



# Christ Child Society Newsletter

May, 2011

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:

Linda Brammer

President Elect:

Norma Villanucci

Vice President (Fundraising):

Kay Houser

Vice President (Membership):

Ann Riley

Vice President (Clothing):

Norma Cherry

Recording Secretary:

Kelly Ghyselink

Corresponding Secretary:

Madeline Gaughan

Treasurer:

Pat Hillebrand

## Calendar

May 1 ..... Membership  
Renewal Deadline  
May 4,11,18,25..... Restock/  
Inventory  
Clothing Center 9:00 AM  
May 16 .....Board Meeting  
Clothing Center, 9:30 AM  
May 25 .. New Member Coffee  
Clothing Center 9:30 am  
May 25 .... In Memoriam Mass  
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM

## Bring a Friend to New Member Coffee For Tour, Explanation of CCS Mission

The South Bend Chapter of the Christ Child Society is one of the largest chapters in the United States. We have grown and maintained that growth pretty consistently. Our last report of membership numbers was 497 members. That is remarkable! How do we do it? It's YOU, the members, who by your example and enthusiasm attract and invite friends to join the group. The Christ Child Society has a long and respected reputation in this community.

Imagine how many friends and neighbors of ours might just be waiting for an invitation to join CCS. Our New Member Coffee will take place at the Center on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. While our guests enjoy coffee and sweets, various members will speak to them about the mission of CCS and different ways to be involved. After that, we'll take the guests on a tour of the Center and extend an invitation to join. Please help us in this annual effort to recruit new members and join us for coffee on the 25th. Oh, and don't forget to bring a friend! Please RSVP to Ann Riley at [XXann@aol.com](mailto:XXann@aol.com).

## St. Adalbert Centennial Program Recognizes Christ Child SUCCESS Program, Volunteers

As St. Adalbert School begins its Centennial Year this summer, one of the groups they will recognize is the long time partnership that Christ Child Society has had with St. Adalbert students, families and staff. What began as a loosely organized group of volunteers has taken shape as a well-defined, organized and effective system of support.

The Centennial Celebration, "Celebrating a Century and Beyond," kicks off on July 29<sup>th</sup> with a reception in the school hall from 6-8 PM. Mary Lou Derwent and Christ Child Society will be officially honored as a "Distinguished Partnership" and certificates will be presented in appreciation of the many years of service.

Under the strong vision and leadership of Mary Lou, the SUCCESS program has been making a difference in the lives of children since October 2004. Over 4000 hours have been logged by tutors and the newsletter teams. Mary Lou has provided mentoring to teachers, longitudinal studies of student progress and training for volunteer tutors. She has served tirelessly and unabashedly as an ambassador for the needs and interests of St. Adalbert School.

Also to be recognized is Distinguished Alumna CCS member Alice Cleppe, class of 1945. Her service to Hospice, Christ Child Society, St. Adalbert and so much more makes "Miss Alice" a beautiful example of how St. Adalbert graduates take what they have learned into the world to bring Christ's love and compassion to others.

For more information, please contact Jean Fuehrmeyer (574-855-3028) or [jfuehrmeyer@aol.com](mailto:jfuehrmeyer@aol.com)

## From the President . . . . Linda Brammer

As I write this letter in mid April, signs of spring are everywhere. It is wet, blustery, and chilly outside, and just bursting with new life. Daffodils, tulips, and jonquils are up and just shouting out with color. The trees are turning shades of fuzzy green. Bushes are popping out blossoms of white, yellow and pink!! But the surest sign of spring in my yard is the truck load of mulch which has just been dumped in my driveway. You should see the smile on my husband's face – it's better than Christmas!

The Center is bustling with life, as shipments of clothing and shoes are being delivered. One shipment had more than 100 boxes! There is plenty of work to be done by the faithful volunteers who are always thrilled to see new faces show up to help. When the work is done and we've all gone home, it's not unusual to find an email from Norma Cherry waiting for us. She has this charming way of capturing moments in words and sharing them with the ladies who work at the Center. It seemed like a good idea to share some of these snippets of life in the Center with a greater audience. So.....beginning with this issue of the newsletter you'll notice a new column entitled "With a Cherry on Top." Enjoy!!

