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.

Calendar
Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, all normal activities of the Christ Child for the coming calendar months have been subject to change: either postponed or cancelled. They include April Wednesdays at the Center, Spring Mass and lunch at Andre, Derby Day, graduation gift wrapping, Informational Coffee and the required Spring membership meeting. Members will be notified of new dates if and when.

CCS Boot Collection
Watch for Collection Boxes in churches and schools April 20-26. You can also bring children’s gently used or new end-of-season sale boots (toddler sizes through adult sizes) to the Clothing Center any Wednesday morning when it’s opened.
Call 574-288-6028 to arrange for drop-off or pickup times.

Book Club
Mar 15 .................................. The Teahouse of Humingbird Lane
Louise Anella(234-0657) by Lisa See

Apr 15......................... Clara and Mr. Tiffany
Judy Kearns(273-9850) by Susan Vreeland

May 20.............................. The Baker’s Secret
Terry Slamkowski(256-2650) by SP Kiernan

June 17................................. Lucky Boy
Pat Short(232-1204) by Shanti Sekaran

More News on THE MOVE
Christ Child is busy getting ready for the new Center at 2366 Miracle Lane in Town and Country Shopping Center. Members worked with our architect Jacquelyn Hilderbrandt to finalize a new layout for the space to accommodate our needs as we serve our families and are in the process of choosing a contractor to make the necessary changes to our new space. Plans are to begin construction mid-April hoping to have the Center ready by late June. The new sign has been ordered and should go up in April.

At the same time our current Center has been very busy. Each department has taken a complete inventory to understand what needs to be moved. Packing and sorting has begun. Members are pouring over the new Center design, working to find the most efficient layout of shelving and work surfaces for each room. The fundraising team is working on spreading the news of Christ Child needs to its donor community. “There is excitement in the air as we all work together to prepare for the move,” says President Elect Monique Deguara. “We are saying our prayers that all this work will be done when we open our door for our clients in August in our new Center.”

Please Help the New Clothing Center
Please consider donating to make the new Clothing Center at Town and Country Shopping Center a welcoming oasis for clients and a safe, healthy environment for CCS volunteers. Each member recently received a letter which listed naming opportunities available to help make our new home an efficient, bright and friendly place. Although large donations will procure a “named” space such as the Smith Family Coat Room, even the smallest donation is welcome. You can designate which area of service receives your gift.

Gifts to the new Clothing Center are a wonderful way to honor a loved one in a lasting and meaningful way. If you have questions or need a donor form, contact the CCS office at 574-288-6028.

Data Updates
- Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/ChristChildSB
- Follow us on Twitter: @ChristChildSB
- Check us out online: www.christchildsb.org
June Move Brings Members Excitement, Work  

Suzanne Wiwi  
Co-President

Spring has almost sprung and many are really excited about the extended length of the day and the shining sun. Old Man Winter often throws a wrench into plans by snowing in April and even May; those days are usually short lived and followed by warm days.

The excitement of spring is followed by the excitement of the move to our new home at Town and Country Shopping Center. The present occupants will have moved out by the first of April and the keys will be handed over to Christ Child. There are numerous changes that will be made before the move and these changes will enhance the ebb and flow of our new center. Some of these changes are: painting, replacing tiled areas and worn out carpet, division of department areas, and much more. Many have been working on making sure the new space fits the needs of those who are so dedicated to making sure we do the best for the many families that want to provide for their children. A special thank you goes to Mary Liddell, Deb Spillman, and Monique Deguara who have spent a great deal of time working with the Architect on design and implementation of our move sometime in June. Their help along with many others add to the excitement of the move. The behind the scenes preparation going on is unbelievable and will be key to the move into the new center on Miracle Lane.

June will bring the move from St. Pat’s to the new Center. Watch for email blasts on how all members can assist with this move. Right now help is needed on Wednesday mornings as members continue taking an inventory of what we have, need, pack, and color tag based on the department. Our best efforts are dedicated to making sure clothing is clean and ready to go on August 5 as we greet our families. More news later, in the form of e-blasts on how members can assists with the move.

