Let Love Shine Gala Returns Live

Looking for a fun-filled night with a delicious dinner prepared by Navarre Catering while listening to a lovely trio? Look no further! Our annual major fundraiser, Let Love Shine, will be held this year at The Armory on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

The Armory, located at 727 South Eddy Street, offers an unrivaled setting in our area. Featuring gorgeous brick walls, original hardwood floors, lavish chandeliers, and exposed ceilings, this is a one-of-a-kind venue. Maybe some of you remember playing or attending a basketball or volleyball game there in the past! If so, hopefully, this will rekindle some wonderful memories.

Co-chairing this year’s auction event are Susan Coulter and Sue Seall. Both have been working hard to procure some exciting premier and silent auction items that will be fun for young and old. If you’re looking for an exciting getaway, a night out on the town, a Blackstone Grill, culinary experiences, unique gift baskets, and the always popular Balloon Pop, we’ll have it all and a lot more.

Invitations will be mailed at the end of September so be to sure get your reservations in early. Dinner tickets are $100 per person; however, there are still sponsorships available. Please consider sponsoring the event for as much as $10,000 or even $100 to make this event a huge success. For more information, please email info@christchildsb.org. There will also be remote bidding available for those that aren’t able to join us that evening.

Let Love Shine is a great way to help under-resourced kids in our own community. We hope to see you there.
Dedication Above and Beyond

Monique Deguara
Co-President

Our members are so dedicated to The Christ Child Society and our mission. This is illustrated daily at the center as volunteers go above and beyond to make sure their departments are prepared with everything needed to serve our families. Members don’t hesitate to come in extra or do work outside the center so the children’s needs are met.

We are truly missing Andrea Incropera, a dedicated member since 2002, who passed away suddenly on May 21, 2021. Andrea devoted herself to the center in both Coats and Layette departments. For years she purchased everything for those areas as well as organized the coat distribution department. Susan Walsh, who worked by her side for years, remembers, “She would always say that we do this for the children because she knew that they didn’t have much. She would always be thinking of the kids when she was purchasing the coats, hats, mittens, and scarves with the colors and styles and how they would love them when they received them. It was a pleasure to see their faces!”

Andrea’s husband, Frank Incropera, and her daughters Terri, Shaunna and Donna share that same devotion to helping the under-resourced families in our area. Frank has donated the Andrea Incropera Endowment to The Christ Child Society of South Bend to provide scholarships for families touched by Christ Child. Frank is funding the endowment with a donation of $100,000 over the next two years. The endowment agreement states:

“The endowment proceeds, governed through The Christ Child Society of South Bend policies and procedures, will provide scholarships to persons touched by the Christ Child Society. Emphasis will be placed on post-secondary educational experiences that enhance prospects for achieving financial stability, including certificate programs offered by vocational/career schools and community or junior colleges, as well as degrees offered by four-year colleges or universities. Recipients may include the parents of children being clothed by the Christ Child Society, the children themselves following completion of their high school education, and foster-care children who have been supported by the Society and have also completed their high school education.”

We are so thankful for and excited about this new endowment. This gift truly demonstrates our motto, “Where love leads to action.” The Incropera family is enabling us to work with our clients to obtain the necessary education they need for successful lives. A plaque commemorating this generous gift will be hung in our lobby in September. Our current scholarship program will expand to provide the new opportunities to prospective candidates in the fall of 2022. Andrea’s legacy will live on in this new program which offers a brighter future to our under-resourced children and families.

St. Vincent de Paul Events

The Christ Child Society of South Bend, in our continued partnership with and support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, is a Sponsor of The Founders Gala Dinner on Thursday, October 7, 2021. We have been offered a table of 8 for our members.

We also have 25 seats available to us at the Poverty Awareness Seminar on Friday, October 8, 2021. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The seminar concludes at noon.

There is a sign up sheet at the member information table in the back hallway of the Center.

The Poverty Awareness Seminar will be presented by Dr. Donna Beagle who believes, “Making a difference for people who live in the crisis of poverty requires a paradigm shift - a shift that moves us beyond stereotypes and judgment to a deeper understanding of the causes of poverty and its impact on human beings. With this awareness, we can work together to provide genuine opportunities for people to move out of poverty.” This is a great opportunity for our members to learn more about how we can better serve our families.

Executive Board

Co-Presidents
Monique Deguara
Patti Banet
President Elect
Sue Seall
Vice President (Fundraising)
Lisa Smessaert
Vice President (Membership)
Melissa Baltz
Vice President (Clothing)
Betsie Pendarvis
Vice President (Communications)
Beth Barrett
Board Secretary
Ruth Nieboer
Treasurer
Elizabeth Van Doren
Giving Tuesday

It’s not too early to mark your calendars to remember Christ Child on November 30, this year’s date for Giving Tuesday, the global movement that inspires people to give to local causes. All monies raised will go directly to the mission of serving under-resourced and foster children.

