



# Christ Child Society Newsletter

June, 2012

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

Norma Villanucci

President Elect:

Kathy Seidl

Vice President (Fundraising):

Pat Corcoran

Vice President (Membership):

Carol Holt

Vice President (Clothing):

Norma Cherry

Recording Secretary:

Kelly Ghyselink

Corresponding Secretary:

Rose Wray

Treasurer:

Pat Hillebrand

## Calendar

June 7 ..... Board Meeting  
 Incoming/Outgoing Members  
 Papa Vino's 11:30 AM

June 13, 20 ..... Restock/Inventory  
 Center 9:00 AM

June 27 ..... In Memoriam Mass  
 St. Patrick's Chapel 12:15 PM

August 1 ..... Let Love Shine  
 Gift Giving Party, Center

August 15 ..... Center Reopens  
 for Clients

The Christ Child Society of South Bend  
requests you to

*Save the Date*

for the second annual

*Let Love Shine*

*Dinner and Auction*

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Featuring electronic bidding and extended silent auction hours

For more information, go to [www.letloveshine.info](http://www.letloveshine.info)

Please consider making a donation for the dinner/auction: Notre Dame tickets, jewelry, handbags, iPads, kitchen items, children's items, favorite salon or restaurant gift certificates, gas cards, any kind of liquor. ALL handmade items are always top sellers. Use your imagination; no item is too small. We'll combine items to make up lovely baskets.

There'll be a Gift Gathering party at the Center on August 1. More details in the August newsletter.

Contact Kathy Seidl (278-0908 or [marian0103@comcast.net](mailto:marian0103@comcast.net)) or Judy Kuzmich (272-5739 or [jkuzmich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkuzmich@sbcglobal.net)) with questions or for pick up arrangements. Solicitation letters requesting a donation have been mailed to businesses. Contact Kathy or Judy if you can help contact any of these companies.



Carol Holt (above) prepares the tables for the New Member Coffee on May 16. Right, Dee Tepe models a vintage dress and coat for members and guests.



## From the President . . . Norma Villanucci

At this time of the year many families are planning graduation parties, weddings, summer vacations, to just name a few. The old song "June is Busting Out All Over" reminds me that summer is here, school is over, flowers are in full bloom and everyone excited about summer vacations. In the meantime, the ladies at the Center are still working hard to fill the shelves with new and used clothing, shoes and coats for our opening in mid-August. The new Board members are looking ahead and preparing for the upcoming season and the challenges that lie ahead.

On May 9, we had our first Mother's Day Tea. This was a beautiful and wonderful day to remember. Our emcee was the popular local TV personality Tricia Sloma, and our fashion director was Danny Reynolds from Stephenson's in Elkhart. The tea was held at the Gillespie Conference Center. Not only did we have a fashion show but a great raffle. A special thanks to Linda Brammer and Marcia Auger and their committee for a great afternoon tea and for all the hard work that was done to make this event successful. Let's do it again next year!

The New Member Coffee was held on May 16 and was a great success. Standing room only! Thank you to Carol Holt for organizing this event and to those members that helped setup the room. We now have eight new members as result of this event. A woman wrote a note following the coffee stating, "First of all, let me say I was blown away by what I heard and saw on Wednesday's breakfast. What a wonderful organization and what a committed group of women dedicated to the betterment of children. Looking forward to becoming a part of Christ Child."

It is so hard to believe this is my last article as president. The year simply went by so fast and furious week to week, month to month, project to project but I find myself a little sad that it will come to an end. The past year has been challenging, rewarding and enriching in every way. I would like to thank everyone that I reached out to during the year and to say how appreciative I am of all the support. We have so many talented women in Christ Child and it shows in how successful we've become in our fund-raising, our volunteerism and our leadership. It's been a wonderful year that I will never forget. I leave knowing that Kathy Seidl will be a tremendous president and a great leader. She will have a very supportive Board who will be an asset to her.

My final words of wisdom come from our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick: "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

## A Message of Faith . . . Norma Cherry

I met a new priest today. His name is Father Otto and he is at St. Mary's in Niles. I was attending a First Communion at his church. When I walked in their door, he was sitting on a stool, a cane in one hand and the other extended. I said a simple "Hello Father." He clasped my hand and looked into my eyes. I felt a lot in that look, but I learned so much more later about this man who would speak God's words.

He had been a member of St. Mary's forever, had even gone to grade school there. At the age of 20 he developed a very bad case of rheumatoid arthritis. But somewhere through all this pain came a vision of what he wanted to do with his life. It was to become a priest. He returned to St. Mary's where it all began to help the people who had helped him. He tried to stay active to keep his arthritis under control, so he rode his bike a lot. About five years ago he was riding his bike and got hit by a car.

During Mass someone would help him get to the altar or move around the steps. When you got past the physical restrictions of this man, you realized you were in the presence of something so much more important. You could feel his faith and how much it meant to him to be able to keep going and spreading that faith to all who would listen. I got upset with myself for complaining about my pain, my small pain compared to what this man felt every day of his life. I was thankful to have met him and pray that he is there for many years to come.

Thank you for letting me share the stories with all of you. There are so many messages out there. We just need to hear them.



*Kim Keultjes and Marti Moriconi were two of the models at the Mother's Day Tea. Over 200 members and guests attended the May 9 festivity.*

## May Board Meeting

The Board unanimously voted the following to the Executive Board for 2012-13: President - Kathy Seidl, President Elect - Judy Kuzmich, VP Fundraising - Peg Riggs, VP Membership - Anne Watson, VP Clothing - Sue Walsh, Corresponding Secretary - Rose Wray, Recording Secretary - Mary Kay Bean, and Treasurer - Pat Hillebrand.

