



# UNITED IN SERVICE 2025

**Thank you to the 25 chapters that submitted their United In-Service Reports. The highlights and data featured in this newsletter reflect the collective impact of these 25 program stories, and we're excited to share them with you!**

## Akron

The Akron Chapter partnered with Embrace Clinic (a pregnancy center that serves families) and Common Threads (an area thrift store) to work together to sort clothing for display and disbursement to families. By collaborating with these organizations, the chapter hopes to better meet the needs of the families they serve.

## Albany

For almost 30 years, CCS of Albany has expanded their program of distributing comfort bags to children in domestic violence shelters from 50 bags per year to 1,000 bags. The comfort bags are now sewn as cinch bags for older children using donated fabric. The bags contain hygiene items as well as coloring books, sketch pads, crayons, colored pencils, books, and a stuffed animal. They now go to 17 agencies in many counties.



## Annapolis

The Annapolis Chapter has developed a program to enhance the love of reading for 3rd grade students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. They provided the book *The Great Kapok Tree* and a sketch book to 2,000 students and their Art Teachers. The teacher then read aloud one page a day and the children drew what they understood. The teachers commented that the children are calmer and more enthusiastic about reading.



## Atlanta

Typically, CCSA has partnered with Star House for tutoring. Star House reached out to the chapter because recently many children and families had been evicted from the condemned hotel where they had been living. In addition to housing insecurities, the school district closed before the summer nutrition program started. CCSA stepped up to provide five breakfasts, lunches, and snacks per child which included large sizes of meals so there would be enough food for siblings. As part of their commitment to Star House, CCSA pursued a grant from Reading is Fundamental to provide books to 230 children.



## Boca Raton

CCS of Boca Raton made their US project their annual Make-A-Difference Day. They celebrated with great energy and numerous volunteers while they assembled 100 layettes and enjoyed refreshments.



## Central Illinois

The Central Illinois Chapter chose Ronald McDonald House as their UIS project. They requested a wish list of needed items and collected from their members to fulfill the needs on the list with an estimated value of \$450.00

## Cleveland

The Cleveland Chapter had a Community Beds Distribution. In partnership with the principal of St. Rocco Parish School, and based on her recommendations, they provided futon-style, portable beds to 30 students and two portable cribs for siblings. Each bed included a frame, mattress, sheet set, blanket, and pillow, all easily transported by families in their own vehicles.



## Columbus

The Columbus chapter created a holiday shopping experience for the 25 students at the Run the Race School. The children had an opportunity to choose jewelry and items (e.g. purses, scarves, and men's items) for their loved ones. The items, primarily jewelry, were donated by members. Members wrapped the gifts and the children filled out the gift tags.

**11,075**  
Children & Families Served

## Dallas-Fort Worth

Christ Child Society began a literacy program with a new partner and provided for the basic needs of local families. This included a Book Fair at St Rita Elementary School where they distributed 400 books. You Belong Bags (e.g. school spirit, hygiene and other items) were also given to 25 students at The Colony High School's The Giving Tree, where 1,000 tags were distributed before and after Masses on four weekends. The tags requested donations for the CCS Blessing bag, Teen bag, Foster Care and Hygiene kit bags. In total, 395 children were served, and 24 volunteers worked for 146 hours.

## Dayton

The Dayton Chapter became aware that a local shelter for run-away or abandoned youth needed hygiene items. The need was greatest for an array of necessary personal maintenance items for new arrivals. After researching, the estimated cost was presented to the Board which approved the UIS project. 200 volunteers were able to distribute the kits to over 400 children.



## D.C.

Diaperpalooza is a signature, community-wide diaper drive of the Washington, D.C. Chapter. It was created to provide local families with infants clean, reliable diapers. Breaking all CCSDC records, 58,579 diapers were collected to support 1,500 families. By distributing 33 diapers per family, they help redirect their limited dollars toward food, transportation, and stability.



# 679

## CCS Volunteers Engaged

## Detroit

The Literacy Program at Walt Whitman Elementary in Pontiac, MI has been a cornerstone of CCSD for many years. They typically serve two classrooms, but this year the school let them know that a 3rd classroom would be included in the program. This became their UIS project. After adding an Amazon wish list to their weekly communication and requesting more volunteers, the program expanded and even sent gift bags home with each of the 65 children for Christmas break.



