**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.

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**Calendar**

### August

1 ........................... Center Open for Restock Inventory 9 AM-Noon 
1 ........................... New Member orientation/training 9:30 AM 
8 ...... Clothing Center Opening Day for Clients 8:30 AM 
15,22,29 ... Center Open for Clients 8:30 AM 
19 ................... Clothing Center Open Sunday 1-3 PM 
20 ............................ Board Meeting St. Pat’s Bethany Room 10 AM 
25 .................... In Memoriam Mass Little Flower 8:00 AM 

### September

5,12,19,26 ............ Center Open for Clients 8:30 AM 
17 ............................... Board Meeting St. Pat’s Bethany Room 10 AM 
23 ................... Clothing Center Open Sunday 1-3 PM 
25 ...................... In Memoriam Mass Little Flower 8:00 AM 
27-29 .................. NCCS Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin 

### October

3,10,17,24,31 ...... Center Open for Clients 8:30 AM 
4 ........... Fall Luncheon Meeting Morris Park Country Club 
15 ............................... Board Meeting St. Pat’s Bethany Room 10 AM 
21 ................... Clothing Center Open Sunday 1-3 PM 
25 ...................... In Memoriam Mass Little Flower 8:00 AM 

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**LET LOVE SHINE**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

**6 PM**

**THE CENTURY CENTER DISCOVERY BALLROOM**

Undoubtedly you’ve already marked your calendar for our Let Love Shine Gala to be held on Thursday, November 8th. We’ve begun behind the scenes in order to make this a wonderfully successful and fun evening. We need a location to store all of our auction items and to photograph them. If you have space or know of an available location, please contact Pat Falvey, Hetty Cohen or Kathy Seidl. As always, it will take many volunteers to prepare for the gala. We need a volunteer coordinator. We will need help in stuffing invitations (date to be announced via an Eblast), we’ll need help in assembling gift baskets, we’ll need help in setting up the ballroom. Again, let Pat Falvey or Hetty Cohen know of your interest and availability.

The Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction are sure to please. Kathy Seidel and her team have been steadfastly gathering gift certificates and superior items to entice you to place a top bid. Donna Kyle, Sue Seall and Kristy Botich have been working hard to dazzle you as you enter the ballroom.

Just wait until you process into the dining area! Those magnificent centerpieces will be yours to purchase. And the food – oh the food! What a lovely meal we have in store for you.

We are thrilled to be able to recognize Indiana Trust Wealth Management as *The Heart of A Child* recipient for the many years they’ve been key supporters of The Christ Child Society. Not only have they supported us, they greatly assisted many other nonprofits as well. What a perfect opportunity to thank them for all they have done in our community!

Beth Barrett has lined up six very special live auction items that will make you happy you’ve brought along your credit cards. Emcee Bob Nagle is sure to point out just how important it is for you to support our work by bidding on live auction items and *Bids for Kids*.

What better way could there be to celebrate and support the wonderful work The Christ Child Society has done for 71 years! Invitations will be mailed out in September. Individual tickets cost $100 and a table for eight is $800. There is still time to serve as a sponsor at levels from $500 - $10,000. Be sure to attend this wonderful gala and tribute – our largest fundraiser.

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**Data Updates**

- Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ChristChildSB
- Follow us on Twitter: @ChristChildSB
- Check us out online: www.christchildsb.org
From the Co-President . . . . . . Sue Walsh

It is an honor and privilege to be your Co-President for the second year, 2018-2019. Debbie Spillman and I served as your co-presidents this past year, and I want to thank Debbie for all of her support, shared knowledge, and her friendship during that time. We worked well together and there is a great respect between us. Some of our best discussions occurred late in the evening since that seemed to be the best time for both of us. We laughed, discussed issues, and strategized, and I thank Debbie for being available so often and making this year so positive and enjoyable. I look forward to our continued friendship.

Your new Co-President for the year 2018-2019 is Patricia Falvey. (See article page 4.) She and I will be working together to make a smooth transition this year. We complement each other with our own personal attributes, and I am looking forward to starting this new term with Patricia. I am also very excited to work with all of you and be involved in the greatest non-profit organization, The Christ Child Society of South Bend. It will be a great year!

We have installed three new Board members. Below is some background on each of the new board members.

Margaret (Peggy) Aronson –
Peggy, who works in the Shoe Department, thanks Mary Wisniewski for introducing her to Christ Child. She was also very involved in the Referral Committee this spring. Peggy loves the fellowship at Christ Child and loves dealing with the clients. She taught Special Education in the Middle School for 42 years and loved her teaching career. Peggy also volunteers at A Rosie Place which is a respite hospital for medically fragile kids. She is a hard worker and is happy to help. Peggy is married, has one son and three granddaughters.

