



## THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

April 2020

308 South Scott Street, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, In 46624 (574) 288-6028 (e-mail) info@christchildsb.org

### 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 Hummingbird 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 assist 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.



One of the last Wednesday morning groups at St. Pat's Center

### Executive Board

Co-Presidents:

Patricia Falvey  
Suzanne Wiwi

President Elect:

Monique Deguara

Vice President (Fundraising):

Kathy Seidl

Vice President (Membership):

Sue Seall

Vice President (Clothing):

Betsie Pendarvis

Recording Secretary:

Ruth Nieboer

Corresponding Secretary:

Nancy Meyer

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Van Doren

## Gifts and Memorials

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 friend 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)  
 Gretchen Anderson (Ed/Joan Hardig, Mark/Katy Bradford, Nancy Pinson, Friends @ Karl Weis Auto Body Shop, Lynn/ Dave Fischgrund)  
 Dennis Banicki (Darlene Heck)  
 Richard Barger (Joan Fahey)  
 Robert Beutter (W. L. Vanden Bossche)  
 Mary Blum (Melanie Chapleau)  
 Patricia Ann Buehler (Marie/Paul Brady)  
 Jeanne Broussard (Marilyn Toepp)  
 Mary Brown (Janice/Joe Goossens)  
 Marjorie Bycraft (Tim/Kitty Fulnecky, Ed/Joan Hardig, Peg Riggs, Bette O'Malley)  
 Castro Family (Don/Mary Castro)  
 Dan Comer (Fran Austin)  
 Gene Corrigan (Barbara Dillon)  
 Joan Dean (Janice/Joe Goossens)  
 Elsie Drouin (James/Carol Holt)  
 Virginia Duesterberg (Florence Duesterberg)  
 Eleanor Filipek (Roy/Kay Ellgass)  
 Kathryn Forge (Ann Schmiedeler)  
 J. Charles Golba (Francis Cantelmi)  
 Jerry Hackett (Greg/Jean Mee)  
 Jane Haley (Marcia/Tom Blum)  
 Zachary James (Melanie Chapleau)  
 Clifton and Mary Johnson (Denise Chatman)  
 Anne Klimek (Ann Korb)  
 Evelyn Klosowski (Brenda E. Knowles)  
 Catherine Koscielski (Pulmonary Services Dept./Memorial Hospital)  
 Kenneth J. Lalla (Marlene/Otto Martinec)  
 Darrell Larsen (Marijo Martinec, Marlene/Otto Martinec)  
 Lois Leliaert (Judith Murphy)  
 Jim Lipetska (Jim/Suzu Cierzniak,

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Members

Marjorie Bycraft  
 Theresa Van Nevel

David/Jeanine Wideman)  
 R. DeWayne Merckx (B. J. O'Brien)  
 Christopher Matthews (Dee Tepe)  
 Jo Miller (Tee Miller)  
 Richard Niemann (Marlene Reilly, W.W./Donna Niemann, Annette Ctes, Sally Derengoski)  
 Pat/Tim Chapman, Kathy Rudolph, Jan Lawrence, Tom & Judy Burmeister, Tim & Mary Weber, Sandra Hinkle, Diane Leyes, Dan/Ruth Ann Lattimer, Terrence Rettig /Shari Rettig, Art /Sara Niedbalski, Dave/Julie Deahl, Larry/Angela Taylor, Nancy/Rick Yeager, Jennifer/Pat Barth, Donna Marvin, Katy/John Gregg, Rich/Jan Hahn, James Clevenger, Melanie Chapleau, Dee Tepe, James Niemann, Greg/Mary Downes, Frank Kuzmits, Ann Thornton)  
 Edward Nowacki (Joan Jaworski)  
 Pat Noble (James/Carol Holt)  
 Donna O'Brien (Marcia/Tom Blum)  
 Helen O'Neill (Greta & Jay Lewis)  
 Patricia O'Neill (Ed & Joan Hardig, Peg Riggs)  
 Steve Pinter (Toni Pikuza, Beth Barrett, Kathy/John Seidl, Bette O'Malley, Ed/Joan Hardig, Terry Slamkowski, Sheila Emge)  
 Bob Rakoczy (B. J. O'Brien)  
 Bob Robison (Melanie Chapleau)  
 Jean Marie Rozek (Mary Ann/Henry Chandler)  
 Thomas J. Ryan (Greg/Karen Cordial)  
 Elsie Sanders (Dee Tepe)  
 Tom Slamkowski (Kathy/John Seidl, Peter Slamkowski, Jim/Carol Holt, Tom/ Judy Burmeister, Bob/Toni Kowalski, Kristy Botich, Mary Jane Chase, Joe/Marie Burt, Patricia Falvey)  
 Katherine "Kay" Smessaert (James/ Suzanne Cierzniak)

Theresa Van Nevel (Esther Cyr)  
 Patricia Welling (M/M James Keultjes)  
 Darlene Welty (Mike/Deb Low)  
 Fred E. Williams (Winifred Vanden Bossche)  
 Jerry Wood (James/Carol Holt)

### SPECIAL OCCASION:

Mary Ann Couture - 90th Birthday (Alice Backs)  
 Mary Ann Derda - Consolation (Barbara Dillon)  
 Leon Glon (James/Nancy Yohe)  
 Mike Graf - Get well (James/Nancy Yohe)  
 Elizabeth Keller - Birthday (Beth Reising)  
 Isabella Lawton - Comfort and Recovery (Sheila Emge)  
 M/M Walter J. Lake (Brian/Ginger Lake)  
 Del Meyer-Speedy recovery (Kathy/John Seidl, Peggy Gerstbauer)  
 Thomas Kieger Romer - Baptism (Marie/Paul Brady)

### 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)  
*Guardian Angel Marjorie Bycraft*



## 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

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### 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.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 1286  
South Bend, Indiana 46624



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## **CCS Boot Collection**

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## **A Valentine of Love from Pius' Students**

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