



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY<sup>®</sup>**  
**OF SOUTH BEND**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

2366 Miracle Lane  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
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info@christchildsb.org

Winter 2020

*"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."*

## Calendar

### December

- 25** Merry Christmas!  
**26** In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

#### Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, **2, 9**  
8:30 AM-noon  
Thursday, **3**, 5:00-7:00 PM  
Sunday, **6** 1-3 PM

### January

- 13** Center open for membership 9-11:00 AM  
**19** Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM (teleconference)  
**25** In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

#### Clothing Distribution

Sunday, **17** 12-2 PM  
Thursday, **28**, 4:00-6:30 PM

### February

- 10** Center open for membership 9-11:00 AM  
**15** Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM (teleconference)  
**16** Spring newsletter deadline  
**TBD** Day of Reflection  
**25** In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

*Monique Deguara (right), Co-President of the South Bend Chapter, and Jean Fuehrmeyer (left), who led the development of the SUCCESS program, receive the award from Beth Barrett, NCCS Board Vice President.*

## South Bend Chapter Presented with Red Wagon Award

The National Red Wagon Award was given to the South Bend Chapter's SUCCESS program in a presentation during the Virtual 2020 NCCS Convention.

The Red Wagon Award is presented biennially by National to a Chapter which has developed or maintained a program of exceptional quality. To be considered, programs must be child-centered, positively impact the language, reading comprehension, literacy and/or wellbeing of the children served and be of exceptional quality. In addition to the recognition of an excellent program, the chapter will receive a \$1000 grant for continued development of the program.

The South Bend program was selected primarily because of its impact on over 200 children and its multi-faceted design. The SUCCESS coordinators have worked closely with the school to develop strategic approaches to working with a predominantly Latino population to close learning gaps and raise performance in reading, math, critical thinking and academic vocabulary.

After collaboration with the school, program planners established a four component approach: Tutoring; the ASPIRE College Campus Experience Curriculum; Direct Support activities (in-school activities with students); and Indirect Support activities (providing field trips and experiential learning).

The chapter plans to use the grant for parent education on how to work with their children in the home. Many of the parents do not have the benefit of formal higher education and are appreciative of any guidance in helping to advance school and career success for their children.



# Giving – A Lifelong Journey

**Suzanne Wiwi**  
Co-President

In my life I have learned much about “giving” to others and I thank the many people I know who have guided my realization of the importance of helping others. The definition of “giving” means different things depending on where you are in your own journey.

During my early years, my parents played an important role and “giving” was defined as caring for my family, my grandparents, parents, and those I interacted with each day such as siblings, friends, and neighbors. My Catholic Faith played an important part of this formation. As I grew older and matured, my involvement in and learning more about God and his role in my development as a “giving” person was strengthened not only by my parents and my teachers but certainly the ability to better understand God’s meaning through the readings at Mass.

When I took a leadership role in our parish school, I wanted to build on children’s ability to understand what it means to “give” in a personal way. This could occur in the classroom, on the playground, at Mass, and in getting involved in our local community. This ability to interact and assist others outside the school community was important because it gave them interaction with people who acted as role models and it gave them a personal connection to the people they were helping. It was through my involvement with Christ Child, as a teacher, that I encouraged students to learn more about the people they were giving their time, talent and sometimes, treasure, to each week.

For the past four years my sister and I took care of our mother who wanted to be independent and live at home. Giving of ourselves so that our mother could have this independence was important and neither of us would change what happened these past few years. Our mother died August 24 of this year and thus began another lesson in “giving” to others. This is when we were introduced to Marlene and Tom Nowak (Marlene is a former Christ Child President). We met her through a parishioner and thus began a journey of learning even more about the importance of “giving” to others.

