



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

September 2012

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:

Kathy Seidl

President Elect:

Judy Kuzmich

Vice President (Fundraising):

Peg Riggs

Vice President (Membership):

Anne Watson

Vice President (Clothing):

Sue Walsh

Recording Secretary:

Mary Kay Bean

Corresponding Secretary:

Rose Wray

Treasurer:

Pat Hillebrand

'Let Love Shine' Needs Volunteers

The major fundraiser for the year "Let Love Shine" will be held on Thursday, September 13, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Volunteers are needed that morning to prepare for the evening event.

Help is needed with transporting the auction items from Judy Kuzmich's home (off of Cleveland Road) to the Inn on Thursday, September 13 at 8:30 AM. Items will be loaded into your car for you to deliver them to the Hilton Garden Inn. Volunteers are needed there at 9:00AM to unload the cars and set up the auction items by category. The more hands we have to help the sooner we will be able to leave. Last year it only took about two hours. Please contact Judy Kuzmich or Kathy Seidl if you can help. Thanks in advance to all of the hard working volunteers it takes to make this event the success that it will be.

The Christ Child Society Celebrates 125 Years!

The Fall luncheon meeting, to be held at Windsor Park Conference Center on Thursday, October 25, at 11:30 AM will be transformed into a birthday celebration complete with cake, balloons and even a little non-alcoholic champagne!

In 1887 Mary Virginia Merrick started a society to help the needy children of the Washington D.C. area. She called it The Christ Child Society. Today, 125 years later, The Christ Child Society is still going strong. Of the 41 chapters in the United States, South Bend chapter is the second largest.

Come join us and celebrate this milestone for The Christ Child Society. Come celebrate with us this remarkable woman and her dream of helping the most innocent victims of poverty in the name of the Christ Child. If you have any questions, contact Mary Beth McGrath, Mary Kay Bean or Norma Villanucci.

CALENDAR

Sept 5,12,19,26. Center Open
for Clients 8:30 AM

SEPT 9,23 Sunday Center Open
for Clients 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Sept 13 Fall Fundraiser
"Let Love Shine"
Hilton Garden Inn

Sept 17 Board Meeting
Center 9:00 AM

Sept 21-13 NCCS Convention
Detroit

Sept 26.....In Memoriam Mass
St. Patrick's Chapel 12:15 PM



'Let Love Shine' Special Live Auction Item

Mr. Bruce Langton, a local artist but widely known, has been commissioned to paint a picture for the Christ Child Auction. It depicts a young boy pulling a red wagon with Christ Child Society written on the side of the wagon. This picture is just a preliminary sketch but it cannot be reproduced without Mr. Langton's permission. Note: this is a sketch and not the completed painting. The sketch will also be up on the website. When completed, it will belong exclusively to Christ Child/South Bend. Prints will be available at a later date.

We are very pleased that Mr. Langton is doing this painting for us and are excited to see the finished product at the Dinner/Auction.

From the President Kathy Seidl

Congratulations to two of our dedicated members, Linda Brammer and Deb Low. The National Convention will be held in September in Detroit. At that time the National Christ Child Board will vote their new Board members into office. Two of our South Bend Chapter members are selected to be on the National Christ Child Board. Linda Brammer as a Vice President and Deb Low as a Director at Large. Congratulations to both ladies.

In the upcoming year, the National Board will be making some changes that will enhance the Christ Child Society Chapters. There will be more assistance with fundraising ideas, topics for our Spring and Fall luncheons, ideas to grow the membership, enhance public relations both locally and nationally, etc. I know Deb and Linda will represent us well.

August was a very busy month. Opening day with the clients was on August 15. We serviced 61 families with 177 children on that first day. On August 22 we had 97 families with 288 children. And we have just begun.....

Our major fundraiser for the year "Let Love Shine" will be held on Thursday, September 13 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Hopefully everyone has their reservations in already. It will be a fun event. Thanks in advance to all of the hard working volunteers it takes to make this event the success that it will be.

The Spotlight is on . . .

Ruth Foster and Janice Fennell

Two generous non-Christ Child members who contribute much to the Society's work. These two ladies are an example of Christian charity that was the dream of our founder Mary Virginia Merrick.

Ruth Foster, a parishioner of Sacred Heart, grew up in Buffalo, New York, and while serving as a member of the National Guard met another Guard member, Harry Foster. After college they married in 1946. His work took them to many cities, finally to South Bend when he became secretary to Notre Dame football coach Frank Leahy.

In 1988 Ruth met Agnes Bartholomew and became an active member of the Christ Child, serving until the raising of their son Danny occupied her time. A few years ago, Ruth, still wishing to contribute to Christ Child's work, began crocheting lovely layettes very often as many as two a month.

