



# CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SOUTH BEND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

2366 Miracle Lane  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
574 288 6028  
info@christchildsb.org  
Fall 2025

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

## Calendar

### October

- 7, 14, 21, 28** Open for members  
members 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 16 FALL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**
- 20** Board Meeting - Desmond  
Conference Room 9:00AM
- 24** In Memoriam Mass - Little  
Flower 8:30 AM

#### Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
8:30 - 10:00 AM

Thursday, 9, 23 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Sunday, 5, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

### November

- 4, 11, 18** Open for members 9:00 AM  
- 1:00 PM
- 13 LET LOVE SHINE DINNER AUCTION**
- 17** Board Meeting - Desmond  
Conference Room 10:00 AM
- 24-28** Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 25** In Memoriam Mass - Little  
Flower 8:30 AM

#### Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, 5, 12, 19 8:30 -  
10:00 AM

Thursday, 6, 20 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Sunday, 2, 1:00 - 2:30 PM

### December

- 2 GIVING TUESDAY**
- 2, 9** Center Open for Members  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- 10 CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON**
- 15** Winter Newsletter Deadline
- 23** In Memoriam Mass - Little  
Flower 8:30 AM
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

#### Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, 3, 10 8:30 - 10:00 AM

Thursday, 4 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Sunday, 7 1:00 - 2:30 PM

**22 to January 2** Clothing Center  
closed for holidays

## 15th Annual Let Love Shine Dinner Auction

The 15th annual *Let Love Shine* gala is coming on November 13, 2025, at the Gillespie Center in the Hilton Garden Inn, South Bend.

The profit from *Let Love Shine* provides new clothing and more for children from under-resourced families. Last year, CCS clothed over 5,700 children and infants; that number will most likely be surpassed this year amid rising prices.

Many members are busy gathering lovely silent and live auction items. The co-chairs, Carolyn Sherman and Ellen Jessen, lead a committed team to make this a memorable event.

The evening will begin at 5:30 PM and Tom Liddell will return as the master of ceremonies. The popular Bubble Grab will be in the front lobby where, for \$25, you can choose a plastic bubble which guarantees winning a gift card valued at \$25 or more. These sell quickly with a limit of two bubbles per bid number.

During the evening, the legacy of the Crowley family will be honored with the **Heart of a Child Award**. Rosalee "Puddy" Crowley was the founder of the South Bend Chapter and family members

continue to share their time and talents for the success of The Christ Child Society.

Please join the fun! The \$125 ticket price (the same as the previous two years) includes hors d'oeuvres, premium open bar, gourmet meal and dessert, and a \$30 donation to the Christ Child Society. Bring friends for this fun evening and share the CCS story!

Volunteers and donations of gift cards are welcome. Sponsorships are available from \$500 to \$15,000 but any donation will be helpful. To donate, please find information at <https://www.christchildsb.org/let-love-shine-2025-rsvp/>. Please contact Carolyn Sherman at info@christchildsb.org with questions.



## Hiler Family Charitable Fund Donates for Children's Shoes

The Christ Child Society is grateful to Catherine and John Hiler for their generous donation in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John's graduation from Williams College.

John wanted to "recognize my blessings of having graduated from there with a significant gift that would make a difference in individual lives. We could think of no better way than to make a \$50,000 gift in honor of my 50th reunion to The Christ Child Society."

This donation is dedicated to purchasing athletic shoes, especially appreciated due to rising in prices. The shoe buyers make a special effort to purchase stylish shoes with popular characters and colors, and even shoes that light up and

sparkle. The Center's halls are filled with new-shoe squeaks, stomping feet that make lights flash, and giggles.

Many thanks to Catherine and John for making so many children happy.



## A Full Calendar Ahead for Autumn

Carolyn Sherman  
Co-President

Welcome to a new season of serving families of St. Joseph County! We have already served nearly 2,500 children in the first seven weeks of this new fiscal year through 4 programs: Clothing, Layettes, Foster Hope and Angel Layettes. Thank goodness for all the volunteers who helped throughout the summer to bundle socks and underwear, knit infant sweaters, sort donations of household items and clothing, get inventories of new clothes, shoes, and coats ready to be given to children with sizes and colors in mind, and all the other details that were done to stock the shelves for our programs.

This fall season will be filled with colorful leaves, football tailgates, and cooler weather. As the temperatures cool, the need for good shoes, a hat and coat, and long pants rather than shorts becomes a reality. We are blessed to be able to help families meet these needs each time we are open for Clothing Program distribution, creating new stories to add to our history.

The Co-Presidents recently attended the National Christ Child Society's Conference where they met with people from many of the chapters across the country. The 44 chapters work to meet the needs of the children in their own areas, so each chapter operates a little differently. All chapters provide layettes, though, since that is how Mary Virginia Merrick and her friends began the Christ Child Society in 1887. The Conference provides opportunities for sharing and learning from one another.

Besides being open for children and families this fall, we have many other activities planned. We will have our Fall Luncheon for members on Thursday, October 16. The United in Service project to distribute art packets will be in November in connection with the National Christ Child Society and in remembrance of the birth month of Mary Virginia Merrick. *Let Love Shine*, our major fundraising event, will be on Thursday, November 13. The dinner and auction is a fun opportunity to bid on interesting auction items and Bids 4 Kids!

We look forward to seeing you whenever you can volunteer or join us for one of our events during the fall and winter seasons!