Thanks to CCS members, their friends and family, over $8,000 was raised on Giving Tuesday 2020, the best year ever. Megan Fitz, our Administrative Assistant, did a tremendous promotion job with flyers and Facebook updates. With your support 2021 can be another record-setting year!

Joint Board Retreat Starts the Year Right

On June 10, the outgoing and incoming CCS boards participated in a retreat. They shared ideas, learned about the duties and responsibilities of the board and were presented with the tools needed to provide strong leadership for the coming year.

The retreat was held in response to the Strategic Plan initiative to provide leadership development for the Board of Directors and those chairs under their direction and ensure that there is consistency in transitions of leadership and performance of duties from year to year.


The new “mural” shirt is available for purchase for $25 at the Clothing Center. It is a long sleeved, polyester, white shirt with the CCS logo on the front and a picture of the Clothing Center mural on the back.

Members of the “Every Fourth Thursday” CCS euchre group pose after an afternoon of cards and conversation. Contact Joan Hardig if interested.

Incoming Co-Presidents Monique Deguara and Patti Banet presented Suzanne Wiwi with a statue of St. Francis for her garden in appreciation of her work as Co-President.

The Clothe-A-Child Paper Dolls campaign is in preparation for the 2021-2022 season. Watch for email announcements when plans are finalized.
It Was a Busy Summer at The Christ Child Society!

The Clothing Center opened on August 4. Volunteers served 76 families and 196 children, a great start to the clothing season.

Masks are required and a limited number of clients are permitted in the building at a time in a continued effort to keep everyone healthy. For the first time, clients could use red wagons to tote their clothes as they visited each department.

On opening day a lovely Mom and her children, two boys in a large stroller, and a young girl pulling the wagon, picked up their order at Shoes. Mom was directed to the shoe try-on area. She came to the exchange window, saying all but one boy’s shoes fit. She wanted to stay with the same size but asked for different brands since his feet were a little wide. Took out two more styles...still didn’t fit.

She shared that her son had a medical condition, would be short in stature and have wide feet his entire life. So...luckily we had quite a few styles in his size. Came back with three more styles, which she tried on. The last style in Skechers fit him perfectly! He was pleased too, kicking and looking at his shoes. Mom was genuinely thrilled, and thanked us repeatedly for the special attention we gave her. Told her to remember the brand, and if she came back next year, to tell us. She was almost tearful...and thanked us again. We never know what our clients are facing in their lives. Just a few extra moments of time can make all the difference for them!

- Barb Reihl

Patti Banet helps a toddler select the perfect stuffed toy.

Jayleeyah selects a toothbrush in her favorite color. The Dental Program was started last year with a generous donation from Marjorie Bycraft.

Laura Trippel made Alivia very happy with her new fur-lined coat.

Susan Coulter finds the right size coat for Tiana at registration.

Mom’s little helper pulls one of the red wagons. First purchased to help the CCS volunteers last year when they collected all the clothes, the wagons have been repurposed to make ‘shopping’ easier for clients with several children.
Member Open House a Success

On August 3, Christ Child welcomed all members and their friends to the Clothing Center. The open house was the first opportunity for the chapter to show off the new Center. Delicious refreshments were provided by Debbie Low.

Backpacks & Beyond: A Double Win!

Cars started lining up at the Christ Child Center as early as 7:30 am on July 24 to receive new backpacks stuffed with school supplies. The event was hosted by CCS and spearheaded by Clay Food Pantry in cooperation with Christ the King Lutheran Church and the Inner Faith Council.

This collaboration is a terrific example of the ecumenical spirit enabled by our larger and more visible facility. Clay Food Pantry is a relatively new referral agency, and Christ the King Lutheran Church has been very generous with both in-kind and financial support. During their fifth annual Backpacks and Beyond event the churches distributed backpacks and supplies and CCS wrote referrals giving qualifying families the opportunity to return to our center to receive school wardrobes.

At the end of the day, enthusiastic church volunteers handed out nearly 200 backpacks resulting in 180 referrals from 61 families. CCS is able to explore these mutually beneficial partnerships because of the new Center.

National Day of Service Tackles Poverty One Book at a Time

Each October all 45 chapters of Christ Child honor the legacy of founder Mary Virginia Merrick with a National Day of Service to make a greater impact on the lives of children.