The task of emptying our parents’ home was daunting and to be honest with you, heartbreaking. Through Marlene and Tom’s guidance and help we did empty my parents’ home and at least seven organizations benefitted from our “giving” to those who needed the bare necessities and beyond. Not a thing in our parents’ home went untouched and the following organizations were able to “give” to others in some way: Christ Child Society, Saint Margaret’s House, Dismas of Michiana, the Women’s Care Center, families from St. Vincent de Paul, refugee families, Homeless Vets, Goodwill, and through word of mouth many more families were helped. This experience strengthened my faith and supported our personal sense of “giving” to others. It’s a journey I began as a child and has carried me through to where I am today.

## Executive Board

### Co-Presidents

Suzanne Wiwi

Monique Deguara

### President Elect

Patti Banett

### Vice President (Fundraising)

Susan Coulter

### Vice President (Membership)

Sue Seall

### Vice President (Clothing)

Betsie Pendarvis

### Recording Secretary

Ruth Nieboer

### Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Meyer

### Treasurer

Elizabeth Van Doren

## CCS Makes Christmas a Little Merrier

CCS volunteers shared Christmas cheer with six area families as part of St. Vincent de Paul’s Christmas Program. Several of the departments took a family and the rest were provided for by all volunteers.

Gifts were gathered for children and their parents over a few weeks. A box of nonperishable food for the holidays was also collected for each family. They also received a gift certificate for fresh food for a Christmas dinner.

This was a wonderful opportunity to continue the giving spirit with the children served by the CCS.



*A Christ Child client enjoys the festive decorations in the Registration area.*



## A Christ Child Legacy of Giving

The history of the South Bend CCS Chapter is a mosaic of wonderful stories, a legacy of giving that passes through generations.

Betty Meuninck was a CCS member from 1969 to 1997. As a member, she knit many items for layettes. She even bought a knitting machine in the mid 70's to produce more layette items. Betty was also active in fundraising, serving as the chairman of the 1972 Attic Sale (pictured second from right).

Flash forward to 2020, when her son, Gary, tracked down his friend Sue Seall to send her an infant girl's blanket and pillow, a set knit by Betty for the daughter of a neighbor and



NEEDY CHILDREN will be aided from the proceeds of the 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Attic Sale planned by the Christ Child Society. Examining some of the items to be available at St. Matthew parish auditorium, 1015 E. Dayton St., are, left to right, Mrs. Theodore Gryp, linen chairman; Mrs. Edmond Hageniers, electrical appliance chairman; Mrs. Fred Meuninck, general chairman; and Mrs. Richard Ernsberger, associate chairman. Photo by Tribune Staff Photographer

### Christ Child Attic Sale Set

family friend. That daughter, Deb Tilzer, cherished the blanket made for her baby girl and wanted to pass it on in Betty's memory. When she contacted Gary, he knew immediately to reach out to the Christ Child Society.

Sue Seall and her team have been decorating the new Center, making a big empty space feel welcoming and comfortable. The blanket and pillow will be displayed as a memorial to all the women who have given their time and talent to CCS. Betty's legacy – and the legacy of every volunteer – is reflected in the beauty of her infant blanket set.



Susan Wendowski, Patti Banet and Susan Coulter (center) deliver the first batch of duffle bags to the National Youth Advocate Program.

## Virtual Let Love Shine Planned for February

Let Love Shine is virtual this year! But just because CCS and its friends can't be together in person doesn't mean they can't celebrate and raise money for the Christ Child Society of South Bend online for the event on February 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Participants can watch all dressed up or in comfy clothes and still be a part of the fundraiser.

Registration will be free and if anyone is unable to watch the event on February 11, there will be ways to watch it after that date and to donate money as well.

Look for an invitation with more details in the mail and email in the New Year.

**The Volunteer Luncheon  
on December 9  
has been cancelled  
due to COVID.**

## Foster Children Helped by CCS

As a child-focused organization whose motto is "find a need and fill it," CCS responded to children in emergency situations through the National Youth Advocate Program in South Bend which provides support for foster parents. Children are often removed from their homes and placed in foster care with few personal items. Referral Chair Susan Coulter found large duffle bags which were filled to the brim at the Clothing Center with clothing, coats, shoes, dental care items, books, and a stuffed animal. Each bag was personalized with a name tag and delivered to NYAP to distribute to the children.

