



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SOUTH BEND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

2366 Miracle Lane
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574 288 6028
info@christchildsb.org

Fall 2020

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

Calendar

September

- 21 Board Meeting -Desmond
Conference Room 10:00 AM
25 In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM

Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, **2,9,16,23,30**
8:30 AM-noon
Thursday, **3, 24** 5:00-7:00 PM
Sunday, **27** 1-3 PM

October

- 19 Board Meeting -Desmond
Conference Room 10:00 AM
25 In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM

Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, **7,14,21,28**
8:30 AM-noon
Thursday, **15,22** 5:00-7:00 PM
Sunday, **25** 1-3 PM

November

- 16 Board Meeting -Desmond
Conference Room 10:00 AM
16 Winter Newsletter deadline
25 In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM
TBD Virtual Let Love Shine

Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, **4,11,18**
8:30 AM-noon
Thursday, **12** 5:00-7:00 PM
Sunday, **15** 1-3 PM

See the new Clothing Center in
action on pages 4 and 5.

Snite Foundation honors Barbara Dillon

The Christ Child Society's long-time friends and benefactors, the Snite Foundation, recently recognized Barbara Dillon by naming the new Client Room in her honor. Barbara, a founding member of the South Bend Chapter, connected the chapter with the great people at The Snite Foundation many years ago. The Foundation has been making generous yearly granted gifts to CCS ever since. They were delighted to hear of the expansion efforts on Miracle Lane.

The Foundation sent a major capital gift to CCS during construction and asked that we dedicate the Client Room with the following words:

In honor of Barbara Dillon and her love of
The Christ Child Society

The Snite Foundation wanted the gift to be a surprise for Barbara. Since COVID restrictions made it difficult for her to see the new Clothing Center first-hand, it was decided that a very few Christ Child friends from Barbara's volunteer days would gather in the outside patio of her home at Andre House and give her the news. Joining Barbara at the surprise were daughters of Chapter Foundress Puddy Crowley, Maureen Cahir and Alice Crowley, as well as Peg Claeys and Joan Hardig.

A lovely afternoon of reminiscing about former Christ Child Society days was enjoyed by all.



Alice Crowley, Maureen Cahir, Joan Hardig and Peg Claeys stand behind Barbara Dillon after presenting her with the Snite Foundation honor on the patio at Andre House.

All about the children

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

These words of Mary Virginia Merrick have been the force behind all we do for the children we have served for the past seventy-three years. There are not enough words to describe how our new building exemplifies our mission to clothe children and provide families the means to do so. It is unbelievable the difference it has made to have such a warm welcoming atmosphere that greets our families each day we are open. A year ago it did not seem possible, but through the collective efforts of many people it has been accomplished. Keep in mind that it is not about all the "new" but it is seeing that the space clearly shows anyone who visits that it truly is all about the children.

At present we are experiencing difficult times but it is hoped that as we continue to make sure we are providing a safe environment for our members and the families that use our services, we will be able to give all of you the opportunity to visit the new building. Bishop Rhoades was so impressed at the dedication that he said he would love to come and help out sometime. That invitation will absolutely be extended in the near future.

Please pray for all children and their safety and that of their teachers as we begin this new school year. Whether it is clothing or a good education, keep in mind that "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."



Do You Like to Knit? Layettes Needs You!

If you like to knit or know someone who does, Layettes could use your assistance.

The Layette Department is in need of knitted or crocheted items, especially sweaters 0-6 months size. There is an easy knitting pattern in the Layette area that can be copied or you can use any pattern you prefer.

Blanket sizes vary, but these are approximate sizes that work well with layettes:

Preemie and Angel layettes (white)
18x20 or 20x20 inches

Receiving blankets
28x34 inches

Multi-purpose blankets
30x30, 30x40, 40x40 inches

Angels in Waiting

"Angels in Waiting" is a special membership category that was established in 1998. With a one-time \$1,000 enrollment fee for members and spouses, the Living Angels are honored with their name engraved on a plaque that will hang in the Desmond Conference Room. Angels in Waiting also receive a letter acknowledging their contribution and explaining the tax benefits. Also, each Living Angel will be officially enrolled as a Guardian Angel upon their death.