The officers for the 2011-2012 year have been accepted by the Board. They are: President Norma Villanucci; President-Elect Kathy Seidl; VP of Fundraising Pat Corcoran; VP of Membership Carol Holt; VP of Clothing Norma Cherry; Recording Secretary Kelly Ghyselinck; Corresponding Secretary Rose Wray; Treasurer Pat Hillebrand. These women deserve our gratitude for their willingness to take on a leadership role in this organization. Thank you, ladies!

Please be sure to take care of getting your membership renewal form turned in, along with the local and national fees. For those who are unable to physically work in the center or on the various fundraising projects, please be assured that your financial support of our local chapter through membership renewal is **just as important**. We depend on you! Thank you for your continued support.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this month, let's turn our hearts to our Blessed Mother who bore the Christ Child, in whose name we serve the children. Mary, Our Mother, pray for us!

### Volunteer Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to be your workers, thank you for the vision and mission of our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, thank you for the opportunity to be your hands, your eyes and your heart as we minister to the many needs of your children in our community.

Help us to give freely of our time and talents.

Help us to do all of this for love of you.

## The Spotlight is on . . .

### John Gregg

We have a wonderful new member, Katy Gregg. She signed up and showed up! She's been a regular volunteer at the Center ever since day one.....but this isn't about her. The fact is, when Katy joined CCS, we got two for the price of one!

John Gregg, Katy's husband, has been an amazing help at the Center. When the closet rod broke in two, and the volunteers' coats landed on the floor, Katy said, "John could fix that." And he did. When we needed a new counter in the coat room, Katy said, "John could build that." And he did. The used clothing room also needs a counter, and Katy said, "John will build that." And you KNOW he will! In fact, he has developed his own list of things to fix up around the Center, including tile in the bathroom.

So, John, this is our small way of saying THANK YOU! The spotlight is on you (.....and thanks, Katy)!

## April Board Meeting

It was an awful day outside on April 18 for our Board meeting but the company inside was warm and cheerful!

Beth Barrett gave us an update on the progress of the Fall Dinner Benefit and wanted to let us know that she is still looking for someone to head up the Oral Auction Committee ... Any takers? Underwriter letters were being prepared for mailing. And it was decided that the price of the Benefit would be reduced from the initial \$100 price to \$75. All members agreed to the change.

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The Board voted to approve the slate of officers for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. New officers will begin their one year term at the July Board meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are still looking for gift wrappers for Notre Dame Graduation May 19-22. Interested? Please contact Kay Houser at 904-1831.

\* \* \* \* \*

St. Adalbert's will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and approached CCS for help in promoting their festival events. The board unanimously agreed to participate and send a representative to their awards dinner. CCS member SUCCESS coordinator Jean Fuehrmeyer is the overall chairman of the event.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pat Corcoran reported that the scholarship committee has secured a fabulous recipient who has all the qualities that we were looking for in a candidate. The recipient will be announced next month and will receive the scholarship for the fall semester at Ivy Tech.

### Book Club Selection

*The Book of Venus*

by Sarah Durant

May 18

Vicki Riel (289-0768)

Deadline for next newsletter  
May 18

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

Linda Avery (Mary Beth McGrath)  
 Mary Cecilia Bauters (Eileen Prondzinski, M/M Gerald Hyska, M/M Hajduch, David/Margaret Hosinski)  
 Dolores Brooks (Esther Cyr)  
 Carolyn Butts (Bette/Pat O'Malley)  
 Mary Jane Ennis (Marlene/Otto Martinec)  
 Mary Kay Giebler (Helen Heintzelman)  
 John "J.T." Hoffman (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp, Pat Hillebrand)  
 Jane Hyden (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)  
 Mary Kahal ('47 Class St. Joseph's Academy)  
 Patricia D Kroger (Christ Child Society)  
 William LeRoy (Mary Lou Grunawalt)  
 Alice Miller (Mary Haugseth, Mary Fischer/Jim Park, Ann Korb)  
 Renee Moore (Ann Korb, Ginger/Frank O'Hara, Mary Ann/Tom Mason, Laura Howell, Michael/Catherine Burmeister, Margaret/James Walden, Linda Koloszar, Ann Marie/Ralph Szymanski, Mary Carol Porter/Thomas Porter, Michael/Nancy Hansen, M/M Edward Baer, M/M Thomas Bloom, M/M Gerald Hyska, M/M R. Stephen Bosse)  
 Renee Chapleau Moore (Melanie Chapleau)  
 Margaret (Mardy) O'Hagan (Kaye/George Mahalick)  
 Wayne Pfladderer (Christ Child Society)  
 Lola M Philippsen (Rebecca Ballentine, Roy/Kay Ellgass)  
 John Redden (The Peter Redden Family, The Michael

