



Christ Child Society Newsletter

March, 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

Mar 7,14,21 Restock/Inventory

Center 9:00 AM

Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day

Mar 19.....BOARD MEETING

CENTER 9:30 AM

Mar 28..... In Memoriam Mass

St. Patrick's Chapel 12:15 PM

Mar 28.....Spring Mass/Luncheon

Notre Dame 10:00 AM

With a Cherry on Top by Norma Cherry

The phone rings a lot at the Center but one day it turned out to be a most wonderful call. It seems there was this young kindergarten teacher who wanted her class to do a service project. Rachel Campbell had been a teacher at Holy Cross and was involved in the Early Childhood class in which they became associated with Christ Child. She had an opportunity to move to another school and wanted her children there to experience "the giving to Christ Child"

The unusual part of this story is that Rachel is in Elkhart at St. Thomas. She and I have developed a schedule where I drive over to pick up all the clothing the children gather. Rachel called and said one of her students had a birthday party and instead of presents he asked for gifts for our layette dept. She said her classroom was over-flowing with presents and used clothing and could I drop by. I pulled up to the door and the children had been watching for me. As I got out of the car, the door to the school opened and all these children came running out their arms filled with bags. Some where so heavy it took two children to carry them. I opened the back of my SUV and they just kept bringing me more and more things. One little guy said " I have tons of clothes I will get you some more." Then our birthday young man presented me with two huge decorative bags filled with "his birthday presents."



New Member Coffee

The New Member Coffee will be held on May 16. Members are asked to send names and addresses of those interested in joining the Christ Child Society to Carol Holt (259-0461) jcholt7@sbcglobal.net. Prospective members will be sent personal invitations by the chairman.

From the President . . . Norma Villanucci

When March begins, I know that winter is almost over. Our winter has been very mild with little snow. We have certainly been lucky in having such a beautiful and sunny February!

Our Clothing Center closed on Wednesday, January 25. We have now begun our inventory and restocking our shelves. Members are busy restocking new and used clothing as well as buying new clothing for next season. This is a huge undertaking and many hours are spent preparing for a new season. Thanks to the 7th graders of St. Joseph Grade School for their assistance on Wednesdays. What a joy to have them be part of our special work.

Just to brief you on the total counts for this past season. We have had 1,748 families which includes 4,423 children. We had 299 new clients. In our Layette Department, the total so far since mid-August is 290. As you well know, this department works all year and totals approximately 500 layettes. What a great joy to be able to clothe this many families, children and infants. Mary Virginia Merrick is smiling down on us and happy that we fulfill her legacy by clothing needy children.

Our Day of Reflection was a wonderful retreat. Thanks to Mary Beth McGrath for all the work she did to make this day very special. Father Peter Rocca completed the retreat by going over the five Sundays of Lent and lecturing on each gospel and epistle so that we were all able to understand what God had wanted us to reflect on. It was a most uplifting experience.

A reminder that we will be closed on Wednesday, March 28, due to our spring Mass and Luncheon. Our Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will follow at the Morris Inn. If you haven't sent in your reservation, please do so to Linda Brammer, 3002 Miami St., South Bend, IN 46614. The deadline is March 21. Also, remember to bring layette items for the Offertory.

Words of wisdom for March

"Always strive to be an angel within, no matter how others behave. Be sincere, kind, loving, and understanding."

The Spotlight is on . . . the Ladies of the Waiting Room and Computer Room



Special thanks to Mary Beth McGrath and the Waiting Room interviewers who made sure every family was interviewed and processed in the correct order.

In the Computer Room, special thanks to Marge Hosinski, Sheila Emge, Joan Hardig, Peg Riggs, Katy Gregg and Kathy Seidl who worked extremely hard to make the flow of clients quick and easy. Their efficient manner helped each Department get clothes ready for each family upon their arrival. Congratulations to both groups for all your effort this past season!

Mother's Day Tea Plans Underway

With longer days and more sunshine we are beginning to think spring. We are looking forward to our Mother's Day tea on May 9th at the Gillespie Center at Hilton Garden Inn. A menu of tea sandwiches and sweets will be served along with tea and other beverages. Our CCS video will be viewed and Stephenson's will present a great style show with Tricia Sloma as our emcee.

Invitations are being designed and will be mailed in mid March. All reservations must be in by April 25, 2012. A raffle will also take place and include a quilt Linda Rakow is graciously donating. Three themed gift baskets will also be raffled. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. It will be a fun way to welcome spring.