Any Christ Child Society member interested in the Angel in Waiting program should contact Norma Villanucci, Chair.



Let Love Shine... Virtually

Watch your email for information about the most exciting virtual event of the year!

Coming to a computer near you in late Fall 2020

Executive Board

Co-Presidents
Suzanne Wiwi
Monique Deguara
Vice President (Fundraising)
To be determined
Vice President (Membership)
Sue Seall
Vice President (Clothing)
Betsie Pendarvis
Recording Secretary
Ruth Nieboer
Corresponding Secretary
Nancy Meyer
Treasurer
Elizabeth Van Doren



Clothe a Child Campaign Delayed

The Clothe a Child paper doll campaign kicks off this Fall at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union in October. Watch for the Mitten Kids to appear in the drive-through windows. They will appear again at Martin's in March, 2021 due to a restructuring of Spartan-Nash donation programs. Martin's generously donated \$10,000 to the Clothe a Child program in June to support 2020 needs of CCS. If anyone has a suggestion for additional sponsors, please contact Mary Ann Chandler at mchandler551@gmail.com.

Welcome New CCS Members

Pam Toner
Jackie Hoover
Laura Trippel

Member Merchandise

Member Merchandise has a new home in the Desmond Conference Room. Darling aprons (right) will be available soon. Contact Sue Seall to make a purchase.



Ecumenical Partnerships

Replication of services in these trying times makes little sense while partnering with like-missioned groups makes great sense. Therefore, we happily announce a new and exciting venture.

On Wednesday, July 29th, CCS was the grateful recipient of an amazing amount of new clothing and shoes from Clay Food Pantry and Christ the King Lutheran Church. A total of 375 warm new coats, 100 pairs of athletic shoes, and 600 pairs of socks and underwear were received at a time when the budget welcomes such a significant influx of beautiful merchandise. Each year prior to the beginning of school, Clay Food Pantry (a ministry of Clay United Methodist Church) has hosted a backpack event for families in need. The backpacks are filled with school supplies, items that are gathered and donated from five local churches. In recent years this event was dubbed "BACKPACK & BEYOND" because of the additional gifts of winter coats, athletic shoes, socks and underwear.

This year, due to covid restrictions, Clay and its church partners struggled with how to safely fulfill the clothing portion of their event. It was decided that they would pass their inventory of new clothing on to CCS, and, in turn, Clay Food Pantry became a CCS referral agency. Many of the Clay referrals have already visited the Clothing Center. This is truly a win-win for all organizations involved, and especially for their clients who will now get full clothing wardrobes.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, who gifted CCS with a \$5,000 grant in 2018, is an active donor to Clay Food Pantry and annually purchased many of the coats through the generosity of their parishioners. Additionally, Christ the King provides on-going volunteer support and financial grants to Clay Food Pantry.

Upon delivery of their gifts, Sue Zumbrum of Clay Church and Food Pantry and Jill and Chad Harmes, of Christ the King Lutheran Church were given a tour of our new facility by Co-President Monique Deguara. They all expressed an interest in helping to recruit new volunteers from their memberships. Truly, the ecumenical spirit is already alive and well on Miracle Lane!



Megan Fitz, Administrative Assistant, loves her new office. Members can find forms and information in the file next to the door, a central spot for everything they need.

A Day in the Life of the Clothing Center: COVID Edition



1. Prayer and announcements begin every Clothing Center opening. Monique Deguara reminds volunteers about social distancing.



2. Meanwhile, clients line up outside, keeping a social distance of 6 feet. They receive a number and return to their cars until called for registration.



3. Registration takes place behind plexi-glass and masks. Clients then return to their cars until their clothes are ready.



