



# CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY<sup>®</sup> OF AKRON

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

S U M M E R 2 0 2 5

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## Day of Service

Christ Child Society of Akron members and the Embrace Clinic worked together at the Diocesan Day of Service on April 5. Our group effort provided helping hands at the Common Threads Closet in Barberton. This facility helps the homeless and those in need on a weekly basis. Our ladies worked in a variety of areas sorting clothes and personal items.



## Executive Board

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## Letter from the President

The hot days of summer have finally arrived after a rainy and unseasonable cold June! But that hasn't dampened our spirits as we look back on the last six months and look forward to a terrific 2025-2026 Christ Child Society year.

We were thrilled to welcome our new members at our Corporate Communion held on March 22. How blessed we are to have as active members *Michelle Calderone, Linda Herberger, Teri Kilway, Carol Simmons, and Pamela Wellington*. A beautiful Mass was held at Guardian Angels Parish and a catered, delicious luncheon was held in the church's newly renovated hall. We thank co-chairs *Martha Mosher* and *Noleen Snyder* for organizing such a memorable event and we send a special thank you to Father Weber, who welcomed us with open arms and invited us back 'any time'!

We were 'busting at the seams' at our May Salad Supper where we recognized invited guests that included several new 2025/26 provisional members, friends of Christ Child who helped us in special ways this past year, and others who are interested in joining Christ Child this year. We thank *Micki Trenta* for coordinating the beautiful program honoring those who are celebrating anniversaries of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years of membership. It's amazing when one thinks of the number of hours of service that these ladies' membership represents, but perhaps more importantly, the number of children who have been helped because of their extraordinary dedication.



Thanks to all those who participated this past year in so many inspiring service projects, several of which are detailed in this newsletter, such as the St. Augustine Library and the Clothing Center. In addition, we threw a baby shower for our Refuge Host Home new mom, chaired by *Mary Margaret Jakosh*. Vantasia and her family were very appreciative of the party and wonderful gifts supplied by our members.

A great thank you to *Michelle Hathorn* and *Anne Stanton* who chair Mary's Closet and Mary's Kitchen, which helped young moms clothe their toddlers and 25 young adults prepare for living on their own after leaving foster care, respectively. Our Layette program, led by *Christiana Mastromatteo, Patty Smith* and *Carolyn Schmidlin*, helped 315 moms receive a baby layette that would have cost each family approximately \$150-175 if purchased outright.

Tutoring at Crouse Elementary School, led by *Patty McClusky* and her team, continued to demonstrate to young children how the love of reading can serve them well all their lives. All of these projects were successful in helping Akron area children from infancy to adulthood because of the work, dedication and love shown by each of our members. It is such an honor to be a part of Christ Child Society of Akron!

Plans are underway for our Red Wagon Boutique and Luncheon to be held Nov. 22 at the Hilton-Double Tree and there are all sorts of ways that each of us will be able to help. *Continued on page 6*



# St. Augustine Library

The library at St. Augustine School in Barberton was staffed two days a week by *Meg Lee, Beth Vass, Rita Burkley* and *Kathy Kuebel*. Other volunteers came to assist as needed. Regular volunteers included *Micki Trenta, Laura Beringer, Cheryl Fuhrer, Linda Herberger, and Anne Simmons*. Volunteers are required to have a background check and complete the VIRTUS training in order to volunteer.

We again worked with Tracy Varner from SWOCA (Southwest Ohio Computer Association) who assisted us when concerns arose. They support the technology side of operating a library – inputting ordered books, barcodes for students and books, as well as inventory etc. Unfortunately for us, Tracy is retiring, but she has left us in the capable hands of NEOnet (Northeast Ohio Network for Educational Technology). They are similar to SWOCA only more focused on our geographic area. The cost of their services is \$3.10 per student per year. SWOCA charged \$3.00 per student. St. Augustine has paid for that service for the past two years. We ended the year with 197 students, 14 more than the previous year. The projection for next year is 210 students.

The Library at St. Augustine School was fully up and running at the beginning of the 2024/25 school year. We did have to order another shelving unit as we have added hundreds of new titles to our inventory.