Before this year ends, CCS will fill the needs of 65 children. In the future, they will respond within 24 hours to an average of ten cases per month.



## The National Christ Child Society

When "Puddy" Crowley founded the South Bend CCS Chapter in 1947, she joined a rapidly growing, nationwide organization founded by Mary Virginia Merrick in Washington D.C. sixty years earlier. Puddy took up the challenge from Miss Merrick to "find a need and fill it."

### The National Organization

The D.C. based Executive Director, Moira Lynch, and the 12 members of the National Board, selected from chapters across the country, help chapters with organizational issues, make sure that chapters stay true to the mission of the organization, provide support with educational materials and guidelines, and serve as a resource for questions as local chapter officers take on new roles. The National website has a substantial Members Resources section to provide further assistance.

In recent years, NCCS developed a new logo and branding guidelines for all chapters to reflect the fact that they are all part of one organization. NCCS has also created the Read to Me Card, the Blanket Warning tag, and the Calming Your Baby card, all of which are put in every layette across the country.

### Conferences and Conventions

A major responsibility of the National Board is to host conventions and conferences – the conferences are held near D.C. in September of every odd year, and the larger, longer conventions are held in September of even years. The locations vary, moving to cities that are home to a CCS chapter. These meetings serve to educate and unify the organization.

Each chapter is represented at the annual National Business meeting held during conference and convention. There, those chapters attending have a voice on an annual budget, new bylaws, and any other changes to normal procedures. Chapters are welcome to offer input into budget decisions and the future of the organization.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Convention was held virtually. The complete video can be found at <https://www.nationalchristchild.org/events-1/2020-virtual-convention>.

## National Day of Service 2020

Each fall all 45 chapters of The Christ Child Society come together as one to commemorate the November 2 birthday of its founder, Mary Virginia Merrick. Chapters are encouraged to take part in a day of service, under one banner, mindful of the mission, and tailored to the needs of each community.

This year's theme, "Energize, Inspire, Engage: Expanding our Reach," aligns perfectly with the ongoing

expansion of South Bend's SUCCESS partnership with St. Adalbert Catholic School. Last year, experiential learning support, college campus visits, and reading and math literacy events were added, making an outreach to St. Adalbert a natural fit for this fall project.

But how can CCS engage with students during a pandemic? They get creative!

Since the primary grades' field trip to the pumpkin farm could not take place, the pumpkin farm came to St. Adalbert. Pre-recorded fall stories, accessible through YouTube links, made it possible to reach both in-person and remote learning students. Tote bags, complete with learning activities which focused on fall curriculum areas, extended the learning, while a simple craft and other goodies added some fun. CCS is grateful to the teachers for virtually welcoming CCS into their classrooms and to all who supported this project.



## NCCS and South Bend

The South Bend Chapter has had eight members serve on the National Board over the years, two as president. Their leadership has helped shape National and made South Bend a model for other chapters.

South Bend hosted National Conventions twice. The 1960 convention was held in the historic Oliver Hotel. Speakers included Mayor Edward Voorde, Sister Madeleva, President of Saint Mary's College and Clarence Manion, Emeritus Dean of the Notre Dame Law School.

The 1990 convention was held at the Morris Inn on Notre Dame's campus. The convention was called by National President and South Bend Chapter member, Dorothy Chamblee. Speakers included Richard Conklin, VP of Notre Dame, Brian Regan, President of Brian C. Regan & Associates, consultant to nonprofit organizations, and Rev. James Burtchaell, Professor of Theology at Notre Dame, with a keynote address by Dr. William Sexton, Vice President at Notre Dame.

## South Bend Awarded Grant Through NCCS

NCCS Executive Director Moira Lynch announced that the Christ Child Society was awarded a grant by an anonymous Washington, D.C family foundation which provides funding to organizations that respond to emergency situations such as the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic. NCCS was eligible for the grant because its office is located in the D.C. area.

