



# THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

November 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:  
Judy Kuzmich
- President Elect:  
Peg Riggs
- Vice President (Fundraising):  
Judy Burmeister
- Vice President (Membership):  
Anne Choinacky
- Vice President (Clothing):  
Sue Walsh
- Recording Secretary:  
Jean Fuehmeyer
- Corresponding Secretary:  
Marie Burt
- Treasurer:  
Pat Hillebrand

## CALENDAR

- Nov 6,13,20 .....Center Open  
for Clients 8:30 AM
- Nov 6 .....Pastors' Luncheon
- Nov 18 ..... Board Meeting  
Center 9:00 AM
- Nov 20 ....In Memoriam Mass  
St. Patrick's 12:15 PM
- Nov 27 ..... Center Closed  
for Thanksgiving

## Let Love Shine 2013 - a Success!

We couldn't have asked for more! October 9<sup>th</sup> was a spectacularly beautiful evening, the Morris Inn was elegant and spacious, the food was delicious, the decorations were lovely, the program was fun and profitable, and the guests were lively and generous. It was a night to remember, and because of so many who were involved in the event, the revenues raised will go a long way in funding the mission we are all so passionate about. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who helped to make this year's Let Love Shine a success:

- Heartfelt thanks go to the Let Love Shine Committee members: Kathy Seidl, Pat Hillebrand, Denise Collins, Clare Dumbar, Pat Healy, Kathleen Welsh, Deb Low, Colleen DeJarnatt, Marge Hosinski, Beth Barrett, Mary Ann Barrett, Norma Villanucci, Rose Wray, Jane Kanouse, Diane Quinn, Jan Williams, Donna Kyle, Roz Byrd, Marcia Auger, Joan Hardig, and Peg Riggs. What a dynamic group of women!
- A very special thank you goes to Anne Riley, whose home was used to store, organize, regroup, and photograph the silent auction items.
- Thank you to Sharon James and Cathy Waszak for the beautiful baskets which they designed and wrapped so artistically.
- Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who came to transport and set up the silent auction, and work at the event.
- Thank you to Deb Spillman and her adorable nieces and nephew for coming to the event and modeling the CCS clothing to our potential donors.
- Thank you Amy Patterson for photographing the event.
- Thank you to Tom Liddell for agreeing to emcee the program and be our auctioneer for the evening. We took in a record amount in our Bids for Kids!
- Thank you to those who donated Silent and Live auction items. We received a record amount in underwriting and donations.
- Thank you for the constant support and assistance of our president, Judy Kuzmich.

In this month of Thanksgiving, we have so much to be grateful for. As we conclude another successful fundraising event, please know how much your efforts are appreciated!

--- Chairman Linda Brammer



## From the President . . . . . Judy Kuzmich

NOT WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR BLESSINGS

BUT HOW WE USE THEM IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF THANKSGIVING.

November is the month we stop and remember all of God's blessings and how fortunate we are for the gifts we are able to share. Even though we get disheartened with our government for not working together, we still have rights and benefits that many other countries do not share.

I think of Malala Yousofzai when her life was threatened by the Taliban because she felt strongly about girls getting an education. We take for granted our opportunities of pursuing our education and being able to accomplish our goals without threats by our government. We have so many opportunities to succeed and we should be so thankful for that right and encourage our young women to do their best.

As we gather with our families this month to give thanks to our God, we are grateful for our Christ Child members and those who give of their time, talents and monetary gifts to share with those that have less. Those who worked so hard to make the Let Love Shine dinner/auction deserve a special THANK YOU. Many volunteers came together and made this a true success. We are able to clothe many children because of the money raised at this dinner. Please read a separate report that is included in this newsletter on the Let Love Shine Dinner.

I also want to remind all members, especially to those who do not regularly come to the Center on Wednesdays, that we will be having our Christmas holiday potluck on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:00 a.m. or after all the clients have left the building. Christ Child members are excellent cooks and it means so much to gather together to share great food and camaraderie. Please bring your favorite hot dish, salad or dessert to share as we gather in the Bethany room to celebrate. Plates, cups and eating utensils will be supplied along with beverages.