Hetty Cohen –
Hetty is a co-chair of Let Love Shine, our major fundraiser and works in the Shoe Department. She joined Christ Child because it’s a worthwhile organization that helps the community. Hetty worked for 30 years mostly in finance which included credit, pensions, pricing and sales incentives. She volunteered for CASA, was membership chair at the Art League and was on the Board of their condo association in St. Joe Michigan. Hetty and her husband have five children and five grandchildren. Note: Hetty takes her 94 year old Mother gambling once a week and her Mom wins!

Nancy Meyer –
Nancy works in the Used Clothing Department and has admired Christ Child’s commitment and service to children. She and her husband have been married for more than 50 years, and Nancy has worked alongside her husband in real estate related fields for over 40 years. Nancy has been a past board member of the YWCA of St. Joseph County, volunteer for Friends of Bendix Woods and Spicer Lake, St. Joseph County Parks Advisory Board, secretary of Spay Neuter Assistance Program and volunteer/coordinator for Animal Welfare Coalition of Michiana. She enjoys coming to the Center and being with the other volunteers . . . who are so welcoming and kind.

Let’s welcome the new Board members. As you can tell, they bring a great deal of talent to the Board to complement the strength of the existing board and the tremendous dedication of everyone in the Christ Child community. Let us all bring forth the talents that we possess and make The Christ Child Society the best organization ever. Make your talents known by volunteering for the different committees and being involved. As Co-President, I am challenging each and every one of you to expand your horizons. Learn as much as you can and become involved. We need you! I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

Executive Board

Co Presidents:
  Susan Walsh
  Patricia Falvey
President Elect:
  
Vice President (Fundraising):
  Kathy Seidl
Vice President (Membership):
  Mary Wisniewski
Vice President (Clothing):
  Linda Wray
Recording Secretary:
  Katy Perry
Corresponding Secretary:
  Terry Slamkowski
Treasurer:
  Diane Lutomski

Mary Virginia Merrick Award

Every two years Christ Child South Bend awards one of our members with the Mary Virginia Merrick award. Mary Virginia Merrick was the founder of the Christ Child Society. If you do not know her story, please refer to your directory or our website, www.christchildsb.org, for her history.

To qualify for this award you must be a living member of our chapter, have a strong faith, be a dedicated volunteer or officer of the Board of Directors, have visibility at events, support the Society by giving of time, talent and treasure, be a good example and have a love for children.

This award is presented at the Annual Spring Luncheon to be held March 27, 2019. The ballot will be in the November Newsletter and on line. This notice will give you time to think about whom you would like to nominate. Remember - only members can nominate members.

Deadline for November quarterly newsletter: October 15
Ann Korb (277-6443)  ack339@aol.com
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 friends 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:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Kimberly Batalis (Marlene/Otto Martinec)</td>
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<td>Mary Cecilia Bauters (Joseph Bauters)</td>
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### SPECIAL OCCASION:

- Kay Catanzarite – Get Well wishes (Carol Bauer)
- Betty Courtney – Complete Recovery (Marilyn Toeppe)
- Esther Cyr – Happy Birthday (Carol Bauer)
- Sr. M. Margaret Delaski, F.S.E. (Toni/ Bob Kowalski)
- Barbara Dillon (Michael Dillon)
- Drs. Gail English/Nels Leininger – In gratitude (Alice Crowley/Maureen Cahir)
- Joanne Gans – Speedy recovery (Jim/ Nancy Yohe)
- Peggy Gerstbauer – Happy Birthday (Kathy Seidl)
- Jane Horning (Esther Cyr)
- Judy/Hugh Kuzmich – Happy 50th Anniversary (Darlene Cyr)
- Ignatius Menezes – (Jim/Nancy Yohe)
- Patricia Nahas (Peggy Fitzgerald)
- John/Dolores Peck – (Ed/Joan Hardig)
- Millie Seall – 99th Birthday (Donna/Don Kyle)
- Kathy Seidl (Margaret Gerstbauer)
- Michael Singer (Mary/Tom Liddell)
- Barb/Skuby Skubiszewski – 50th Anniversary (Margaret Hosinski, Kathy/John Seidl, Sheila Emge, Peg Riggis)
- Mike Viau (Mary Lou Houle)
- Winnie VandenBossche – Birthday (Peggy Gerstbauer)
- Richard/Sue Widelski (Esther Cyr)
- Kay Catanzarite – Get Well wishes (Carol Bauer)
All in a Year’s Time