Janice Fennell lives in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, with her husband John. Both are retired teachers. Janice learned of the Christ Child Society's mission from her cousin Laverne Molenda and embraced the spirit of its mission wholeheartedly. Busy as a regent for the DAR chapter in her hometown and traveling often to see her grandchildren, Janice still wished to help the Society. When she learned of layettes that were knitted or crocheted and donated to the cause, she offered to do this work. Another cousin, Louise Drapek, learned of the plan and offered to purchase the yarn. This collaboration has yielded many beautiful sets of bonnets, sweaters and booties in an array of soft colors.

Agencies, Schools Referral Meetings

There have been three meetings with the Referral Agencies and Referral Schools prior to the Center's opening. Over 40 participants from agencies and/or schools attended.

Tours of the facility were given at the completion of the meeting and the Center met with rave reviews.

Referral forms were changed this year and updated to reflect the sizes in numeric clothing instead of sizes

stated as small, medium, large, etc.

The new policy for clients making a choice between receiving a school uniform or jeans and a t-shirt was explained. Interestingly, the agencies and schools all said not to get rid of the uniforms because those were all desperately needed. Clients could always find other sources for the jeans and the t-shirts.

Day of Reflection

For the past three years the readings of the Lenten Season have been the subject of our Days of Prayer and Reflection. Since we have completed the third cycle, we are looking for suggestions from you regarding topics or themes for this February's gathering. Please send your input to Mary Beth McGrath at macbeth.65@att.net

Clothe-A-Child II

Once again Martin Supermarkets will be selling our "Dolls" for \$1.00 each at all of the Martins stores. The cashiers will ask at check out if the customer would like to purchase a doll. If they should forget, just gently remind them to ask the other customers too. Explain what Christ Child does for the children in our community. This is an easy way to generate funds for Christ Child so please support it and tell your friends.

Mutual Bank and NDFCU will be selling dolls in October.

Sale

We have a supply of the items listed below at the Center and since we need to make room for some other things, we are having a sale!

Christmas cards (St Adalbert's children made these a few years ago) box of 12 (\$2.00)

Tapes of Rev. Theodore Hesburgh saying the rosary (\$2.00)

South Bend Christ Child Society Chapter Cookbook (\$8.00)

National Christ Child Society Cookbook (\$10.00)

Busy Hands

The Busy Hands group of ladies helps us year round by making items for the Layette Department. Christ Child is attempting to help them with donations of yarn or a monetary donation to purchase yarn.

If you have any yarn to donate please call the Center (288-6028), leave a message with your name and phone number and a member will pick it up from you. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mail it to Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Anne Klimek
- 1 Marlene Martinec
- 2 Shirley Flood
- 4 Patricia Zubler
- 5 Irene McNulty
- 5 Janet Paul
- 7 Suzanne Wiwi
- 8 Catherine Thurin
- 8 Mary Jane Stanley
- 10 Betty Jane Krizmanich
- 11 Shirley Sommer
- 12 Linda Rakow
- 12 Deborah Bernhard
- 13 Carol Holt
- 14 Kathleen Welsh
- 15 Jeanne Ward
- 16 Francis Skubiszewski
- 20 Karey Circosta
- 25 Patricia Van Rie
- 25 Diane Entrikin
- 26 Helen Manley
- 26 Kathy Large
- 26 Barbara Phair
- 27 Janet Williams
- 28 Martha Redden
- 28 Elizabeth Scharpf
- 30 Barbara Skubiszewski

Thanks to our Workers

The remodeled New Clothing room is finished! It is amazing the amount of extra storage space that we have and what a difference it makes. A huge thank you to John Gregg for overseeing the project along with his construction crew, Brian Burt and Ralph Villanucci. We could not have done this without these men. If you see them, please thank them for their time and talents. They saved Christ Child a great deal of money.

Deadline for next newsletter

September 17

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

A Match Made in Heaven?

Well, that might be a bit of an exaggeration, but the partnership between the Christ Child Society and neighboring St. Adalbert School is certainly one based on a shared mission of service through faith.

The Christ Child Society motto of "challenging poverty one child at a time" in "the love and spirit of the Christ Child" is certainly lived out in the mission of St. Adalbert School. In my five years serving in the St. Adalbert community, I am constantly energized by the self-giving, tireless effort, and Christian love extended to students and families by the St. Adalbert faculty and staff.

Many St. Adalbert families struggle with the uncertainty and unfair burden of poverty, particularly now in this tough economy, as they try to take on extra hours or jobs in order to make ends meet. Committing to a Catholic School Education for their children is truly an act of faith and love. The school community is blessed with a strong Hispanic culture, but that often brings the additional challenges of parents not being fluent in English and children reading below grade level.