The library hosted two book give-aways this year. Each time the students were allowed to select a book from a variety of titles. To make the last book give-away even more special, we drew a name of a boy and a girl from the K-5 classes who visit the library as a group. Each received a fleece blanket because we all know how wonderful it is to cozy up

with a blanket and a good book. A teacher was also selected to receive a blanket.

To prevent loss, we tried something new with Kindergartens this year. We asked that the books they checked out from the library be kept at school. Each week we provided them with an inexpensive book for them to take home. It really helped and our losses were down considerably this year.

Each week Meg, Beth and Rita provided programming around holidays, celebrations, current events, reading skills or literacy skills during the students' library time. The students seemed to immensely enjoy their library time. It was great to watch them ask for certain books, recommend books to friends, and show an even greater appreciation for the library compared to last year.

Reading scores for St. Augustine also indicate an increase in reading skills. The school academic growth percentile went from 45 in 2023/24 to 47 in 2024/25. This score measures how much a student has improved over time compared to other students with similar starting scores. In this case it means that the students' growth was higher than 47% of their academic peers. The goal at St. Augustine this year was to at least reach a percentile score of 50. They were short of the goal, but gaining on it.

Since we started the library, we have enjoyed the support and encouragement of Scott Embacher, Regional Director of Notre Dame Ace Academies-Akron. Unfortunately, Scott will be leaving us as he has taken a new position. He will surely be missed. McKenna Corrigan will be taking his place.



## Clothing Center

The Clothing Center Program has wrapped up the work for the 2024/25 school year.

Chairs, *Kathy Kuebel*, *Patty McCluskey* and *Mary Barnes*, printed the orders and pull needed items from our inventory. Packing orders were done by a small group of members on an as-needed basis.

*Jo Spurlock* left the Akron area and we are so grateful that *Kathy McCarron* stepped in to be our buyer this year. She has done an awesome job!

Deliveries were managed again by *Judi Hill* and *Barb Neman* with volunteers rounding out their teams.

We ended the year providing clothing for 994 students in need in the Akron area. Of that total 677 were for Akron Public School students, 317 from charter schools, and 18 from Catholic schools.

We again offered a paper shoe voucher with a \$60 value at J.C. Penney's in

Montrose. Students used 234 vouchers. Project RISE, a subcommittee of APS that works with unhoused students made us aware that transportation is often a problem for their families. This is our third year of having an on-line shoe voucher option for them. The shoes are sent to us and then delivered to the school by our delivery team. This year 297 pairs of shoes were ordered for Project Rise students.

We have been fortunate enough to receive some generous donations again this year including:

- \*20 hats knit by member *Anna Hall*
- \*10 hat/scarf sets from Patricia O'Brien (Mary Ann Walter's mother)
- \*19 pairs of gloves – *Becky Davis*
- \*29 coats from the St. Hilary Knights of Columbus #14551
- \*155 items from King Community Learning Center
- \*3,000 pairs of Bombas socks



Branch 553 and District 10 of the FCSU (Fraternal Catholic Slovak Union) gave CCSA a shower for our Layettes, plus a \$500 donation.

## Membership anniversaries

Congratulations to these Anniversary Members of our Akron Chapter of the Christ Child Society.

They are celebrating significant anniversaries of their membership and were honored at the May Salad Supper.

The tradition of honoring our anniversary guests at the May Salad Supper began 25 years ago. Nineteen years ago (in 2006), we had the privilege of honoring our first 50-year member, our Founding President, *Nancy Flanagan*. Since that time, we have provided a special gift for each of our 50-year members.

This year we added two more 50-year members to our list and in their honor, a donation was made to the Christ Child Service project of their choice: *Mary Ellen Amer* (Clothing Center) and *Elizabeth Butler* (Layettes).

Our chapter now has honored 42 members in the 50-year group. In addition, since 2017 we have honored ten 60-year members.

Please congratulate all these long-time and dedicated members! They are treasures for our chapter.