Opening date for the Center will be August 15 for clients. Sunday dates for the fall are August 26, September 9 and 23 and October 14. The Center will close for clients after the second Wednesday in January.

Norma Villanucci is gathering quotes for demolition of the wall in the old locker room to make it easier for storage and maneuverability.

Anne Watson presented a quote from Network Solution to bring Christ Child up to date with wireless capabilities to enable updates to run more efficiently and effortlessly. The Board agreed to go ahead with the updates as this will greatly improve productivity and provide many opportunities for progress in the future.

### Book Club

*Once Upon a River*

by Bonnie Jo Campbell

June 20

Mary Ann McTigue (259-9390)

Deadline for next newsletter

August 20

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

## Scholarship Student Relates Path for Education

*(In spring of 2010 an ad hoc committee began to discuss awarding scholarship money to women of the children South Bend Christ Child serves. This assistance would help mothers complete their education in order to pursue a better life for their children. This year four awards were given.*

*Amanda Hampton and Elydia Pimental both were awarded non-renewable \$1500 grants. Amanda is at Ivy Tech in the medical assistance program and Elydia is working for a science degree at IUSB.*

*Last year Sara Musgrave received a \$1500 renewable scholarship. An Ivy Tech student studying for an associate degree in social studies, Sara plans to attend IUSB. This year Jana Humphreys received a renewable \$1500 grant. She will complete a social studies degree at IUSB in two years. Her story follows.))*

My name is Jana Humphreys and I am the very blessed recipient of this year's Christ Child Society scholarship. I was asked to share a little bit about my life.

My mother was a single mom, raising four children, working third shift. Being the oldest child of four, the child rearing and household chores usually fell on my shoulders.

I became pregnant at the tender age of 13. The father of the baby was 15. We decided to keep our child. We did not know how to be parents, but we knew the kind of parents we didn't want to be. We took advantage of the commu-

nity resources available to us, taking numerous parenting classes, nutrition classes, breast feeding classes and Lamaze breathing. We helped form a teen parents support group at our high school along with an annual teen parent panel for high school health classes.

### First Home

I became emancipated at 15 with the aid of a school counselor. My boyfriend at the time and I decided to buy a mobile home. We had our first home before either one of us had a driver license! It was not easy but we made it work somehow.

I married when I was 17 while pregnant with a second child and shortly after we both dropped out of high school. Fast forward to the present: through all the years of struggle we have endured, somehow making it work. Almost 16 years later, we are still happily married.

My husband and I now have three children of our own who all do exceptionally well in school. We also have guardianship over our three nieces and nephew due to circumstances that were unfit for children to be in. Yes we are now a family of eight! We are avid volunteers in our community, registered voters, home owners, tax payers, high school graduates and we try to be darn good members of society.

With our six children and my husband the only one working, I have somehow managed to obtain an associate's

degree in human service and a Mental Health certificate, both from Ivy Tech. I'm pursuing a BS degree in criminal justice from IUSB and talking about going for a master's degree in social work.

### Exciting Future

We have been blessed beyond measure. We continue to strive and achieve our goals. We are excited about the future and what it holds.

Rest assured your generous investment in our lives will have a profound impact not only in our lives, but also within our community.

By extending this scholarship opportunity to me, you have contributed to the future progression of my personal character development, my family, my career and our community at large.

Thank you for this fortunate opportunity.  
Love Prevails.

## 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

Gretchen Batt (Bill/Marian Bickel)  
Ron Crump (Mary Tice)  
Robert Deming (Jim/Nancy Yohe)  
Dorothy DiGann (Mr/Mrs Rocco Germano, Patricia O'Connor)  
Bernard Doyle (Carol Bauer, Dr/Mrs John B Toepp)  
Pat Harrison (Esther Cyr)  
Jacque Hollister (Winnie VandenBossche)  
William Hradel (Mary Tice)  
Katherine Lane's Grandmother (Marcia/Tom Blum)  
Jane Nugent Keenan (Julie W Considine)  
Daniel Larimer (Kathleen

Welsh)  
Arthur R. Leinen, Sr (Dr John/Marilyn Toepp)  
Col. Bob Lenz (Marcia/Tom Blum)  
Alice Luse (Winnie VandenBossche)  
Patricia Ann McLaughlin (Carol Bauer, Esther Cyr, Helen Diltz, Patti/Lowell Paschke, Trudy Strantz, Theresa Van Nevel)  
Bernie Peczowski (Rosemary Herzog)  
Maxine Schnapp (Patti/Lowell Paschke)  
John Shanley (Kay/Frank Catanzarite, Christ Child Society, Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)  
Judith Annette Strantz

(Trudy Strantz)  
Mark Wassenhove (Sunny/Dee Tepe)  
**Special Occasion**  
Louise Anella - Happy Birthday (Pat Short/Tami McNally)  
Kelly Ghyselinc - Thank You (Catherine Thurin)  
Bobby Hill - 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Gratia Eades)  
Rev. Thomas Jones, csc - 40<sup>th</sup> Ordination Jubilee (Esther Cyr)  
Mary/Ed Kubiak - 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Tom/Judy Burmeister)  
Phyllis Miller - Birthday (Joe/Marie Burt)  
Rev. Neil Wack, csc (Esther Cyr)

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



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## Happy Father's Day!

*Father's Day is June 17 and we suggest you consider honoring that special man 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of  
\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of

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

Please send your check for \$60 or \$75 to:  
Happy Father's Day! Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624

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