**Save the Date
for the 2nd Annual
Let Love Shine
2012 Dinner and Auction
September 13, 2012**

*Cocktails and Silent Auction
5:30 PM*

*Dinner and Live Auction
7:00 PM*

*Gillespie Center at the Hilton Garden Inn
Saint Mary's College
Notre Dame, Indiana*

*To view event information
and see pictures from last year's event,
visit www.letloveshine.info*

**Book Club
Against All Odds
by Scott Brown
March 21
Katie Screes (272-1770)**

Deadline for next newsletter
March 19

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

Todd Basicker (Beverly Bruneel, Mercedes Davy, Helen Diltz, Roy/Kay Ellgass, Rita North, Patti/Lowell Paschke)
 Mary Jo Bauters (Chris Bauters, Robert/Carol Clemens, Margaret C Couch, Daniel Dixon, Patricia Gerwig, Bob/Dianne Humphrey, Larry Mackowiak, Richard/Pamela Marx, Bruce/Jenny Micinski, Susan/Jim Naus, Kathryn Screes, Wietecha, Korableua and Harold Families)
 Meaghan Beeler (Jim/Carolyn Chrzan, Ms. Nicole Chrzan Carr)
 Mrs. Jana Lea Bialko (Denise M Veatch, Staff Assistant Communication Studies, Dance & Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts)
 Sylvia Couling (M/M Edwin Vanryn)

Joseph Cramer (Pat/Fred Hillebrand)
 Sara Day (Albin/Barbara Szewczyk)
 John Doran (Jim/Carole Cross, Jayne Gans, Marianne Gans, Susan Gans, Lynda Price, Gisella Probst, Frank/Cathie Taelman, Mari Tellson, John D/Carole Ulmer, Tom/Mary Louise Vanderbosch, John Wicks)
 Frances Jean Dragoon (Jerry/Betty Vascil)
 Dorothy Granfield (Marlene/Tom Nowak, Kathryn Screes)
 Dick Hendricks (Bill Killilea, Margaret/Wally Moore)
 Patricia Miller (Marcia/Tom Blum)
 Paul Muldoon (Helen Diltz)
 Alice Pascal (Marlene/Otto Martinec)
 Tom Ruppe (Sheila Emge)
 Robert Schultheis (Tom/Judy Vanryn)

Burmeister, Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)
 Charles "Lefty" Smith (Christ Child Society, Bill/Marian Bickel, Polly/Mike DeCicco, Ginger/Frank O'Hara, Bette/Pat O'Malley)
 Barbara Spear (Maureen/Scott Damer)
 Bill Therion (Bill/Marian Bickel)
 Shirley Ann Weir (Kathleen Welsh)
 Special Occasion
 Michael Albert - Complete Recovery (Dr John/Marilyn Toepp)
 Nancy/Pete Baranay (Don/Bonnie McGowan)
 Alyssa Barnes - Complete Recovery of her cancer (Jeanine Wideman)

Sister Maura Brannick - Renewed Health (Dottie/Ron Wallace)
 Albert Gerstbauer - 80th Birthday (Kathy/John Seidl)
 Reverend Thomas Jones, CSC (Joe/Marie Burt)
 Liz Keller - Birthday (Beth Reising)
 Reverend Timothy O'Connor, CSC (Joe/Marie Burt)
 Ivo Rafferty (Jerry/Betty Vascil)
 Msgr. William Schooler (Joe/Marie Burt)
 Bob/Judy Wagoner - 50th Wedding Anniversary (Paul D/Kathy Schoenle)
 Jeanine/Dave Wideman - for Christmas (Ellen/Chris Foster)

Chapter's Seal Artist Dies

Alice Schlesinger, the artist of the South Bend Christ Child seal, died on January 24 in Santa Barbara., CA. She was a long time member of the Christ Child Society, joining in 1947. In 1951 she designed the official seal of the South Bend Christ Child chapter, inspired by the famous della Robbia plaque. In The following year the first stationery with this seal was purchased.



Born in Vienna, Austria, she graduated from the Vienna Academy of Art, coming to the United States during WW II. Alice was married to Dr. Bruno

Schlesinger, professor emeritus at Saint Mary's College, who died in 2010. She is survived by their four children.

Well known as an illustrator of children's books, Alice was praised by one critic who commented on her *Baby's Mother Goose*, "Kids love nursery rhymes, especially with pictures as appealing as these!" Her portraits in oil and pastels won her many commissions. Her work was also seen in magazines, brochures and greeting cards.

Members Work on Mini Layettees



Members have been busy working on this year's Layette of Hope project for the Woman's Care Center. When done, 3,000 mini layettes, which include a onesie, socks and a prayer card asking for a safe delivery and a healthy baby, will be distributed to every woman who has a positive pregnancy test in the hope this will help her visualize her unborn child.

Left to right are Mandy Skwarcan, Catherine Thurin, Anne Choinacky, Esther Cyr, Bev Bruneel and Kay Houser.

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



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Return Service Requested

Annual Mass and Spring Luncheon Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mass will begin at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
Luncheon Meeting following Mass at the Morris Inn on Notre Dame campus

Offertory Gifts: Members are asked to bring layette items to be donated to the layette department.

Name _____ Phone _____

_____ number of reservations at \$25.00 _____ total enclosed
(Make checks payable to Christ Child Society)

Please send reservations to Linda Brammer, 3002 Miami Street, South Bend 46614

Reservation Deadline - March 21, 2012