### **60 Years (1965)**

Jacqueline DelMedico  
Anne Hergenrother  
Sally Klein  
Lorraine Williams

### **55 Years (1970)**

Janet McGuckin  
Barbara Neman  
Gloria Wathen

### **50 Years (1975)**

Mary Ellen Amer  
Elizabeth Butler

### **45 Years (1980)**

Connie Cevasco  
Judy Murphy

### **40 Years (1985)**

Gloria Hirsch  
Ginny Krantz

Carolyn Schmidlin

Peg Zimmer

### **35 Years (1990)**

Liz Clough  
Linda Hart  
Meg Lee  
Pat Lee  
Barbara Lopane  
Jackie Sonderman

### **30 Years (1995)**

Peggy Contrera  
Linda Skeen  
Christine Thomas

### **25 Years (2000)**

Debbie Dishauzi  
Mary Kaye Jeanmaire  
Kaye Rowe



Our newest members: Pam Wellington, Carol Simmons, Michele Calderon, Teri Kilway and Linda Herberger



## St. Augustine Teacher Lunches

Several of CCSA ladies worked and provided goodies for the three luncheons we provided to St. Augustine teachers.

This year we were able to do a Welcome Lunch in the fall, a "Souper Bowl" luncheon in January, and a Baseball-themed event in May.

Mrs. Howski, the teachers, and staff enjoyed the wonderful meals provided to them. The Teachers' Lounge was decorated for each event and the food/treats were plentiful as we worked to let them know how much we appreciate their efforts in working with God's little ones.



## President's Letter - Cont. from page 2

Whether it be crafting, sewing, baking, collecting items for the raffles and Purse Parlor/Book Nook, modeling, cashiering, and a plethora of other ways, we need you!! Our co-chairs this year are *Rita Burkley*, *Meg Lee* and *Patty Minrovic* and they are looking forward to hearing from you. So if you have ideas that will make this year's biggest fundraiser the best ever, contact them and also keep watching Friday Features for Red Wagon updates.

An upcoming summer service project is the annual Backpack at the Zoo, chaired by *Judi Hill*, which will be held at the Akron Zoo on **Aug. 5-6** from 4-8 p.m. This is a terrific opportunity to share in the excitement of young students receiving school supplies for the coming year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this

year's Christ Child Summer Party on **Aug. 3**, which is sponsored our Gourmet Group. This is a great opportunity to get together socially with your wonderful Christ Child friends, meet newer members and get energized for the 2025-26 Christ Child year.

As we begin this 2025/26 year together, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to be President of this magnificent organization. The time, talent and treasure you devote to helping children in need is awe-inspiring and is a testament to the faith and love that you have for our Lord, Jesus Christ. May we have a successful year with joyful hearts as we work and have fun together for the Glory of God.

*Gail Pfeiffer*

## Grants & Donations

The Christ Child Society of Akron was so very blessed to receive the following grants totaling \$29,479.60 this year:

Granted: Sisler McFawn Foundation - \$7,000 – restricted – Clothing Center

Unsolicited grant – John and Karen Bader Family Fund - \$500 - restricted

Unsolicited grant – Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation Mark Hilkert Fund - \$1,000 restricted – Clothing Center

Granted: Akron Community Health & Human Services - \$10,000 for Clothing Center – funds: \$5,000 from the John A. McAlonan Fund, \$4,500 from the V. E. (Tom) Atkins Fund, and \$500 from Allio Memorial Fund

Unsolicited grant - MG O'Neil – \$5,000 – not restricted

Unsolicited grant – Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation Leo G Walter III and Mary Ann Walter - \$250 – not restricted

Granted: Millennium Fund Akron Community Foundation for \$1,000 for Layettes

Unsolicited from anonymous Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation - \$750 – Clothing Center

Unsolicited grant from Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation Jay & Marilyn Stitz Fund - \$1,000 - not restricted

Unsolicited grant from the Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation Alice J. Caniglia Fund - \$250.00 for Clothing Center

Unsolicited grant – Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation Guerre-ro and Duby Family fund - \$329.78 - not restricted

Unsolicited grant – Donor Advised Fund Akron Community Foundation - David R. and Cheryl L. Venarge Fund - \$2,000 – Clothing Center

Unsolicited grant – Dottie Gaffney via ACF - \$399.82



## Gourmet Group

Christ Child's Gourmet Group members sampled the varied cuisine of "P" country Peru in May. Peruvian cuisine reflects local practices and ingredients including influences from the indigenous population, for example Andean and Amazonian cuisine, as well as cuisines brought by immigrants from Europe (Spain and Italy), Asia (China and Japan), and Africa (Maghrebi and West Africa).