## Door County

CCSDC members decided to help two local Food Pantries this year as their UIS project. Thirty-nine percent of children in Door County qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches, a key indicator of family need. CCSDC presented a \$500.00 check to Clothe and Feed My People in Sturgeon Bay and did a food drive for Stella Maris CARE Food Pantry in Fish Creek.

## Fort Wayne

The Down Under Program became a pilot program and a UIS project this year. Members saw a need for children's socks and underwear in their partner schools and agencies. Ten area schools were picked to take part, based on economic need. The school principals were contacted, and all readily accepted the offer. Socks and underwear in various sizes were ordered and delivered to the schools. As a result of this program, 4,178 children (total school's enrollment) were provided with new socks and underwear.

## Milwaukee

To reignite the members' interest in Mary Virginia Merrick and her cause for canonization, the Milwaukee Chapter chose to purchase Mary Virginia Merrick's Novena booklets and distribute them to each of the 210 members of the chapter. On January 10, 2026, they began a group novena.

## Omaha

The Omaha Chapter held an inaugural mother-daughter sewing event. They partnered with Bernina Sewing Center, which provided access to their sewing machines. The volunteers were Board Members and Auxiliary Members who brought their daughters. As a result, 14 volunteers were able to serve 30 children.



## Oshkosh

The Oshkosh Chapter held their annual bake sale in November. This year the craft section was expanded and they received donations of crafts and baked goods from members and non-members. The sale raised \$1,446.25 to fund their programs.

## Phoenix

The Phoenix Chapter worked jointly with The St. Vincent DePaul Society of Phoenix team on November 1, 2025. Volunteers came from the Phoenix metro area with their families to help pack layettes, bedtime bags and hygiene kits. Members of the Christ Child Society were able to talk with families about their group and recruit potential members. Twenty-five layettes, 25 bedtime bags and 25 hygiene kits were assembled and donated for children who attended the evening meal.



## Quad Cities

The Quad City Chapter members partnered with Head Start in Rock Island, IL to provide fun activities for 92 children at the Head Start Pumpkin Festival. The children could play carnival games at the Christ Child booth where they had a choice of one of six Pete the Cat books and they could complete Pete the Cat matching puzzles.

## South Bend

Last year, CCSSB gave out art supplies for their UIS project. This year they did it again. They assembled bags with nine different supplies for 230 children. Children who came to the Center for clothing on November 6th and 12th were gifted bright yellow bags holding a choice of crayons, drawing and construction paper, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, watercolor paints, scissors and stickers that were age appropriate for the child receiving them.



## Stuart

Fifteen members of the Stuart Chapter decorated butterflies for the Pre-k class at Banker Lake Early Child Care Center and assembled 30 hygiene bags for teens in the BLAST after school program. Twenty four-year-olds were recipients of the butterflies and 30 teens received hygiene bags. In addition to doing good, the project was fun for the members and strengthened camaraderie.



# 1,429

## CCS Volunteer Hours Reported

## Summit

Members of the Summit Chapter came together to work on a variety of projects as they honored the legacy of Mary Virginia Merrick. Two hundred Terry's Angel bags were filled, prep work was done for their blankets, hats were knitted for layettes, and 50 books were donated to the Readers to Leaders program. Thirty two volunteers donated 70 hours to serve 200 children.



## Toledo

Because of dwindling numbers of students at two Toledo parochial schools, the schools merged and formed St. Benedict School. No librarian was hired and the library was closed. At the request of a school board member, who is also a Christ Child member, the chapter decided to take the library on as a project. TCCS began the process of assessing the library, the quality of the book selection and placing check out cards in the books. The library is now open to over 200 students and staffed with 30 volunteers 2 days a month. This project had 34 volunteers for a total of 112 volunteer hours.



## Tucson

American Heritage Girls (AHG) made fleece blankets to be given to seniors experiencing homelessness. AHG are essentially Catholic Girl Scouts and some of their members are Junior CCST members. In addition, the AHG girls learned to sew burp cloths for mothers of newborns that CCST serves. The AHG also decorated gift tags for the Our Lady of the Desert Christmas tree. Thirty one volunteers were involved in this project for a total of 99 hours and 77 children were served.

## Western Reserve

When a member of WRCCS contacted the Principal at Grant Elementary School, she noted that many of their students come from chaotic homes or mornings, so the school had already created calming corners in all classrooms. She asked for funds to develop a Sensory Room that would be a safe place for children to regulate emotions, reduce stress, and refocus so they can have success in the classroom. For their UIS project, WRCC donated funds. 593 children have access to the room.

# STAY CONNECTED



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