### In Memoriam

Members:  
 Cecilia Schwob  
 Patricia D. Kroger  
 Abigail Teeter  
 Husband:  
 Wayne Pfladderer

Redden Family, Anne Redden, Doug Wooldridge, Sandy Redden, Art/Mary Lou Houle, Pat Corcoran, Mary/Jack Balint, Frank/Cathie Taelman)  
 Pete Redden (The Peter Redden Family, The Michael Redden Family, Anne Redden, Doug Wooldridge, Sandy Redden)  
 George Resnik, Sr. (Bette/Pat O'Malley, Mary Beth McGrath)  
 Cecilia Schwob (Christ Child Society, Esther Cyr, Marilyn Andrzejewski, Irene McNulty, Margaret/Wally Moore, Theresa Van Nevel, M/M Jacob D. Mady)  
 Suzanne Sheehan (Barbara Szewczyk, Mary Lou Grunawalt)  
 Lucinda Suran (George/Catherine Mahalick)  
 Abigail Teeter (Christ Child Society)  
 Georgina Voll (Marcia May)  
 James Young (Mary Tice)  
**Special Occasion**  
 John Bycraft - Happy Birthday (Tom/Maureen Cahir)  
 The Beeler Family - Special Intention (Brian/Ginger Lake)  
 Mary Ann Corcoran - 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Pat Corcoran)  
 Linda Hammes - Get Well (Mary Haugseth)  
 Dave Hosinski - Get Well Soon (Bill Killilea)

## With a Cherry on Top...Norma Cherry

"Mary Beth McGrath told a story I cannot get out of my mind. She had stopped at an animal shelter to look for a dog. When she came to the third cage, there sat a little terrier mix. It had a blue dot on its collar and she asked about it. The workers hem-hawed around. "Well, he has been here for a month and we showed him on TV....." Mary Beth asked "Are you going to put him down?"

More hem-hawing, so Mary Beth said, "Do not do anything until I get back to you." The next morning she went to the shelter and got the little dog. She really did not know what to call him. She looked at him and asked, "How about Cozy Bear?" The dog looked up as though to say, "I like that one," and that became his name. He went everywhere with her, even to church. He would be in her car and people would stop by to say hello to him.

One day he went inside and got to see "Our blessed Mother." A few days later he passed away at the age of 12. I thought about how Mary Beth had saved that little dog and how much love they had given each other all those years. Who is to say the worth of an animal or a person by putting a dot or a stigma on them. And how wonderful, those who do something about it!"

## Granddaughter to Perform in D. C.

Sarah Fedder, granddaughter of Christ Child member Barbara, will perform at the National Police Memorial ceremonies in Washington D.C. on May 15. She will sing "Heaven Was Needing A Hero" right after President Barack Obama's talk.

Sarah has been invited to sing at several memorial ceremonies in Indiana. She has recorded the song as a fundraiser with all proceeds to go to C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors).

Majoring in music, Sarah will transfer from Indiana University to a college in Nashville, Tennessee, this fall.

## Christ Child Society Guardian Angels



A special membership category was established in 1998. A one time \$1000 enrollment fee for deceased members or spouses, benefiting the Christ Child Society Endowment Fund, will insure the Society's ability to continue the future good works.

The Guardian Angels are honored with their names appearing on a plaque in the Christ Child Society office. The family of the deceased will receive an enrollment certificate. Each angel will be remembered monthly and each year at our annual Mass. A special page in our directory will

list our angels annually.

Current members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program. These "angels in waiting" will be kept on a special list and officially enrolled upon their deaths.

Please refer any questions to Vicki Riel (289-0768).

**Newest Guardian Angel .....Patrick McLaughlin**

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY  
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4

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May, 2011

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## *Happy Mother's Day!      Happy Father's Day!*

You can give a Christ Child layette to a needy newborn baby or clothe a child in honor of your Mother or Father. A special card will be sent to each Mom or Dad to announce a gift. This can also be in memory of a parent or loved one. Their names will be printed in the newsletter.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's or Father's Name - Please Print

- Send a Card  
 In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code

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

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

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