Supporting this year’s theme of *Fostering a Love of Reading - Together* the South Bend chapter is conducting a book drive that focuses on childhood literacy. Since one of the best indicators of lifelong success is reading with children, the Center provides an age-appropriate book for each child served. Yet 61% of low-income families have no children’s books, thus giving these children an unfair start in life.

This year, the chapter is collaborating with El Campito Child Development Center and St. Margaret’s House. Like Christ Child, these organizations work to interrupt the cycle of poverty by supporting children’s growth and development. The book drive will benefit hundreds of children through on-site programs and by giving them a book of their own.

Extend the love for reading with a gift of literacy and learning. Bring or mail NEW books (birth through kindergarten) or monetary donations (please indicate “National Day of Service” on your donation) to the Center by Wednesday, October 13.

Board books, picture books and early readers are especially needed. Also welcome are STEM themes, bilingual books, and books reflecting diversity and positive messaging. For added convenience, the project team has created an Amazon Wish List with suggested titles.

For more information, contact Jean Fuehrmeyer or Megan Fitz (info@christchildsb.org or 574-288-6028).
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 (574-277-7787).

SPECIAL OCCASION

Kristy & Wally Botich – 50th Anniversary (Charlene & Tony Hutti, Tom & Mary Wisniewski)
Julie Bussert (Marilyn Bolinger)
Fr. Terry Coonan – Continued Blessings (Greg & Jean Mee)
Adele Drescoll – 98th Birthday (Carol Holt)
Fr. Gilbrian Stoy – Thank you for service to CTK (Carol Bauer, Mary & Ed Kubiak)
Mary Heisman – Good health (Nancy Meyer)
Brian Kempkiak (Joe & Marie Burt)
Fr. Nathan Maskal (Joe & Marie Burt)
Marlene Nowak (Jim & Pat Short)
Ted Mullet (Jim & Pat Short)
Sharon Priemer – Retirement (Alice Crowley & Maureen Cahill)
Fr. Bill Schooler (Joe & Marie Burt)
Kathy Seidl – Thanks for all you do (Peggy Gerstbauer)
Tom Shea – Recovery (The Corcorans)
Connie & Randy Smith – 50th Anniversary (Carol Bauer)
Laura Smith (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Rita & Dennis Stevens – 50th Anniversary (Joe & Marie Burt)
George & Maria Twaddle – Thanks for all kindnesses (Mary & George Schilling)
Sue Walsh – For Remarkable service to CCSSB (Deb & Mike Low)

IN MEMORIAM

Dick Baer (Greg & Jean Mee)
Arlan Banes (Marti & Frank Moriconi)
Theresa Joann Bauer (Julann & Laurence Bauer)
Barbara Caron (Suzanne & Mark Wiwi)
Victor G. Carroll (Patricia W. Falvey)
Loretta Chillag (Toni Pikuza)
James Cierzniak (Esther Cyr)
Betsy Cooke (Kathleen McTigue, John & Frances Ruhe, Marie Brady, Carsten & Renee Schmidt & Family, Sharon James, Charlene & Tony Hutti, Esther Cyr, Nancy & Jack Pycik, Robert & Patricia Horn, Barbara & John Stephenson)
Michael Dietrich (Marie & Paul Brady)
Helen Ditlz (John & Jane Callan)
Clarke Dippell (Joe & Marie Burt)
Dan Dries (Rosemary Toepp)

