



Christ Child Society Newsletter

June, 2011

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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

June 7.....Board Meeting
Tippecanoe Place, 11:30 AM
June 8,22..Restock/ Inventory
Clothing Center 9:00 AM
June 24 .. In Memoriam Mass
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM
July 29..... St. Adalbert
Centennial Celebration
School Hall 6-8 PM

Will the Real Mary Virginia Merrick Please Stand!

The title of this article is not meant to be glib or by any means disrespectful – it is my intent, however, to make a point to the reader.

We are aware that Mary Virginia Merrick has been named A Servant of God by the Church. We are also aware that when she was living, she demonstrated exemplary holiness and was devoted to the Christ Child Society, which she founded.

So back to my question –

Will the real Mary Virginia Merrick Please Stand?

Well, you see - I believe she **is** standing.

She stands tall as:

- The member whose heart is broken because her daughter was killed by a drunk driver on the night of her Senior Prom – but she still devotes herself to the work of her chapter.

- The member who is a recent widow but has decided to take a position of leadership rather than giving in to the sting of loneliness and grief.

- The member that needs a little push to say “YES – I CAN” to being the next president of her chapter.

- The new member that is trying to find the ‘right fit’ in her chapter.

- The older member that can no longer get to the meetings – but still keeps the Mission in her daily life.

- The member that now uses the training she received from her chapter to assist other charities in her city.

- The Chapter President as she continues to motivate her membership in the day to day work of their projects.

- The member with health problems that nag at her every day, but she chooses to serve the children benefited by her chapter’s projects.

- The treasurers of the chapters that work hard to make every penny earned – count.

- The motivators in the chapters that keep lighting the fires of hope and love in the membership.

- The member that feeds children both spiritually and mentally in her chapter’s projects.

- The member that says ‘whatever it takes’ whenever she is asked.

- The member that speaks love and acceptance rather than hate and anger.

In her memory on this 56th anniversary of her passing, I am proud to say - that even though Mary Virginia Merrick was wheel chair bound here on earth – Thanks be to God, in so many different ways, **I can see her standing tall** in our chapters.

Blessings to you all from the Christ Child.

Diane L. Scalise / NCCS President 2002 - 2004

From the President Linda Brammer

This time of year there's usually someone in the Brammer family graduating. Last year it was a college graduation. This year we have a high school graduate. Next year, an eighth grade graduation. One year, we had all three! We hear lots of talk about commencement. I always used to think of commencement exercises as a celebration of the end of a period of one's life. Now I know it's really a new beginning. There's a similar feeling around the Christ Child Center these days as the women prepare themselves for the annual "changing of the guard," so to speak. There are many talented and generous women who have agreed to take on the challenges and responsibilities of serving on the board and the numerous committees within our South Bend Chapter. As we end our fiscal year and begin another, many will be taking on this challenge for the first time. The new chairmen will be given a binder, or a file box with the details and history of how their particular task was accomplished, and they will commence.

Things will quiet down a bit in the Center through the months of June and July, but don't let that fool you. There will still be plenty of work going on outside the walls. Committees will be working on the annual Donor Open House, August 10th. The Referral Committee will be preparing materials to distribute to the agencies and schools, with a meeting on August 3. The Clothe-a-Child II campaign will be organizing for the 2011 kick-off in September. And, of course, Beth Barrett and Anne Watson are hard at work on our new Fall Dinner Auction event, also taking place in September. Old2Gold volunteers will be fulfilling their time commitments throughout June which earn a nice sum for CCS. There is ALWAYS work to be done, and ALWAYS a need for volunteers.

Although my duties will extend until July, this is my last letter to you. So while I have your attention. I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving this organization for the past year. As they say, "Time flies when you're having fun!" Thank you, Ladies on the Board, for the support, the cooperation, and the lively discussions! Thank you, Committee Chairmen, for your diligent service and professionalism. Thank you, Wednesday Ladies and Men, who show up without being called to do whatever needs to be done that day. And thank you, Norma Villanucci, for your assistance, your cheerfulness, your enthusiasm, and your friendship. This organization deserves only the best, and I am happy and satisfied to leave the duties of this office in her hands! May the blessings of the Christ Child be upon us and the work that we do in His name.

Volunteers Needed for Short Term

Last year's effort to make personal visits to the schools and referral agencies was very successful! We'd like to repeat that process again this year. To communicate better with our referral agencies and schools, and to make sure they have our referral forms, we'll need a team of volunteers. Each volunteer will set up an appointment with the school counselor or agency and follow up with a visit to deliver the packet of forms. These visits need to take place the first two weeks of August before school starts.

We will have a training meeting on August 3, at 9:30 AM at the Center. Please come help out – this is an easy, short term obligation that can really help the smooth operation of our mission to reach needy children. Call Linda Brammer (287-5048) if you have questions.

National Conference

National Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Bethesda, MD, September 23-24, 2011. Conferences and Conventions allow members opportunities to learn from each other by sharing ideas, as well as opportunities to play and pray together. The theme of the conference is *Building our Legacy*, and on Saturday, September 24, Michael Daigneault will present *Board Leadership and Engagement: It's Time to Roll Up Our Sleeves*. If you are interested in attending, please let us know.

Wal-Mart Donation

The Mishawaka Wal-Mart has made a huge donation of Toddler hats and gloves plus adult hats, headbands and some clothing to Christ Child. Each year they give to different charitable organizations or the Homeless Center.

Christ Child spends a significant amount of money each year at Wal-Mart. Three of the employees (whom we work with) suggested that they contact Christ Child to see if we would want this extremely generous donation. The answer was most definitely "yes." All of those items are at the Center ready for the start of the 2011-2012 season. We are extremely grateful.