The grant application was submitted on behalf of ten chapters, including South Bend. Along with their Clothing Program which assists families in need of warm coats, shoes and clothing, the chapter responds to families in emergency situations such as fire. The \$3,000 grant is directed toward expenses related to the pandemic process during this time of great need as well as educational materials.

## Quilt Will Adorn New Center

Vicki and Dick Riel, members of the South Bend chapter, visited the Clothing Center during travels from their home on Mackinac Island. Along with delicious Mackinac Island fudge, Vicki brought a beautiful quilt that had been gifted to her by the Phoenix Chapter after her 2000 to 2002 term as NCCS President.

The Riels wanted the South Bend Chapter to enjoy the quilt's beauty and it will soon grace the walls of the new Center. The quilt features the CCS logo and a red wagon. The reverse side is full of red wagons, reflective of Mary Virginia Merrick's gift to a young boy on Christmas, an act of charity that inspired the founding of CCS.



## National Board Members from South Bend Chapter

Mildred Flanigan	
Vice President	1980-1982
Dorothy Chamblee	
Vice President	1982-1988
<b>NCCS President</b>	1988-1990
Marilyn Toepp	
Corresponding Secretary	1988-1990
Treasurer	1990-1994
Vicki Riel	
Recording Secretary	1994-1996
President-Elect	1998-2000
<b>NCCS President</b>	2000-2002
Rose Acklin	
Corresponding Secretary	2000-2002
Treasurer	2004-2008
Vice President	2008-2010
Linda Brammer	
Vice President	2012-2014
Deb Low	
Director at Large	2012-2014
Vice President	2014-2016
Beth Barrett	
Vice President	2014-2020



## Elks Are Sighted on Miracle Lane

Christ Child Society's neighbors to the west, South Bend Elks Lodge #235, applied for and received a grant from their national organization that allows their membership to partner with a local nonprofit. Fortunately for the Christ Child Society, they have chosen to become involved with the CCS mission.

The grant stipulates that their members become actively involved in the endeavors of the organization. On November 15, six of the Elks members volunteered at the Christ Child Center. They also assisted in the purchasing of warm winter clothing for CCS clients. The grant is renewable and the chapter looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Elks in the future.



*Members of the Elks joined the Coat Department on a Sunday afternoon.*

## Center to Open

### Two Dates in January

The board decided to open the center for clothing distribution in January to serve any children who are still in need of warm clothes. The pandemic affected client families in so many ways, it was felt that additional days are needed to serve the community.

**CCS will open Sunday, January 17, 2021 from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm** with the last client registered at 1:00 pm and **Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm** with the last client registered at 5:30 pm. Referral agencies will be informed so they can help families in need. Families will be asked to call the Center to let CCS know they are coming so staffing is planned accordingly.

Current pandemic processes will be followed. As always, emergency clothing requests will be responded to, especially since the new center is easy to open and heat. Please inform Department Chairs if you can volunteer these dates.

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

CCS has been signing children up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library again this year. This free program allows any child who is a resident of St. Joseph County to have a book mailed to them every month until they are five years old. The parents who already have their children enrolled often tell volunteers how nice the books are and how much their children enjoy them. CCS has signed up an additional 203 children for the program this year. Added to the two previous years they have signed up around 900 children for this worthwhile program. That is a lot of books!

## Clothe-A-Child Dolls Return in March

For the past 26 years, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union has participated in the Clothe-A-Child campaign with great success. Despite these challenging times, the credit union, in concert with their members and partners, were able to raise over \$3,700 for the Christ Child Society during their campaign in October 2020.

Look for the "Mitten Kids" to appear at your local Martin's Supermarket in March of 2021.



A special membership category was established in 1998. A one time \$1000 enrollment fee for deceased members, spouses

and friends benefiting the Christ Child Society Endowment Fund will insure the Society's ability to continue future good works. The Guardian Angels are remembered monthly and each year at our annual Mass. Current members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program and will be officially enrolled upon their deaths. All Guardian Angels' names are recorded on a plaque that is located in the Christ Child Society office. Please refer any questions to Norma Villanucci at 574 243-0621.