Deceased Members

Loretta Chillag
Gerry Quinn
Andrea Incropera
Ann Leonard Molenda
Frances Sain

Spouses

Joseph Shafer
John Hintz
Judith Duesterberg (Florence Duesterberg)
John Dzierla (Dottie Wallace)
Gaye Eades (Suzanne Wiwi)
Robert Elkins (Winifred Vanden Bossche)
Roy Elggass (Maureen Jones, Esther Cyr, Joan Hurley, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, Carol Bauer)
Patricia Fewell (Kathleen Lawton, Peg & Dean Riggs)
Blaine Fisher (Patti & Lowell Paschke)
Patty Gammiere (Greg & Jean Mee)
Joan J. Golubski (Julann & Laurence Bauer)
Casper Grathwohl (Montel Menting)
Jody Green (Dee Tepe)
Trudy Heller (Maureen Jones)
Andrea Incropera (Esther Cyr, Kathy & John Seidl, Jane Horning, Margaret Hosinski, Bette O’Malley, Ed & Joan Hardig, Mrs. & Mrs. Mark A. Wiwi, Sharon James, John W. Lucey, Bonnie Grow, Rita Keeley, Brenda Major, Ernest Fletcher, Beth & Dan Barrett, Joe & Pat Corcoran, Diane Boehnlein, Deb & Mike Low, Peg Riggs, Marge Marley, Marie Burt, Rolande Parent, Charlene & Tony Hutti, Melanie Chapaleu, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, Tom & Judy Burmeister, Marcia & Tom Blum, John & Sue Uhram, Sheila Emge, Frank & Marti Moriconi, Mary Ann Chandler, Terry Slomkowski, Rose & Jim Lyphout, Anne Choinkney, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Sue Seall, Linda Botich, Peter Lombardo, Jr., James Taylor & Patricia Weiss, Anne & Peter Schwind, Jim & Amy Keene, Yih-Fang & Nancy Huang, Nancy & Col. Howard Hanson, Wild Wing plantation Homeowners Assoc., Gloria & Ralph Prawat, Larry & Carolyn Gardner, Carol Hillberry, Lynne Dzierla, Bob & Martha Dunn, Carolyn Woo & David Bartkus, Monique & John Deguara, Patricia W. Falvey, Ginger O’Hara, Diane Quinn, Anonymous, Deb & Bob Bernhard, Beryl W. Fox, Ruth Schmitz, Thomas & Cinthia Fuja, Matthew & Sarah McGough, Nancy & John Denton, Peg Riggs, Mary Earl & Kay Houser, Joe & Pat Nahas, Edward Tafelski, Drs. Greg & Patricia Maday, Patrick Flynn & Laurie Starr, Bill & Cathy Colonis, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cunningham, Jim Schmiedeler, Renee Lareau, Sophia, Declan & Emmet, The Roberts Family, Hazel Fletcher-Campbell, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rogalski, Steve & Jackie Batill, Chelsea Carter & Kyle Clark, Scott & Kerry Meyers, Susan & Dave Walsh)
Thomas T. Kane (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Ann Korb (Patricia M Huston)
Cecilia Ladda (Fran Austin)
Joyce Lake (Mr. & Mrs. Brian Lake)
Harry Larkin (Joan Frances Hurley)
Shirley Lazara (Dottie Wallace)
Molly Lee (Maureen Jones)
Michael Lutomski (Monique & John Deguara, Sue Seall, Peg & Dean Riggs, Sharon James, Kathy & John Seidl, Esther Cyr, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Rolande Parent, Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Wiwi, Jim & Nancy Yohe, Kari & Greg Wuszek)
Bill (Red) Mack (Dottie Wallace)
Emil Martinec (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Arlene Masters (Peg & Dean Riggs)
Rhonda Masters (Peg & Dean Riggs)
Jeanne Mickey (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Helen Miller (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Ann Leonard Molenda (The literary club, Jean & Dick Dennen, Brian & Ginger Lake, Mary Lou & Pete Mullen, Jan Frieden, Elizabeth & Andrew Dominello, Frank & Rick Bedan, Michael & Patricia Bellovich, St. Joseph county Republican party, Diane & Michael Welihan, Paul, Jacquelyn & Mark Bremer, Harry & Bonnie Shaffer, Anna Jean Cushwa, Jill Ross, Kathleen Lawton, The Cierzniak Family, Mary Starks, Margaret Hosinski, Dee Tepe, Bette O’Malley, Nancy
Leonard, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Miller, Tracy Bedan, Lesia & Mike Daniel, Penny & Greg Swallows, Kelly, Kelsea & Kristofer & James Bedan, Mr. & Mrs. Walt Terrell
Mila Moyse (Patricia Brady)
Robert Niswander (Winifred Vanden Bossche)
Michael Nowak (Beth & Dan Barrett)
Matt Payton (Carrie Nowak, Amy Zeercher, Lynn Therese Mai, Moira Lynch, Linda Thaxton)
Rita Prowant (Kathy Malone Beeler, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Strycker)
Gerry Quinn (Margaret Hosinski, Sharon James, Bette O’Malley, Rita Keeley, Esther Cyr, Kathy & John Seidl, Deb & Mike Low, Dottie Wallace, Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Wiwi, Marie Burt, Charlene & Toni Hutt, Jack & Nancy Pycik, Suzanne Cierzniak, Maureen Jones, Dee Tepe, Judy & Jerry Kearns, Marlene & Otto Martinez, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, Patricia W. Falvey, Marcia & Tom Blum, Terry Slankowski, John & Sue Uhran, Anne Choinkacy, Jane Horning, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Paul B. Glass, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Witaske, Paulette & Avery Stone, Judith Quinn, Dr. & Mrs. John Jacobs, Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Hussey, Monique & John Deguara, Stephen Quinn, N.D. Club of Portland, Mary Ruth Quinn, Zelinski, Nash & Roemer Families, Laura Giannone, Wayne Wyles, Kathleen Walsh, Maureen Dinnen, Ginger O'Hara, Gloria Wyles, Alice Backs, Marijo & Madelyn Martinec, Beth & Dan Barrett, Carol & Jim Holt, Kay Houser & Mary Earl, David M. Murphy Family Fund)
John D. Rappelli (Teresa & Sam Jermano)
Rosemary Reiter (Barbara Kovach, Sue & Rick Seall)
Nancy R. Fenguial (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Randy Riggs (Peg & Dean Riggs)
Shirley Robinson (Teddi Murray)
Frances Sain (Joe & Pat Nahas, Mary & Ed Kubiak, The Corcorans, Judy & Hugh Kuzmitz)
Joseph Shafer (Sam & Teresa Jermano)
Mary Lou Smith (Russell & Gloria Buyse, Ardith Lundquist, James P. Szekendi, Betty Bowers, Katie Krepel)
Thomas Smith (Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Wiwi, Fred & Ann Schmiedeler)
Fred Steif (James Holt)
Mrs. Thompson (Marijo Martinec)
Rev. Camillo Tirabassi (Toni Pikuza)
Connie Trewin (Jack & Nancy Pycik)
Bill Voll (Mr. & Mrs. Mark A. Wiwi)
Dr. Thomas Wack (Jim & Nancy Yohe, Linda Knapp Aichele)
Ron Wallace (Bernie Parr)
Angela Weber (Esther Cyr)
Tim Welsh (Joan Frances Hurley)
Kathryn Winant (Barbara Dillon)
Rev. David F. With (Betty & Jerry Vascil)
Clifford Witkowski (Margaret Hosinski)
Edward Zych (The Malek Family)