After deciding we were ready to become true retirees from our second careers in June 2016, my husband Dan and I moved back to South Bend having lived in Las Vegas for seven years. We’d lived here 2004-2008 after our retirements from the Air Force, Dan having served 30 years and me for 24 years. It took no time to settle into our new home. We became parishioners of St. Jude Parish where I was invited to serve on the Finance Council. I took classes at the Forever Learning Center. We wintered in Florida and life was good. But something was missing. I wanted to get involved in something “hands on.” I just wasn’t sure what that might be.

Hooked on Christ Child Society

In June 2017, I saw an announcement in the St Jude bulletin regarding an event called ‘Let Love Shine’ that was coming up shortly at The History Museum. Tickets were available. Dan’s not much of a socializer but doesn’t mind if I attend events. So, I “googled” the information about Let Love Shine and thought it might be fun. I didn’t know anyone going and didn’t really want to go alone. So, I looked at the Christ Child Society website and saw a name I recognized from my time here in the early 2000s. Mary Jane Chase and I met through Sacred Heart Parish and would occasionally attend ‘Jazz in the Garden’ at the History Museum back then. I hadn’t seen her in over 10 years and wasn’t sure if she’d remember me. I was able to track down her phone number and called her to inquire as to whether she’d be attending ‘Let Love Shine.’ She was and we decided to meet at the event and get caught up on the past several years. I remember the event being quite crowded. I recognized several acquaintances I’d known from my days as VP for Development at Holy Cross College – Mary Lou Mullen, Joe Burt, Louise Anella, Melanie Chapleau and Jerry Kearns. While snacking on the hors d’oeuvres, Marie Burt suggested I join The Christ Child Society. Mary Jane suggested I come to Book Club. I did both. On August 6th, I attended the 70th anniversary brunch. I was hooked.

The Coat Room and I

I submitted my application. My first day at the Center I opted to become part of the Coat Room. I know we have a fierce competition between the rooms, but my heart is in the Coat Room. It comes from a long standing memory of when I was the VP for Development at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. And my first interaction reinforced that I belonged in coats. Melody Weiss called and asked me to participate in the New Member Coffee. I baked my special coffee cake, brought it to the Center and had a lovely morning meeting many of our members. Every week I faithfully worked in the coat room. Being military, I loved having a name tag. I was impressed by the efficiency we have in receiving and fulfilling the orders of our clients. Weary as we may have been, our Fitbits recorded our steps while we steadfastly filled the orders of our clients on Wednesday mornings. While I preferred to fill the ‘orders’ it made me smile to see our members have a good time in coordinat-ing the coats with gloves/mittens and sometimes scarves. And it touched my heart to see such grateful clients. It also tickled me to see Susy Porter take such pride in vacuuming the room after each of our shifts.

Fall Luncheon and a Job?

In October shortly after foot surgery, I had the opportunity to attend the Fall Luncheon. Melody Weiss was kind enough to serve as my chauffeur as I was unable to drive because of my surgical boot. It was such a lovely gathering. I smiled at the memories I had at Windsor Park where we’d had my oldest daughter’s wedding reception nine years previously. I recall listening to Sue Walsh ask for someone to step up to serve as President Elect. With all of the talent and dedication of our wonderful membership, I found it hard to believe no one had raised their hand.

Was this what I was supposed to do? I wanted to be involved. And I knew I had the leadership skills necessary. But was I new to the Christ Child Society. Plus, my hus- band and I are snow birds. We headed south at the end of December and didn’t return until March. Would my distance be an issue? I decided it was time to call Sue Walsh to offer my participation. I’d never met Sue. I think I caught her off guard. She didn’t know who I was though I tried to describe myself as the only person at the Fall Luncheon with a boot on my right foot… We chatted on the phone for quite some time. And I sent her my resume. (Yes, I still have one though I haven’t worked for pay since 2013.) Sue called me back the next day and accepted my offer to step up as President Elect.

Let Love Shine 2018

At about the same time, I started attending the Fundraising Committee meetings. I enjoyed the comradery of that group and was interested in learning what type of fundraising events had been held in the past. I have a background in such and was curious as to what had been done with our organization. I enjoyed hearing about the successes of previous events and wanted to jump on the bandwagon. And so I signed up to chair the Let Love Shine event for 2018. I was delighted that Hetty Cohen was willing to serve as co-chair. I’ve learned our membership has a tremendous amount of experience in running events. We have superb expertise in the area. All that was needed was someone to take charge and let these experts do their thing. I’m quite excited that we’ll be able to make the 2018 Let Love Shine Gala the most successful ever.