The annual Day of Reflection was held at Moreau Seminary on March 5. Father Peter Rocca CSC led reflections on: The Man Born Blind, The Woman at the Well, and The Raising of Lazarus. Thank you to Kathy Utz and Sheila Emge for organizing this day with Father Rocca. The day gave those attending time in small groups to reflect on the readings and an opportunity to get to know our fellow Christ Child members a little better. It was a great day.
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:

Barb Aigotti (James/Carol Holt)  Patricia Welling (M/M James Keultjes)
Gretchen Anderson (Ed/Joan Brillig, Mark/Katy Bradford, Darlene Welty (Mike/Dek Bob)
Nancy Pinson, Friends @ Karl Fred E. Williams (Winifred Vanden Bossche) Weis Auto Body Shop, Lynn/ Dave Fischgrund)
Dennis Banicki (Darlene Heck)  Jerry Wood (James/Carol Holt)
Richard Barger (Joan Fahey)  R. DeWayne Merckx (B. J. O’Brien)
Robert Beutter (W. L. Vanden Bosche)  Christopher Matthews (Dee Tepe)
Mary Blum (Melanie Chapleau)  Jo Miller (Tee Miller)
Theresa Van Nevel (Esther Cyr)  Richard Niemann (Marlene Reilly, W.W./Donna Niemann, Annette Ctes, Sally Derengoski
Pat/Tim Chapman, Kathy Rudolph, Jan Lawrence, Tom & Judy Burmeister, Tim & Mary
Mary Brown (Janice/Joey Goossens) Weber, Sandra Hinkle, Diane Leyes, Dan/Ruth Ann Lattimer, Terrence
Jeanne Broussard (Marilyn Rettig /Shari Rettig, Art /Sara Niedbalski, Dave/Julie Deaehl, Larry/Angela Taylor, Nancy/Rick
Mary Brown (Janice/Joey Goossens) Yeager, Jennifer/Pat Barth, Donna
Marjorie Bycraft (Tim/Kitty Fulnecky, Ed/Joan Hardig, Peg Marvin, Kat/John Gregg, Rich/Jan
Riggs, Bette O’Malley) Hahn, James
Castro Family (Don/Mary Castro) Clevenger, Melanie Chapleau, Dee Tepe, James Niemann, Greg/Mary
Dan Comer (Fran Austin) Downes, Frank
Gene Corrigan (Barbara Dillon) Kuzmits, Ann Thornton)
Joan Dean (Janice/Joey Goossens) Edward Nowacki (Joan Jaworski)
Elsie Drouin (James/Carol Holt) Pat Noble (James/Carol Holt)
Virginia Duesterberg (Florence Duesterberg) Donna O’Brien (Marcia/Tom Blum)
Eleanor Filipik (Roy/Kay Ellgass) Helen O’Neill (Greta & Jay Lewis)
Kathryn Forge (Ann Schmiedeler) Patricia O’Neill (Ed & Joan Hardig, Peg Riggs)
J. Charles Golba (Francis Cantelmi) Steve Pinter (Toni Pikuza, Beth Barrett, Kathy/John Seidl, Bette
Jerry Hackett (Greg/Sean Mee) O’Malley, Ed/Joan Hardig, Terry Slamkowski, Sheila Emge
Jane Haley (Marcia/Tom Blum) Bob Rakoczy (B. J. O’Brien)
Zachary James (Melanie Chapleau) Bob Robison (Melanie Chapleau)
Clifton and Mary Johnson (Denise Chatman) Jean Marie Rozek (Mary Ann/Henry Chandler)
Anne Klimk (Ann Korb) Thomas J. Ryan (Greg/Karen Cordial)
Evelyn Klosowski (Brenda E. Knowles) Elsie Sanders (Dee Tepe)
Catherine Koscielski (Pulmonary Services Dept./Memorial Hospital) Tom Slamkowski (Kathy/John Seidl, Peter Slamkowski, Jim/Carol Holt, Tom/ Judy
Kenneth J. Lalla (Marlene/Otto Martinez) Burmeister, Bob/Toni Kowalski, Kristy Botich, Mary Jane Chase,
Darrell Larsen (Marijo Martinez, Marlene/Otto Martinez) Joe/Marie Burt, Patricia Falvey)
Lois Leliaert (Judith Murphy) Katherine “Kay” Smessaert (James/ Suzanne Cierziak)
Jim Lipetska (Jim/Suzy Cierziak, Theresa Van Nevel

IN MEMORIAM
Members
Marjorie Bycraft
Theresa Van Nevel

Guardian Angels
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 the 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. Please refer any questions to Norma Villanucci (243-0621)
Christ Child Society
Strategic Plan 2019-2024

As a mission driven organization, we envision ourselves being at our best in who we are and what we do when we are: in solidarity with those we serve, relational, open-minded, professional, research and data driven, barrier free, comprehensive, innovative and available.