However, these challenges are only part of the story. There are wonderful things happening at St. Adalbert School as learning gaps are closed, sacramental and faith life flourish, and outreach to families empowers parents.

Christ Child's SUCCESS tutoring program is a huge part of this. Members and "friends of Christ Child" have been lovingly and skillfully working with students under the guidance of the classroom teachers to improve students' self esteem, confidence as learners, and academic skills. The results have been measurable by test scores, smiles, hand-drawn thank you cards, and so much more.

Won't you consider joining us this fall? You don't need to have teaching experience - the teacher provides assignments for you to work on with the student. The commitment is just one hour per week late September through May (with time off for holiday vacations). Times are negotiated between the teacher and tutor with flexibility on both sides.

For more information, please call Jean Fuehrmeyer (574-855-3028) or email at jfuehrmeyer@gmail.com. The children are waiting for us!

August Board Meeting Items

Home Management Services gave a presentation of their revamped program which consists of a workshop, family time assessment and a mentoring program. They would like Christ Child Society to help sponsor ten scholarships at \$350.00 per client. Though the Board feels this is a wonderful program, we do not have the money in our budget and also feel this is off our mission of helping children.

The "My Stuff" program has been eliminated and replaced with "A Book for a Child." This project is funded by a grant and gives each child that comes to the Center an opportunity to receive a book.

The new storage area is done, filled and functioning!

St. Patrick's Church Board is meeting to discuss our rental cost. We believe we are looking at a rent of \$2,000.00 per month. We have asked that our lease be renewed every two years instead of every year and that we receive a one year notice for vacating the building.

The Clothe a Child II campaign (paper dolls) will start September 3 at area Martin stores. This will run until September 23.

Three new wireless access points have been added to our computer system. After a few adjustments, all will be turned up by Christmas.

A request for the reinstatement of the Mary Virginia Merrick award is being considered with criteria established for this prestigious award.

You Might Enjoy These *thoughts from a friend*

Someone asked the other day what was your favorite fast food when I was growing up? We didn't have fast food when I was growing up, I informed him. All the food was slow. C'mon, seriously, he asked, where did you eat? It was a place called 'at home,' I explained. Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.' By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

But there are other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it: Some parents NEVER owned their own house, never wore Levis, never set foot on a golf course, never traveled out of the country or had a credit card. In their later years they had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at Sears Roebuck (Or maybe it was Sears & Roebuck) Either way, there is no Roebuck anymore. My parents never drove me to soccer practice. This was mostly because we never had heard of soccer. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 19. It was, of course, black and white and the station went off the air at midnight - after playing the national anthem and a poem about God; it came back on the air at about 6 am and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on featuring local people.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line.

Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

I was 21 before I tasted my first pizza, it was called pizza pie. When I bit into it, I burned the roof of my mouth and the cheese slid off, swung down, plastered itself against my chin and burned that, too. It's still the best pizza I ever had.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk was. All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers - my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. It cost 7 cents a paper, of which he got to keep 2 cents. He had to get up at 6 am every morning. On Saturday, he had to collect the 42 cents from his customers. His favorite customers were the ones who gave him 50 cents and told him to keep the change. His least favorite customers were the ones who seemed to never be home on collection day.

There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing. Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?



Opening Day! Clients flocked into the Center on August 15, as the doors opened at 8:30 AM.
Sixty-one families with 177 children were serviced that day.

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

Vanessa Alexander (Patricia Skudlarek)

Charles Auger (1st Source Bank, Roy/Kay Ellgass, Tim/Gwen Foose, Bob/Joyce Knapp, Mike/Kathy Marien, Peg/Dean Riggs, Kathy/John Seidl, Rosemary Shafer, Phil/Mary Allen, James/Carol Holt)

Lynette Naomi Johnson Ball (Kay/Frank Catanzarite, Kathryn Screes)

Irene Behler (M/M Kenneth Fedder)

Eleanor Bevilacqua (Diane Quinn)

Elsie Catanzarite (Bill/Marian Bickel)

James P Considine (Carol Holt)

Richard Dvorak (Jim/Nancy Yohe)

Kenneth Eme (Christ Child Society)

William Fenick (Jane Dietrich)

Thomas Hart (Jane Dietrich)

David/Pat Harrison (Marilyn T Cleveland, Ann/Richard Scott, Mary/Michael Houston, Roberta Lopez)

Mary Haugseth (Christ Child Society, Rosemary Shafer, Martha Hosinski)

Dorothy Heinz (Gay Eades)