There is a lot of news this month so I will sign off and know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers as we move into the holidays of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. I wish you good times and God's blessings on you and your families.

## National Christ Child Society Meetings: 'Facing Challenges Together'

Most Chapter members arrived in Bethesda, MD for the national meetings on Friday and were given their choices of mini-seminars to attend. Our own Deb Low presented an excellent presentation of "Grant Writing Advice." She was very helpful in sharing her knowledge with those from other chapters attending the seminar. The other choices were "What Your Chapter Needs to Know About Insurance," "Public Relations 101," and "Membership Forum."

On Saturday a seven member panel spoke on "The Challenge of Effective Fundraising." Linda Brammer presented our "Clothe-A-Child" dolls and told of our success. Some of the other interesting fund raisers were: Celebrity Wait Night, Christmas Walk, Starlight Ball, and Summer Bash.

William E. Davis, III of Bill Davis Consulting LLC, spoke on recruiting new members. He had good suggestions on how chapters can expand their membership. The ideas will be discussed with our board and the strategic planning committee.

On Saturday evening we were bused to Hamilton House at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart where we celebrated Mass and dinner. The home was originally

owned by Louise Merrick Hamilton, our founder's younger sister where Mary Virginia Merrick briefly resided. It is now a private school K-12 for girls. It was a very enjoyable evening at the stately home where we were warmly welcomed by the National Christ Child officers who hosted this affair.

Our South Bend group consisted of Peg Riggs, Joan Hardig, Deb Low, Linda Brammer and myself. Spending time with members of other chapters gave ideas on what is being done in other cities and I found we also share a bond in working together to make the difference in the life of a child. While all chapters distribute layettes, each chapter is unique in what it does for their communities. Some distribute coats and shoes to children in need, but the South Bend Chapter is presently the only chapter that gives the extensive wardrobe of clothing to children up to age twelve. We can be very proud of what we do for our children.

- Judy Kuzmich

## Christ Child Society Really Does Make A Difference

This letter was received at our Christ Child Center in late September from an anonymous past client. It shows what our members should know: Christ Child Society really does make a difference in the life of a child and their family.

*To Christ Child Society:*

*My daughter received a beautiful pink and purple winter coat from you at the age of three years old. She loved her coat and I was so grateful to your organization for blessing her (and me) that I vowed to some day repay your kindness to her when I was able to financially.*

*God has blessed me again and again. So on behalf of my daughter who is now 23 years old, please accept this donation so that you may continue to bless little (and big) children in Christ's name.*

*An anonymous Servant of the Lord*

Included in the letter was a check for \$400.00

Deadline for next newsletter  
November 18

Ann Korb (277-6443) • ack339@aol.com



Carol Holt, one of Foxy Lady's grand prize winners



Peg Riggs and Joan Hardig



Stacy McMann and Linda Rackow and their Foxy Lady bags



Silent Auction items

## Local Couple Continues Care For Community

In late June, just as the fiscal year was drawing to a close and the need for purchasing new clothing for the coming school year was at its height, a wonderful and unanticipated gift came to The Christ Child Society from a new source. A major gift of \$12,000.00 was received from a donor designated fund within The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. The gift came from The Wilbur and Fern Ganger Memorial Fund.

The Gangers, a local couple who worked diligently all of their lives in area factories, planned their estate so that they could continue to give back to the people of the city they loved. They were a South Bend couple who, although they had no children of their own, had a special love for their nieces and nephews and for the children of our community. After their deaths, a fund they established began to distribute their legacy of care to a few very carefully chosen organizations. We at The Christ Child Society are blessed to be one of the recipients of their loving gift this year.

## You Are Incredible!

Christ Child is grateful for continuing donations of books for "A Book For A Child." We accept any book; we can always swap for a child's book. BetterWorld Books is currently our back-up support.

Members along with your friends and families have donated more than 1500 books. These donations have made their way to The Center from as far away as Marietta, GA. Thank you.



Joan Biltz and Marge Hosinski



Kate Murphy and silent auction items



Heart of a Child recipients Joe Bozich and Donnie Hodge of Knights Apparel Company. Knights has donated over \$60,000 in merchandise to our cause. More than 19,000 sweatshirts and 15,000 t-shirts have been donated to Christ Child since 2009.