## 2020 Guardian Angels

Pat Van Rie  
Shirley and Joseph Lazzara  
Thomas Slamkowski  
Darlys M. Chapman Lonergan

Living Angel  
Norma J. Villanucci

## Gifts and Memorials

The Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society to honor a memory or special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary or accomplishment. Deceased friends or relatives will be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. When requesting a Remembrance Card, please print legibly. 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).

### SPECIAL OCCASION:

Peggy Bauer (Carol Bauer)  
 Joan Biltz (Ed & Joan Hardig)  
 Mary Fran Burt – Happy Birthday (Joe & Marie Burt)  
 Kevin & Sarah Burt – Wedding Anniversary (Joe & Marie Burt)  
 Rosemary Carpenter – Get Well (Jim & Pat Short)  
 Sally Dunn – Accident Recovery (B.J. O'Brien)  
 Kay & Roy Ellgass (Kathryn Screes)  
 Sheila Emge – Speedy Recovery (Ginger O'Hara)  
 Rita Farmer – Get well (James & Nancy Yohe)  
 Camden Garcia – Get Well (James & Nancy Yohe)  
 Norma & Jerry Hoffman – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (Joe & Marie Burt)  
 Karen Horvath (Ginger O'Hara)  
 John F. McClintock (Helga Jean)  
 Mary Ellen Madden (Rose Grontkowski, Jeanine Wideman, Charlene Wilcox, Suzanne Cierzniak)  
 Ellis Avery Masters – Birth (Peg & Dean Riggs)  
 Phyllis Miller – Good Recovery (Joe & Marie Burt)  
 Joe & Jane Moorhouse (Terry Slamkowski)  
 Rev. Gil Stoy, C.S.C. – Ordination Wishes (Carol Bauer, Mary & Ed Kubiak)  
 Genevieve VanOverberghe (Linda & Russell VanOverberghe, Martha Kummerer)  
 Sr. Marilyn Zugish, C.S.C. – Retirement (Joe & Marie Burt)

### IN MEMORIAM:

Conrad Adams, III (Barb & Ken Fedder)  
 Fred Bacon (Barb & Ken Fedder, The Corcoran Family, Rolande Parent, Marti & Frank Moriconi, Sheila Emge)  
 Patricia Beutel (Joan Biltz)  
 Larry Blum (Esther Cyr)  
 Rhonda Bremmer's Father (Marcia & Tom Blum)  
 Ricky Connor (Jim & Pat Short)  
 William Cushwa (Ed & Joan Hardig)  
 Robert W. Foster (W. L. Vanden Bossche, JoAnn Axelberg)

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Members:

Maggielee Delahanty  
 Ann Korb

#### Member Spouse:

William Cushwa

Tony Gentile (Jane Dietrich)  
 David Allen Gill (W. L. Vanden Bossche)  
 Bill Hansen (David & Sharon Biek)  
 Enas "Sam" Hass (Barb & Ken Fedder)  
 Judy Holderman (Carol Bauer)  
 Donald Hostetter (Marcia & Tom Blum)  
 Ted Jacek (Marie & Paul Brady)  
 Carolyn Kachenko (Louise Anella)  
 Richard Kaman (Joe & Marie Burt)  
 John Keller (Marcia & Tom Blum)  
 Karen Kiene (Ed & Joan Hardig)  
 Timothy Dier King (Donna & Don Kyle)  
 Ann Korb (Pat Corcoran, Mary Jane Stanley, Paul B. Glass, DDS, Judy & Jerry Kearns, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Mary Hintz, Judy Kuzmich, Tom & Marlene Nowak, Kathryn Screes, James & Suzanne Cierzniak, Marilyn Stafford, Cyndi Smith, Peter Lombardo, Jr., Greg & Jean Mee, Bette O'Malley, John & Mary Lou Derwent, Suzy Halloran, Marti & Frank Moriconi, Margaret Hosinski, Esther Cyr, Rolande & Roger Parent, Kathy Seidl, Debbie Spillman, Marie & Paul Brady, Peg Claeys, David & Susan Walsh, Marie Burt, Melanie Chapeau, Peg Riggs, Ginger O'Hara, Margaret Johnson, Norma Lu Meehan, Katie Krepel, Suzanne & Mark Wiwi, Sheila Emge, Madline Gallegher, Jane Horning, Ed & Joan Hardig)  
 Joyce Lake (Mr. & Mrs. Brian Lake)  
 Michael Lang (Marie & Paul Brady)  
 Shirley Lazzara (David & Susan Walsh, Layette Room Ladies, Ann Korb, Deb & Mike Low, Sharon James, Kae Sobczyk, Nancy Meyer, Debbie Spillman, Norma Vallanucci, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Dan & Beth Barrett, Suzy & John Halloran, Rolande Parent, Sue Seall, Dee Tepe, Kathy & John Seidl, Bette O'Malley, Henry & Mary Ann Chandler, Patricia Falvey, Pat Corcoran, Marti & Frank Moriconi, Sue & John Shirrell)