1. Hospitality and Member Engagement
A process to welcome, integrate and mentor new members and ensure veteran members are well-informed, engaged and energized.

- Increased communications through Weekly Reader, emails and e-blasts, personal contacts
- Hosted 3 Lunch ‘n Learns - with educational programs as well as social gatherings

Logical Next Steps:
- Form Hospitality Team to lead in welcoming and integrating new members.
- Recruit Room Chairs to make personalized contacts and follow through on Action Plan steps
- Create protocols for mentoring new members and involving them in the Mission and life of our organization
- Form Member Engagement Team to help plan simple social activities and learning opportunities for all members
- Get input from members by means of a Member Survey or Suggestion Box to encourage the sharing of ideas and opinions throughout the membership

2. Data and Information Management
A process to efficiently collect, organize, maintain and share data and information related to operations, client service and member activity

- A client survey was created, administered, analyzed,. The resulting data is being used in planning and decision making
- Year End Reports and Policies & Procedures are being generated and stored to facilitate transitions in leadership
- The referral team is collecting and analyzing data to improve outreach to current and potential clients
- A Data Project Team chair with expertise and experience is in place

Logical Next Steps:
- Recruit a dedicated Survey Team to administer the Client Survey on client days
- Form a Data Project Team for analysis, technical work and evaluation
- Host a meeting with leaders of each functional area to document what data is needed and how to gather it most effectively
- Match data needs with what exists today. Assess accessibility, effective storage time and external and internal security
- Create a central repository for information sharing for each area’s critical data.
- Facilitate training for using online data programs

(continued on page 5)
### 3. Chapter Program Assessment
A process to assess all chapter programs using relevant data to determine whether our programs meet the needs of the children and families in our community.

- Rooms were informally surveyed regarding their current issues and what data they need going forward to do their job

**Logical Next Steps:**
- Form a *Program Assessment Team* to assess all programs to determine how well we are addressing our Mission and effectively delivering services
- Document results to identify program strengths and weaknesses. Adjust our practices according to resulting data.
- Consult local experts in related fields and use the *community needs assessment*. Determine if there are needs we could be addressing or if we are duplicating services.
- Become better informed on current research in addressing the needs of those struggling with poverty

### 4. Mission Advancement
An overarching strategy to coordinate communications, public relations and fund development

- A communications calendar is being implemented as well as uniformity and branding on new print materials

**Logical Next Steps:**
- Recruit a *Communications Team* to unify message and visuals as well as update, coordinate and maintain professional print materials
- Educate program chairs on overarching work of Communications Team to help meet their individual needs
- Cultivate relationships in the community through external communications and personal contacts to accurately convey our Mission and services
- Improve internal communication- using email, mailings, Center Lunch ’n Learns, and spring and fall member meetings.

### 5. Leadership Development and Accountability
A process to provide leadership development for the Board of Directors and those chairs under their direction.

- Approved the Strategic Plan for 2019-2024 on August 19, 2019

**Logical Next Steps:**
- Review relevant documents to ensure each leadership position is clearly listed and defined as to role and responsibility
- Review the Organizational Chart to ensure yearly objectives and responsibilities are evenly distributed and communicated
- Review the processes for transitioning leadership (knowledge transfer) both on the Board of Directors and with all chair/co-chairs to ensure continuity of performance from year to year. Adjust as needed.
- Assess the *Strategic Planning Process*- Develop a protocol for implementing new initiatives after EACH 5 year cycle
- Consider implementing a *Leadership Development Retreat/ Session* as an opportunity to share vision and ideas within and across our program areas which can contribute to the overall growth of our organization and success of our mission.
Each year the Student Council of St. Pius X Elementary School, sponsored by Allison Watson, Diana Byron and Dawn Yates, decides on a school wide project for Catholic Schools Week. This year the Council decided to donate used books, collecting over 2000 books. Adult books were donated to Catholic Charities and the children’s books to Christ Child Society.

On February 13 over 1500 children’s books were picked up and completely packed one SUV for delivery to the Center. Helping Student Council members participating included Layla, 8th grade president, Grace, Maddie and Cora - 8th grade homeroom representatives; Elly, 7th grade vice president, Lauren and Owen - 7th grade homeroom representatives; Marcelino 6th grade vice president, Andy, 6th grade representative; and Ben and Izzy - 5th grade homeroom reps.

A Valentine of Love from Pius’ Students

A South Bend St. Joe eighth grader Jacob was a Christ Child volunteer the day of the book delivery.

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