Robert A Henry (James Holt, George/Teddi Murray, Albin/Barbara Szewczyk)

Charles Hillman (Don/Judi Lohr)

Dr. James Kilway (Mary Ann/Tom Mason)

Bryan Kolski (Bill/Marian Bickel)

Christine Konstant (Edward/Joan Hardig)

Robert A Loeffler, Jr. (David

C Bowers, Jean Kass-Edmonds, Carolyn

Travis Klotz, Gerry/Gil LaCosse, Jill Ross,

Joyce/Tom Sopko, Dennis J Stark, Betty and

Marge Strantz, Bill/Norma Wilson, Larry/Shirley

Wittenbrink, Betty Yonto and Theresa Scott,

Suzy/John Halloran, Ronald/Mary Jaicomo,

Ann L Molenda)

Dr. Camiel C Mahank (Pat/Fred Hillebrand)

Patricia R. Mellin (Rob/Maureen Hosinski)

Duane Miller (Bill/Marian Bickel)

Jeanette Kehril Moeller (Katie Screes)

Josephine Sergio Muhlher (Jim/Nancy Yohe)

Kathryn/Bernie Peczkowski (Loretta Chillag)

Anne M. Pryser (Mary Patricia Leyes)

Robert Reid (George/Teddi Murray)

Joe Richard (James/Carol Holt)

Timothy Shugrue (Merrill/Janet Crull)

Anna May Stratton (Mary Tice)

Marilyn Strebing (Edward/Joan Hardig, Mary Tice,

Jim/Nancy Yohe)

Muriel Tice (Mary Tice)

Edwin Van Ryn (Mary Ann Matthews-Derda)

Michael J Voynovich (Loretta Chillag)

Margaret S Wegner (Sue/David Walsh, Pat/

Steve Huston, Judy/Bob Meuleman, Kathy/Martie

Daley

Robert J Williams (Christ Child Society, Katie

In Memoriam

Member
Mary Haugseth
Husbands
Kenneth Eme
Robert J Williams

Screes, Pat Hillebrand, Deb/Mike Low, Mary Tice, Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)

Special Occasion

Nancy Baranay - Get well wishes (Pat/Fred Hillebrand)

Dan Barrett (Kathy/Paul Schoenle)

Marilyn/Walt Bartkowiak - 55th Wedding Anniversary (Mary Jo/Bill Miller)

Peggy Bauer - Happy Birthday (Julann/Laurence Bauer)

Jane Emanoil (Doojie/Jack Trant)

Tony/Carol Ernst - 50th Wedding Anniversary (Tom/Cathy Lower)

Joyce Knapp (Doojie/Jack Trant)

Ann Korb - 80th Birthday (Jeanne B King)

Bette/Pat O'Malley (Doojie/Jack Trant)

Jerry/Lillian Smith - 50th Wedding Anniversary (Esther Cyr, Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)

Jackie Stevens - Get well (James/Carol Holt)

Sr. Michelle Toepp, csc - Silver Jubilee (M/M James Cierzniak)

Ed/Rose Wray - 50th Wedding Anniversary (James/Carol Holt)

Christ Child Society Book Club Calendar

September 19
Healy (272-5640)

THE BLUE BISTRO
by Elin Hilderbrand

October 17
Jones (272-3911)

PRESIDENT'S CLUB
by Duffy and Gibbs

November 28
Holt (259-0416)

ELEGANCE ...HEDGEHOG
by Muriel Barbery

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

January 16
Hosinski (255-9728)

SHOOTING VICTORIA
by Paul Murphy

February 20
Derda (232-2561)

THUNDERSTRUCK
by Erik Larson

March 20
Riel (289-0768)

HEAVEN AND BACK
by Mary C. Neal

April 17, 2013
Koscielski (232-4794)

DAUGHTER'S TALE
by Lady Mary Soames

May 15
Chase (233-7977)

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS
by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

June 19
Screes (272-1770)

TO BE DETERMINED

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



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTH BEND, IN
Permit No. 239

Return Service Requested



New storage room workers are left to right Brian Burt, John Gregg, Sharon James and Cathy Waszak. In front are the "summer helpers" Natalie Seidl and Addison Cherry.

COME TO THE PARTY!

This year's Fall Luncheon will be a birthday celebration commemorating the founding of the Christ Child Society by Mary Virginia Merrick 125 years ago.

Thursday, October 25
Windsor Park Conference Center
11:30 am

Send reservation with check made payable to
Christ Child Society for \$25.00 per person to:

Mary Beth McGrath
54439 Christie Court, Osceola, IN 46561
phone: 674-0181

Please include name, address and number
of reservations with your check.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18