4. Contact information and sizes are entered into the database and sent to all the departments.



5. Volunteers are ready to fill orders in every department.





6. All of the departments receive orders for each family and the shoppers fill their wagons with coats, clothing, shoes and books.



7. Per health precautions, families pick up their clothing at the back door.



8. Clients can exchange for different sizes after they have looked over their clothing items.

The Miracle of Teamwork

The Clothing Center looks magnificent, thanks to the wonderful volunteers led by Mary Liddell, Chair of The Move to T & C Committee. The job was made easier because when a task was named, people stepped forward and took care of the project. Under the guidance of Betsie Pendarvis, volunteers took care of packing the old center in such a great manner that CCS saved money on the move as well as completed it faster than estimated and in an orderly manner.

Once the furnishing and shelving were in place at Miracle Lane, volunteer teams stepped forward to assemble all the shelving in all the rooms, a monumental job that was completed before inventory was moved. The unpacking went smoothly as all the items found their new spots in time for the dry run opening. Every time Monique Deguara, who coordinated the logistics of the move-in, thought of something that needed to be done, someone appeared to take care of it. It was an extremely busy several weeks with many long hours put in by everyone with wonderful results. The volunteers are too numerous to list. Members, member spouses, friends, high school students, Knights of Columbus members and Harmony Healthcare IT employees all pitched in to help with fabulous results. Volunteer names filled pages of sign-in sheets.

The center is not only stunning, it is well organized and highly functional, allowing us to start our mission of distributing clothing with pandemic precautions in place. Thank you to all who participated. You are truly appreciated and treasured.



Layettes never stops working on the attractive baby bundles and restocking inventory is an ongoing process.



A New Home

At the new CCS Clothing Center, much effort went into making the client experience a good one, although the pandemic certainly dampened that. There is even a family friendly restroom now. Thought went into making the work of volunteers easier and more pleasant, too.

But words cannot convey the warm feelings, the energy and the enthusiasm of everyone who enters. From the cheerful mitten kids on the front windows to the giant posters of children and their dreams that line the hallway, the Clothing Center speaks to the CCS mission of serving children and their families.

The new Clothing Center is larger, brighter and cheerier. It efficient. It is attractive and comfortable.

Words are simply inadequate, but these pictures tell the story.

Educational Support at a Difficult Time

SUCCESS Update

Even though schools have been closed to students due to the pandemic, Christ Child members continue their work supporting student learning at St. Adalbert Catholic School. As partners through the SUCCESS program, two Christ Child members have been staffing the school library for years and continue to do it now by working from home.

Rosanne Cordell, a certified school librarian with a Master of Library Science degree, has been working diligently since last spring to organize and catalog the over 4,000 books in the library collection using the Dewey Decimal System. This not only enables students to transition to high school and public library systems more effectively, but also teaches library and research skills critical to school success. In addition to teaching library skills, Rosanne and member Jean Fuehmeyer collaborate in developing procedures and selecting materials for the library.



Rosanne Cordell cataloging library books from home



Newly organized library space at Saint Adalbert's School

Challenging Poverty One Book, One Child at a Time

In 2010 the idea for the "A Book for a Child" program was born. This important literacy program flourished under the leadership of Mary Beth McGrath with continuous support from members and generous community partners. Exposure to new vocabulary, content and thinking skills is critical for school success and the scope and variety of books distributed at the Center support these areas.

Better World Books has been with CCS from the very beginning, first by allowing members to shop in its warehouse using funds from an initial grant. More recently they made generous donations of many thousands of free books at all age levels, from sturdy, engaging board books through classics and current fiction for older children. Each child CCS serves receives at least one age appropriate book as well as additional books and resources as inventory allows. Watching children's eyes grow wide when finding 'just the right book' and knowing it is theirs to keep is a blessing as well as an investment in their future. Thank you to all who help make this possible.

National Day of Service Theme is Energize, Inspire, Engage: Expanding our Reach

This year's National Day of Service will look a little different this year, as do most things these days. Changing school schedules, new

restrictions on field trips and limitations on school visitors call for creative planning.