Final Reports Due

Final reports from all chairmen are due by the end of June. Please make three copies of your report, one kept in your folder as a record of this year for the next chairman and the other two copies turned in to the office for the Center's and the President's files. Even if you are repeating as the committee chairman, two copies of your report must be turned into the office. Your attention to this report ensures a smooth transition from one chairman to the next.

Book Club Selection

*Hotel on the Corner
of Bitter and Sweet*
by Janet Ford

June 15

Mary Jane Chase (233-7977)

Deadline for next newsletter
July 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

Barb Christie's sister Patty (Beverly Bruneel)
 William Batill (Ginger/Frank O'Hara)
 Mary Cecilia Bauters (Chris/Annette Bauters, Marie/Paul Brady)
 Jane Bigane (George/Teddi Murray)
 Rosemary Cingel (Toni Pikuza)
 Eugene Edmonds (Peggy Bauer, Carol/Bob Loeffler, Carol Bauer, Karen/Darrell Barnett)
 Elizabeth Kleva (Helen McNeill)
 Mary Jane Ennis (Marijo Martinec)
 Elaine Gerlach (Pat/Fred Hillebrand)
 Darlene Gill (Winifred VandenBossche)
 Dorothy Hambridge (Bob/Toni Kowalski)
 Faye Hare (Carol Bauer)
 Robert J Helms (Winifred VandenBossche)
 Joe Kennedy (Helen McNeill)
 Kris Jenkins' Father (Art/Mary Lou Houle)
 Dorothy Kroll (Christ Child Society, Katie Screes)
 Ralph Lies (Toni Pikuza)
 Morley Mathewson (Tee/Cal Miller)
 Catherine Mazzone (Anita Golba)
 Alice Miller (James/Cheryl Ferrell)
 Melinda O'Neill (Tom/Maureen Cahir)
 Steve Rankin (Bill/Marian Bickel, Tee/Cal Miller)

In Memoriam

Member:
 Dorothy Kroll

John Redden (Bill/Maureen Jones)
 Cecilia Schwob (Pat/Tom McLaughlin)
 Suzanne Sheehan (Cathy Dobbs)
 Robert Strantz (Pat/Tom McLaughlin)
 Virginia Trippel (Theresa Van Nevel)
 Joseph Walmsley (Rosemary Shafer)
 Sue Waltz (Nedra Kennelly)
Special Occasion
 Helen McGrath - 94th Birthday (Mary Beth McGrath)
 Mary Meredith - Get Well (Katie Screes)
 Beverly Stegelmann - Health (Mary Tice)
 Art Webber - Good Health (Elizabeth Goeller)
 Barb/Mike Williams - Thanks (Jerry/Judy Kearns)
 Clare Dunbar - Healing and Recovery (Carol/Bob Loeffler)
 Sue Melville (Tom/Mary Ann Mason)
 Lois Rumely - Healthy Recovery (Monday Rosary Group)
 Margaret Mary Zenner - Happy Birthday (Tee/Cal Miller)
 Esther Cyr - 80th Birthday (Katie Screes)
 Joyce McNarney (Joe/Marie Burt)
 Robert Mazzoni (Anita Golba)

With a Cherry on Top...Norma Cherry

.....Do you ever wonder how there can be sunshine when it is raining?? Well, it just felt like that today at the Center. It started first thing when Andrea came with a car load of stuff and Cathy Waszak and I were helping her unload. Then I turned around and there stood Jan Williams, home, home at last!!!

.....I was walking down the hall and I saw Mandy struggling with this little box asking us to "get out of her way", in a nice manner. So I started to help her carry it, then we started singing and dancing "New York New York." Got into the layette room and we progressed on to "Good Morning, Good Morning" (Debbie Reynolds *Singing In The Rain*). And then, "In your Easter Bonnet." Pretty soon the whole room was singing! Never did find out what the heck was in that little killer of a box or in our drinks this morning!.....

..... In arriving at the Center and talking to Marjorie Bycraft and Kathy Taelman I came to realize what was wrong with my skills. It was the 103,200 pairs of socks and underwear we have been working on lately. I told Marjorie my thumbs really hurt. She and Kathy had a name for it, and I have forgotten what the heck it was. Esther and Beverly's thumbs looked like they had been picking cotton down on the plantations.....

..... Mickey Remley's Mom has sewed the clothes for our angel layette project and delivered them to our local hospitals for quite some time. She has been under the weather of late so Mary Kubiak offered to help her. I think of Christ Child and it always seems as though someone is "stepping up to the plate" to help out when it is needed. We are very fortunate to have that kind of commitment in a volunteer organization.

'Celebrating a Century and Beyond' at St. Adalbert School

As an educational outreach of the Christ Child Society, the SUCCESS program means more than just the tutors who bring fresh faces and encouragement to the children of St. Adalbert. It's the partnership on South Bend's West Side that says every child deserves dignity and the opportunity for a good life.

We invite you to join us at their Centennial "Celebration of a Century" reception Friday, July 29 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the St. Adalbert school hall. Tickets are priced at \$25 and all proceeds benefit scholarships.

To order tickets please see below or contact Jean (574-855-3028) or jfuehrmeye@aol.com. Checks may be made payable to: St. Adalbert School and mailed to the school at 519 S. Olive St., South Bend, IN 46619.

Name _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
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Christ Child Society • South Bend, IN

June 2011

Happy Father's Day!

You can give a Christ Child layette to a needy newborn baby or clothe a child in honor of your Father. A special card will be sent to each 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.

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