I write this as I am about to embark in my term as Co President. It’s hard to believe I’ve only been a member for a year. I am delighted to take on this responsibility. I will look to the expertise of our previous presidents and all of the membership. I don’t have the history that so many of you have. However, based on what I’ve learned so far you are all willing to share your knowledge. And in a year’s time, I believe I’ve found my niche’.

Patricia Falvey
Your New Co-President
Coffee Great Success

The 2018 Informational Coffee was one of the best New Member Coffees ever! Held May 9th at the Center, 33 women attended...the most ever to attend in many years. Of those 33, 16 were sponsored by Christ Child Society members; four read about the Coffee in their parish bulletins; two saw it in the Tribune; one said she read about it in the Newsletter; two came with a friend; and eight walk-ins had heard about it.

Informational Coffee chairs, Susy Porter and Melody Weiss, greeted all guests and provided them with member/guides to tour the Center. After the tours and refreshments, Susy Porter presented a short program highlighted by the history and the many ways one can become involved in the Christ Child Society. All prospective members received folders with membership and informational materials. Before the Center closed that morning, there were two new memberships on Megan's desk with promises of more to come... and 16 more came in by mail for a total of 18 new members as a result of the Coffee.

It is always a good time to invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to see what the Christ Child Society is all about. Just send names and addresses to Kristy Botich, New Member Coordinator, (574-291-7523 or wbotich@sbcglobal.net) and a packet of information and a membership form will go out in the mail.

Members Wrap ND Gifts

Many thanks to all our faithful volunteers and to the Hammes Notre Dame Book Store for supplying the materials to wrap gifts for the Class of 2018. In only two and one-half days during Commencement Weekend, Christ Child members raised $908 for the children we serve. Co-chairs Marie Burt and Cathy Mathews are grateful to all who donated their time to make this fundraising event a success.

Scholarship Program Celebrates Eight Years of Success

The Christ Child Society Scholarship was introduced as a Board initiative in the spring of 2010. The initial conversation behind the scholarship originated in an investment committee meeting. Members were advised by the Christ Child accountant to spend some of the interest earned on the endowment or the IRS could view us as profit making organization. (Demonstrating diversity also helps generate grant money.) The Board subsequently came up with the option of offering a scholarship. An ad hoc committee of Board members was formed to investigate how best to offer a scholarship and from there it took root.

The first Christ Child Scholarship recipient was selected in 2011 and since then the program has successfully helped educate six women complete their degrees. Two of these are now enrolled in graduate programs. Three women have received degrees from Ivy Tech and our present recipient will graduate with a four year degree in 2019.

The intent of this annual, renewable award is to enable an eligible Christ Child client to pursue her education so that she may better serve her children and community. The scholarship is funded through the endowment fund and applications are given out with client referral forms and are available every Wednesday morning in the client waiting room. The annual $1500 award may be used at any accredited, not-for-profit college or university in St. Joseph County.

The Christ Child Society holds dear to the statement that we “make a difference in a child’s life.” The Christ Child Scholarship is given with the belief that the stronger and more independent the mother, the more enhanced the life of the child will be. When interviewing potential candidates, education for the benefit of their children is always their first priority. These are the women who have influence over their children and want to succeed, be role models and see their children become successful. Without exception they are determined and hard working women who make great sacrifices to complete their education. Our community has been blessed by their contributions in health and social services and potential teachers.
Let Love Shine Seeks Gifts for Traditional Silent Auction

*Let Love Shine* will be here before we know it. The traditional silent auction is a large part of our fundraiser. We need items for the auction both from South Bend-Mishawaka businesses and from our members. A solicitation letter will be mailed out to area businesses at the end of July asking for gift cards and/or item donations. If you would like to help contacting any of these businesses, *after they receive the letter*, please let Kathy Seidl know.

Some suggestions for members wishing to make a donation to the silent auction:

- **Christmas presents; Chicago Family trip** - tickets for the Zoo, Museum, Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium, hotel, restaurants;
- **Concert tickets** - Broadway Theatre League and South Bend Civic plays, Morris Performing Arts Center shows, South Bend Symphony tickets;
- **Sporting Event tickets** - Notre Dame women and men’s basketball tickets, hockey tickets, other college and pro football tickets

**Items for baskets:** cocktail baskets; children’s baskets - games, books, Potawatomi Zoo gift card, bowling, pizza, family photo session, movie gift cards; kitchen/baking baskets.