So, if the younger students at St. Adalbert can't make their annual fall trip to the Pumpkin Farm, Christ Child will bring the Pumpkin Farm to St. Adalbert School!

Plans for this event will likely include a virtual story read-aloud, fall themed books and activities, and, of course, PUMPKINS! Stay tuned for more information!



Barbara Coyle, CCS partner from Better World Books, is shown with Jean and Jim Fuehmeyer delivering a recent shipment of over 2000 board books.

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, a 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).

IN MEMORIAM

Member Spouse:
Ron Wallace

SPECIAL OCCASION:

Micki Venezia Damato (Greg & Jean Mee, Marie & Paul Brady)
Helen Diltz – Birthday (Carol Bauer)
Sheila Emge (Bette O'Malley)
Michael Kress (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Bee Lee (Theresa Miller)
Sam Martinez (Joe & Marie Burt)
Pat & Dick Nelson (Bette O'Malley)
Thomas Michael Noll – Birth (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Larry Recio (James & Nancy Yohe)
Gloria Schoenrock – 95th Birthday (Henry & Mary Ann Chandler)
Marietta Squibb (Carol Bauer)



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 Clothing Center.

Please refer any questions to Norma Villanucci at 574 243-0621.

Rev. Bob VanKemper (Carol Bauer)
Angela Williams (Joe & Marie Burt)
Jim Yohe – Happy 90th Birthday (Joe & Marie Burt)

IN MEMORIAM:

Ed Anderson (James & Nancy Yohe)
Donald Andrzejewski (Esther Cyr)
Lou Baker (Ann & Dave Jones)
Michael Barnes (Marti & Frank Moriconi, Rolande & Roger Parent)
Bryon Clegg (Jane Dietrich)
James Coleman (Margaret Hosinski)
Robert Cook (Joan Biltz, Margaret Hosinski)
Dr. Al Cox (Ann & Dave Jones, Ed & Joan Hardig)
Betty Daniel (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Daniel S. Dietrich (Marie & Paul Brady)
Sgt. Richard A. Durante (Patricia W. Falvey)
Nanette Fuligni (Teddi Murray)
Frank A. Galligan (Patricia W. Falvey)
Martha Anne Glass (Sheila Emge, Marti & Frank Moriconi)
Catherine Griffin (Ed & Joan Hardig, Joe & Marie Burt)
Tom Gutrich (Roy & Kay Ellgass)
JoAnn Hanlon (Rolande & Roger Parent)
Edie Hawley (James & Kimberly Keultjes)
James Healy (Dan & Beth Barrett)
Rosemary Hiple (M/M Harold Solomon)

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.

Looking for the Fall Luncheon Registration Form?



Sorry, but due to the pandemic, the Fall Luncheon has been cancelled.

Allan Holody (Kathy & John Seidl)
Carole Jacquay (Jerry & Carol Jacquay)
Gene Koczynski (Darlene Heck)
John Krsul (Carol & Don Nash)
Larry Lasswell (Jim & Pat Short)
Raymond Ledwith (John & Monique Deguara)
Mary Geri Lee's sister (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Andrea Lozano (Jane Dietrich, Marie & Paul Brady)
Thomas Lukaszewski (Esther Cyr)
Mary McBride (Ann Korb, Tee Miller)
Charles McCracken (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Judy McGuire (Kay Ellgass)
Rae Marie Matt (J.A. & K.M. Singer, Kimberly Pendzinski, Gene & Gini Bamber)
Joan & Maria Milani (Louise Anella, Suzy & John Halloran)
Patricia Nesbitt (Marilyn Toepp)
Mary Katherine Oates (Patricia W. Falvey)
Joe Pataluch (Mark & Kay Pataluch, Marie & Paul Brady, Gerald & Florence Cramer, Andrew Betts, Barb Miller & Jane Cramer, Norma & Ralph Villanucci)

Christ Child Society of South Bend
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