Beverly Lincoln (Ann Jones)  
 Robert C. Nemeth (Peg Riggs)  
 Ed Neufer (Peg & Dean Riggs)  
 Gabrielle Poikus (Debbie Spillman)  
 Lucille O. Powell (Dorothy H. Mady)  
 Marcella Pynaert (James & Nancy Yohe)  
 Cornelius M Quink (Mr. & Mrs. Brian Lake)  
 James M. Ray (Carol & Donald Nash)  
 Kris Reuscher (Marcia & Tom Blum)  
 Donny Sawochra (Janice Goossens)  
 Clara A. Schnabel (Dorothy H. Mady)  
 Stanley A. Severyn (Helga Jean)  
 Richard Shank (Margaret Hosinski)  
 Bruce Squadroni (Sam & Teresa Jermano)  
 Cleda Swope (Ginger O'Hara)  
 Albin A. Szewczyk (Judy King)  
 Tom Szumski (Ed & Joan Hardig)  
 Carol Trzybinski (Tom & Mary Wisniewski)  
 Peggy VanNevel (Esther Cyr)  
 Ron Wallace (Barbara A. Robison, Marcia & Tom Blum, Gail Jaskowiak, Ginger O'Hara, Charlene & Tony Hutti, Carol & James Holt, Debbie Spillman, Margaret Hosinski, Jan Williams, Teresa & Sam Jermano, Diane Boehnlein, Judy Kuzmich, Betty Ann Gibbons, Diane & Gerry Quinn, Rita North, Dee Tepe, Kathy & John Seidl, Rolande & Roger Parent, Art & Mary Lou Houle, Tami McNally, Deb & Mike Low, Sharon James, Beth Barrett, Jane Horning, Kathleen Lawton, Mary Lou & John Derwent, Bette O'Malley, Sheila Emge, Susy Porter, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Mary Ann Chandler, Georgia Nolen)  
 Brian Wandling (Peg & Dean Riggs)  
 Barbara Warner (Alice Crowley, Tom & Maureen Cahir)  
 John Weiler (Marcia & Tom Blum)  
 Don Wiltshire (Rolande Parent)  
 Kevin Wittenbach (John & Suzy Halloran)  
 Abigail Wood (Carol & James Holt)  
 Suzanne Ziroll (Art & Mary Lou Houle)

*If you have In Memoriam envelopes with the old CCS address, the new address is*  
 2366 Miracle Lane  
 Mishawaka, IN 46545  
*Please change the address or obtain new envelopes at the Clothing Center.*



Christ Child Society of South Bend  
2366 Miracle Lane  
Mishawaka, IN 46545



NON-PROFIT ORG.

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

Return Service Requested



*Christmas cheer around  
the Clothing Center*



Plans for the Day of Reflection are pending as the committee responds to the changing restrictions due to the pandemic.

Watch your email for updates.