Without the familiar ingredients from their home countries, immigrants modified their traditional cuisines by using ingredients available in Peru. Due to its long multicultural history, Peru is considered an example of fusion cuisine.

May hosts were Loretta and Darryl Fieldman, Laura and Mike Hannah, Mary and Peter Leahy, Martha and Dan Mosher, and Jackie and Mike Sonderman.

A Peruvian cocktail, Pisco Sour, was served at some dinners. Appetizers included Ceviche, either made with Shrimp or Sea Bass, and served with Tortilla Chips. Other starters were Garlic and Herb Roasted Shrimp, and Stuffed Dates with Bacon.

For the main course, Stews were popular, including a Chicken Stew with Vegetables, and a Pork Stew with Chilies, Lime, and Apples.

One dinner featured Fettucine with a Pepper/Cheese Sauce and Grilled Chicken. Another dinner featured Peruvian-Style Grilled Chicken with a Spicy Green Sauce.

Side Dishes included Cucumber Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Potatoes in a Cheesy Pepper Sauce, and Corn, Bean, and Cheese Salad.

Luscious Desserts included Flan with Fresh Berries, Suspiro al la Limena, Tres Leches Cake, and Peruvian Lemon Pie.

Now is the time to consider joining Gourmet Group for 2025-26, either as part of the regular rotation or on the Substitute List.

All CCS members and partners can be a part of Gourmet Group. Gourmet Group members pay dues of \$20 and sign up each year in July to attend four themed meals during the year, in October, January, March and May.

The host couple plans the meal, prepares the main course and provides recipes to her guests who bring one of the side dishes. Dinners are scheduled at the convenience of each individual group. Substitutes do not pay dues, and are often needed.

Contact Mary Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or via email at [tschantz.mary@att.net](mailto:tschantz.mary@att.net) for more information, or to be added to the sub list.

Next year, the Gourmet Group will sample the cuisines of Quebec, Romania, Spain and Thailand.

The Sign-Up Sheet for 2025-26 is on *page 10*.

In addition, all CCS members and friends are encouraged to come to the casual Summer Party, "Around the World Fiesta," hosted by Gourmet Group, scheduled for **Sunday Aug. 3** at 4 p.m. at the home of Andrea and Michael Dorsey in Uniontown. Reservation information, including the featured menu is on *page 9*.





All are Welcome!  
Christ Child Society of Akron Summer Party  
“A round the World Fiesta”  
hosted by CCS Gourmet Group

Saturday, August 3, 2025

4:00PM

at the home of

Andrea and Michael Dorsey  
2405 Foxfire St, NW  
Uniontown OH 44685

Menu

Peach Bruschetta  
Greek-style Deviled Eggs  
Raspberry Camembert Spread  
Peruvian Stuffed Dates with Bacon

Chicken Marsala (prepared by Mark DiFeo)  
French Potato Salad  
Caesar Green Bean Salad  
Orzo Salad with Cucumber, Red Onion, and Mint  
Savory Watermelon Salad

Seasonal Fruit Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream

Beer, Wine, and Soft Drinks included. **RSVP by July 18.** \$15/person. Send your check, payable to Christ Child Society of Akron to **Barb Wulff**, 3177 Sweitzer St. NW, Uniontown, OH 44685-7221. A recipe for one of the appetizers, side dishes, or desserts will be sent to you by July 26.



Christ Child Gourmet Group 2025-2026  
"Q" "R" "S" "T" Countries

All reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis, and are due by **July 14**. Send your check for dues in the amount of \$20, payable to Christ Child Society of Akron to **Mary Tschantz, 336 Melbourne Ave., Akron OH 44313-6543**. Circle your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice months to host. Contact Mary with questions!

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<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>Quebec</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>Romania</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>Spain</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies/Dietary Restrictions\_\_\_\_\_

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Gourmet Group members I haven't had dinner with\_\_\_\_\_

Any comments or concerns \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to be on the sub list.** (Please provide above contact, etc. information).