## Our Shining Stars of Let Love Shine



Meet the Ernsperger family: Maci (7), Dean (9) and Riley (5) who modeled Christ Child clothing at the Let Love Shine dinner/auction. They are the children of Barb and Dean Ernsperger.

These adorable children help their Aunt Debbie Spellman in used clothing in the summer and have been helping her in prior years on Sunday afternoons. They love working at Christ Child, brag to their friends about getting to work there, and patiently wait looking out the window for Aunt Debbie to pick them up on Wednesday mornings.

### Dean

Dean is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Holy Family who enjoys dancing, drawing, reading and riding his bike. Dean loves working at Christ Child. "My job is to match up clothes and put them into the right tubs. It's easy but it's hard too! The people keep me busy! Christ Child is a good thing because they help people that need clothes and give them jackets in the winter, so they don't just have shorts."

### Maci

Maci is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Holy Family. She is a level two gymnast and loves competing throughout the state. She enjoys reading and math, her favorite subject is art, and of course she is a straight "A" student with hopes of getting into Notre Dame, if not Ball State. Maci has been volunteering at Christ Child for a few years. She says her job is hard but fun and she enjoys matching clothes and seeing all the people getting new clothes."

### Riley

Riley is a preschooler at Holy Family and trying to compete with her talented big brother and sister. She likes horses, painting and going to the zoo. Her favorite thing about helping at Christ Child is picking out and separating clothes. She also says Christ Child helps other people, like babies and kids with clothes.

Our special thanks to these great children for presenting our clothing to us in their clever and wonderful style. And bless their family for giving the world such wonderful and caring children.

## 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 Joan Hardig (277-7787)

### IN MEMORIAM

Doris Baum (Patricia Short)  
 Aaron Bulger (Catherine Thurin)  
 Shona Burkart (Kathy Bussmann, Janet Weber, Kari Richmond, Nancy Vacanti)  
 Patty Elsner (Dorothy Wallace)  
 Dora Belle Foley (Anne Monserez, Mary Ann Tice)  
 Joe Good (Ann Korb)  
 Robert Hepler (Teddi Murray)  
 Andy Hoffman (Marcia Blum)  
 Doug Horne (Rosemary Shafer)  
 Tim Lake (Marcia Blum)  
 Mother of Marcia Blum (Verkamp)  
 Joan McCabe (Marilyn & John Toepp)  
 Helen McNeile (Anne Choinacky)  
 David Mesear (Mary Wisniewski)  
 Rosalie Miller (Anne Choin-

### In Memoriam

Members  
 Dee Bee Foley  
 Joyce McNarney  
 Husband  
 Clarence Witsken  
 Son  
 Gary Niedosik  
 acky)  
 Robert Sell (Ann Korb, Marilyn & John Toepp, Winifred VandenBossche, Joan Fahey)  
 Elton Sherwin (Barbara Dillon)  
 Nancy Stimson (Rosemary & Tricia Shafer)  
 George VanGoey (Mary Ann Tice)  
 Paul VanVynckt (Kathryn Screes)  
 Myra Welch (Jean Kass-Edmonds)  
 Warren Wellin (Patti Olive, Barbara Dillon)  
 Clarence Witsken (Jean & Greg Mee, Janet Crull)  
 Victor Zitny (Elizabeth Barrett)

Val B. Sikorski (Barbara Skubiszewski)  
 Joan Stevens (Barbara Skubiszewski)

### SPECIAL OCCASION

Annette & Bill Christlieb (Suzanne Halloran)  
 Sheila Emge (Margie Bycraft)  
 Ellen Hays (Dorothy Wallace)  
 Safe Delivery/Jodi (Elizabeth Goeller)  
 Roger Menkel (Marilyn & John Toepp)  
 Joan and Ken Milani (Suzanne Halloran)  
 Pat and Bette O'Malley (Happy Anniversary/Joyce & Bob Knapp)  
 Barb and Bob Robison (Happy Anniversary/Dorothy Wallace)  
 Bob Spencer (Patricia & Joe Corcoran)  
 Rev. Neil Wack, CSC (Esther Cyr)  
 Barbara Zimlich (Marilyn & John Toepp)



