the wonderful ladies who helped.
- Thanks to Judy Kuzmich, President Elect, The Christ Child Society will be part of Notre Dame's Women's Basketball Bear Toss. We will receive the bears next season and will distribute them with New Clothing.
- The New Member Coffee will be on May 15. If anyone knows of a person who would like to join The Christ Child Society, please call Carol Holt or e-mail Kristy Botich with their names as soon as possible.
- Beth Barrett has accepted the position of chairing the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Once again we will offer our clients the choice of either jeans or uniform pants. This was the first year we gave them that choice and it has worked well for all.
- Follett Books donated 5,000 children's books, ranging from preschool to 6th grade and even paid for shipping from Chicago!

## Log in and Take a Look!

Did you know you have resources right at your fingertips – literally! Just type, with your fingertips, the web address [www.nationalchristchildsoc.org](http://www.nationalchristchildsoc.org) and you'll find resources galore!

NCCS Board member and website developer Joan Watkins has been working tirelessly for many months to compile, organize, streamline, and present a user friendly website for all NCCS members to use and enjoy.

Have you ever wondered about the other Christ Child chapters around the country and how they go about program development, or fundraising? Log in and have a look! Have you ever wanted to know more about membership recruitment, or board development? Log in and have a look!

Have you ever wanted to be inspired by the success stories of other members around the country who share your passion to help the children of this world? Log in and have a look! Find our own newsletter posted, and those of other Chapters.

There is so much to learn and share! Please log on to the web address listed above, type in username: chapter, and password: redwagon. Enjoy!

## From Scarves to Crib Blankets: Girl Scout Project Continues

Many of us recall the delightful Girl Scout Project from last fall that was highlighted in the November newsletter. A \$1,679.00 grant was written and received to purchase supplies to help the girls craft over one thousand warm fleece scarves to accompany our coats.

The girls and moms from several Girl Scout troops spent many hours making the beautiful scarves. They delivered them on a late autumn distribution Sunday. We were fortunate to get TV coverage of the event, and we were equally so to attract one mom as a new Christ Child member, while several others took applications for membership.

Sounds like a successful partnership? Well, there is more to the story. ... We have been updated on the philanthropic

seed that was planted with that first service project. Those very same Girl Scouts are interested in creating crib blankets for the layette department this fall, and we are looking for grant money to once again aid them in their endeavor.

The eldest of these Girl Scouts are fifth graders at Northpoint Elementary School in Granger and will be going on to middle school next year. They have decided to create an on-going service project for the children of the Christ Child Society by decorating and placing a gently-used clothing receptacle in their school office lobby which will be handed down each year to the eldest Girl Scout troop in the school. Their parting gift to their school is a perpetual gift to the children we serve. That initial grant is building so very many positive outcomes!

# Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is May 12 and we suggest you consider honoring that special woman in your life with a donation to the Clothe-A-Child Campaign. Sixty dollars (\$60) will provide a layette to a newborn and seventy-five dollars (\$75) will clothe a child. A note acknowledging your gift will be sent to the recipient at your request.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ In Memory of

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ In Honor of

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check for \$60 or \$75 to:

Happy Mother's Day! Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624

\*Check here if you want the individual notified of your gift. \_\_\_\_\_

Return Service Requested

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 1286  
South Bend, Indiana 46624



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