**Other suggestions:** handmade quilts, throws; Spa certificates; dinner packages - wine dinners at area wineries; vouchers for hotels in Chicago or Indianapolis; gift cards (Costco members can purchase area restaurant or Visa, etc. gift cards at a discount); **Stress-free holidays** - carpet cleaning services that will cut down on your cleaning time; **Thanksgiving and Christmas items** - festive Thanksgiving or Christmas wreaths or table decorations or a visit from Santa to your home.

Donations from members would be appreciated. We already have one donation of a beautiful quilt. More would be good too! We will also have the annual Cookie Jar of money and the Cookie Platters to be delivered in time for Christmas so you don’t have to bake.

Any questions contact Kathy Seidl, marian0103@comcast.net or 574-276-0908. Thank you, in advance, for your help.
The Let Love Shine Committee is seeking assistance with gift cards for the always popular balloon pop at this year’s Let Love Shine event. We are asking for gift cards for restaurants, shops, Amazon, Visa, etc. Gift cards of $25 (or more) are ideal, but we will gratefully accept gift cards in any dollar amount!

You can drop off or mail gift cards to the Christ Child Center. Thanks so much to those who can donate!

Please contact Holly Hosinski at hhosinski@gmail.com if you have any questions. If you plan to ask a local business for a donation, contact Kahy Seidl first; Kathy (marian0103@comcast.net) is in charge of all business solicitations for the silent auction and balloon pop.

Sale to Include Christ Child Medallion

Christ Child apparel will be on sale again this year. This will include a short sleeve t-shirt, long sleeve t-shirt, hooded sweatshirt, a sleeveless fleece and a 1/4 zip tech shirt. An order form with pricing will be available on Wednesday, August 8, at the Center.

We are also excited to announce the availability of our Christ Child Medallion. It will be available with or without a 24” chain. The price is $15 with a chain or $12 for just the medallion.

Make a Difference: Read to Me

Last year, the South Bend Chapter of the Christ Child Society, conducted a book drive for St. Adalbert’s School library, the site of our educational outreach program, SUCCESS. As a result, our Chapter donated more than 150 books to their library. The volunteers chose an age appropriate book to read to the children in each different grades. It was a very successful book drive!

We intended to participate in it again this year; however, the Points of Light organization, partnered with TEGNA and the Arby’s Foundation announced it would no longer support MDDAY and the campaign was discontinued.

Since prior participation has served as a springboard for establishing our own guidelines, NCCS is excited to hold our 3rd annual National Day of Service on Saturday, October 27, 2018 without the support of the Points of Light organization.

Our theme is the same as last year: Make a Difference: Read to Me. Studies have shown that children who are read to frequently have larger vocabularies and a head start on language skills and literacy.

This October, probably the week of the 27th, the South Bend Chapter will work with another group of children we serve, those at Our Lay of Hungary School.

LLS Balloon Pops Need Gift Cards

The Let Love Shine Committee is seeking assistance with gift cards for the always popular balloon pop at this year’s Let Love Shine event. We are asking for gift cards for restaurants, shops, Amazon, Visa, etc. Gift cards of $25 (or more) are ideal, but we will gratefully accept gift cards in any dollar amount!

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Christ Child Book Club

2018 – 2019

August 15
Louise Anella (234-0676) Ordinary Grace by William Krueger
September 19
Mary Lou Mullen (234-2626) Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
October 17
Marge Hosinski (256-9728) The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Phillip Sendk
November 28
Elizabeth Bannon The Stars on Fire by Anita Shreve
February 20, 2019
Mary Jane Chase (233-7977) The Rooster Bar by John Grisham
March 20
Pat Falvey (703-3658) Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan
April 17
Judy Kearns (273-9850) The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton
May 15
Pat Short (232-1204) Love Warrior: A Memoir by Glennon Doyle
June 19
Terry Slamkowski (256-1204) Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover
Join us for the Annual
CHRIST CHILD LUNCHEON MEETING
Thursday, October 4, 2018
Morris Park Country Club at 11:30 AM

Name __________________________ Phone _____________

Number of reservations at $25.00 _____ Total enclosed

(Make checks payable to Christ Child Society)

Your check for $25 is your payment and RSVP.

Mail your check by September 28 to
Christ Child Society, PO Box 1286, South Bend 46624.

If you have any questions,
contact Pat Chodzinski at (574) 334-9331.