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.

**Book Club Selections Announced**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Book and Author</th>
<th>Hostess</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 2021</td>
<td>Sooley by John Grisham</td>
<td>Marge Hosinski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15, 2021</td>
<td>Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano</td>
<td>Judy Kearns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20, 2021</td>
<td>American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins</td>
<td>Pat Falvey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 16, 2022</td>
<td>The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck</td>
<td>Terri Slankowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16, 2022</td>
<td>The Corsican Caper by Peter Mayle</td>
<td>Louise Anella</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20, 2022</td>
<td>Four Winds by Kristan Hannah</td>
<td>Mary Lou Mullen</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18, 2022</td>
<td>The Guest List by Lucy Foley</td>
<td>Pat Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15, 2022</td>
<td>The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan</td>
<td>Melissa Baltz</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20, 2022</td>
<td>Long Petal of the Sea by Isabelle Allende</td>
<td>Maureen Jones</td>
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**Get involved in CCS!**

There are volunteer opportunities available in the following areas:
- Let Love Shine Committee Marketing Weekly Reader Editor Scholarship Committee Clothing Distribution especially on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons

Contact info@christchildsb.org if interested!
Fall Luncheon Returns

Mark your calendars! Chairmen Pat Falvey and Susan Coulter are excited to announce the Fall Meeting and Luncheon will be on Thursday, October 14th at 11:30 AM at the Morris Park Country Club. It will be a great opportunity to once again see friends in a social setting.

An invitation with reservation information has been sent to all members. If you don’t receive it, contact Megan at info@christchildsb.org or 574-288-6288.

You may make reservations by sending a check ($25 per person) to the office or following this link - http://weblink.donorperfect.com/FallMtg2021.

Come learn the latest news about the Christ Child Chapter. Much has happened since the last official social gathering. You’ll hear all about it!

Northpoint Vineyard Supports CCS

Northpoint Vineyard Church has a Foster Closet for foster families. At the end of June they held a community garage sale where families could take anything they would like for free.

Ministry Director Katie Foster emailed CCS to offer the clothing left from the sale, noting that it is all in very nice condition. Motor Corps reported collecting 25 boxes of clothing for the Used Clothing Department. Thank you to Northpoint for supporting CCS!

Foster Hope Program Fills Hearts with Joy

Sometimes, as CCS volunteers work on fundraisers, purchase clothing and fill bags for clients, they don’t see the depth of gratitude so many clients feel. And sometimes, a kind client sends a note like this:

I was given your email as a contact person representing Christ Child. I wanted to say THANK YOU for the wonderful bag of clothes, shoes, and gifts you provided for my new little foster girl, Carley!

I only asked for undies, socks, and shoes, but the bag was stuffed full of wonderful things Carley loves! We spent an afternoon folding and organizing all her new things.

Thanks for making her smile and providing such a wonderful outreach.

In Christ,
Julie and Carley