### November

4 Kathleen Klawitter  
 6 Catherine Mahalick  
 10 Jane Reed  
 12 C. Diane McGaw  
 12 Nancy Mangano  
 14 Mary Ann Derda  
 15 Trudy Strantz  
 15 Sandra Krizmanich  
 16 Joan Stanley  
 16 Barbara Norkus  
 16 Mary Wisniewski  
 18 Anne Monserez  
 19 Marcia Auger  
 19 Linda Brammer  
 20 Mary Weber  
 20 Catherine Bishop  
 21 Mary Jane Danner  
 22 Elizabeth Barrett  
 26 Lois Martin  
 27 Renee Hochstetter  
 28 Patricia Hillebrand  
 29 Sara Ann Zeisz  
 30 E. Elva Gable  
 30 Kate Murphy

### Book Club

*Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*  
 by Beth Hoffman  
 November 20  
 Pat Healy (272-5640)

## Christmas Sale

**All Christ Child items will be on sale for Christmas.  
 Everything will be 10 – 20% off the regular price.**



	<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>
Note Cards	10.00	9.00
Cookbooks – Local	8.00	7.00
Cookbooks – National	10.00	8.00
Rosary Cassette	2.00	1.00
Miss Mary Booklet	5.00	4.00
Mugs	10.00	8.00
Christ Child Christmas Cards	15.00	13.00



**You can purchase these items on Wednesday morning at  
 the Center or e-mail Jane Kanouse at [janekan39@gmail.com](mailto:janekan39@gmail.com)**

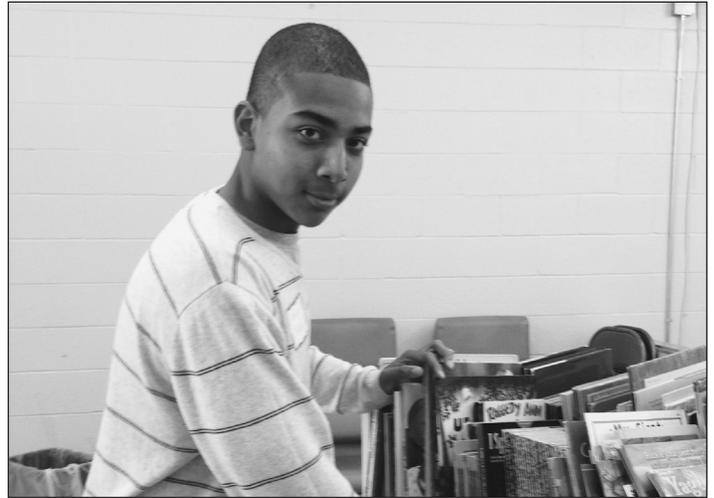
## Mishawaka Freshman Begins Volunteer Path at Christ Child on Sundays

On Sunday, September 15 of this year a very poised young man came to the Center to volunteer. His name is Isaiah Rivera and he is the son of Sarah Wilder, our first Christ Child scholarship recipient. He returned again on October 6 and plans to come every Sunday that the Center is open.

When you meet Isaiah, your first impression is how well he presents himself - his well-defined self-confidence and obvious sense of maturity for a 14 year old freshman in high school. He definitely appears to feel at ease with the adults he works with and his great smile indicates a very positive attitude.

A student at Mishawaka High School, Isaiah enjoys the friendship of his fellow students, participates in theater arts and will try out for basketball and track. Socially he likes to get together with friends to play sports and video games. His academic goals are college to become an engineer. Math is his favorite subject. Isaiah knows that to accomplish these ambitions he must study hard and become involved at school as well as the community.

Volunteering is a new adventure for Isaiah and he hopes to expand this interest at the animal shelter and follow in his mother's footsteps as an intern in the mayor's office. As the patient, older brother of seven-year old twins.



he has been a huge help at home and enjoys playing and babysitting these younger siblings.

Isaiah is admittedly the child of a very high achieving mother. He speaks so highly of this wonderful person in his life who has guided him along a path of success and has been the instrument of wisdom throughout his short life. She is his inspiration and role model and her influence is certainly visible in this wonderful young man.

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