### 2025-26 Executive Board

#### Co-Presidents

Vickie Sleeve

Carolyn Sherman

#### President Elect

TBD

#### Vice President (Fundraising)

Ellen Jessen

#### Vice President (Membership)

Tricia Shafer

#### Vice President (Clothing)

Sherry North

#### Vice President (Communications)

Mary Hazel

#### Board Secretary

Cheryl Stuckey

#### Treasurer

Sue Alwine

### The Fall Membership Luncheon & Meeting

Thursday, October 16

11:30 AM

To attend only the meeting please arrive by 12:45PM.

Morris Park Country Club

Cost \$30

Send check to the CCS office or  
register on line at

[http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Fall25\\_RSVP](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Fall25_RSVP)

Deadline is October 3!

Contact Maria for more information at [info@christchildsb.org](mailto:info@christchildsb.org) or 574 288 6028



Mark your Calendar!  
**GIVINGTUESDAY**  
December 2, 2025

Check our Facebook page  
to donate on line



Introducing the new 2025-26 Board Members: Colleen Toul, Karna Gifford, Cheryl Stuckey, Angela Bell and Sue Alwine.



## The Community Chips in to Help CCS Children



Christ the King Lutheran Church generously granted \$3,350 to The Christ Child Society, designated for children's pajamas. Pajamas play a role in ensuring comfort, safety and healthy sleep habits. Toddlers and children in the Foster Hope program appreciate the cozy pj's on cold winter nights. This grant will cover 25% of the overall pajama budget.

*Above: CCS members Susan Wendowski (center) and Ruth Nieboer (right) receive a check from Christ the King Mission Coordinator Jill Harms.*

## Volunteers Serve Children in Many Ways



Used Clothing Volunteers are busy all year sorting and labeling gently used donations of clothing to supplement the new clothing each child receives. In addition, Patt Sterzik (above right) and Jane Hruska (right) knit beautiful sweater sets for layettes. Barbara Allega (above) sews darling bears for the children CCS serves.



St. Pius X Catholic School collected well over 50 bags of children's gently used winter clothing and boots for the Christ Child Society. On September 30, several cars full of bags arrived and the long process of sorting and shelving the clothing began.

Gently used children's clothing is a constant need as the bins empty quickly on distribution days. As always, donations are welcome!

*Above: St. Pius X parents empty cars full of fully stuffed bags.*



## Stocking Up for Opening Day



On July 29, a long-awaited delivery of coats arrived. Although ordered last November, 119 boxes of coats finally found their way to Coat Department racks just in time for opening day at the Clothing Center.

Mary Ann and Henry Chandler, Laura Trippel, Judy Farrell and Ellen Jessen checked the inventory, unboxed and stored all the coats within hours.



## Donate Art Supplies for United in Service

Every year the chapters of The Christ Child Society are encouraged to do a little extra for children to honor Mary Virginia Merrick in November, her birthday month.

The South Bend Chapter will once again collect art supplies to distribute to the children who come into the Center in November.

Please donate Crayola crayons and markers, child scissors, glue sticks, stickers, construction paper, drawing paper or other art supplies. Supplies may be brought into the Center and left in the box by the sign-in table.





## 2025 Clothing Distribution Off to a Busy Start

The line started forming in front of the Christ Child Society Clothing Center long before the doors opened. Some 'old timers' brought folding chairs for the wait. Children ran and shouted in anticipation of new clothes. The line grew longer as the morning went on, stretching around the corner and down the courtyard.

So began the 2025 season of the Clothing Program. Since August 6, 2,337 children have been served on 9 Wednesday mornings, 4 Thursday evenings and 2 Sunday afternoons.

Within a few hours, after choosing sizes for the children, pulling red wagons to gather the clothing, picking out books and dental supplies, then shopping in Mary's Boutique, families left the Center with new shoes, coats and clothing as well as gently used clothing, ready for the school year and the changing seasons.



*Top Left: The Used Clothing Department is ready for clients. Left: Gabe, a volunteer from Mishawaka Catholic School, ties a client's shoe. Top: Brooklyn and Braelyn show off their new coats and shoes. Above: Colton pulls Carter and their bags of clothing down the long hallway. Top right: Getting new clothes is exhausting!*

### Important Banking Information

If you make regular direct deposits to The Christ Child Society, please change the banking information as soon as possible. CCS has moved its accounts to Notre Dame Federal Credit Union. Please contact Treasurer Sue Alwine for details at [Treasurer@christchildsb.org](mailto:Treasurer@christchildsb.org).

### Tradehome Shoes Helps Stock Socks

Tradehome Shoes at University Park Mall chooses a charity each month to be the recipient of new socks. The store has been donating a package of socks to The Christ Child Society for every package purchased during September.

It is hoped that this generous offer will be available again in future months.

Thanks to Tradehome Shoes for this generous donation. Keep them in mind when you shop!

### The Christ Child Society Scholarship deadline is March 13, 2026.

The Christ Child Society offers **four** scholarships to postsecondary education, training, or certification.

#### **TWO Christ Child Society Scholarships:**

Up to \$2,000 each for parents/guardians of children currently or formerly assisted by The Christ Child Society of South Bend, renewable for up to the equivalent of 4 years.

#### **TWO Andrea Incropera Scholarships:**

\$2,000 each for Graduating high school seniors or parents/guardians of children currently or formerly assisted by The Christ Child Society of South Bend, renewable for up to equivalent of 4 years.

Applications are available on the website, [www.christchildsb.org](http://www.christchildsb.org) or at the Christ Child Center, open Tuesdays/Wednesdays 9:00-1:00.

**Questions? Call The CCS Center at 574-288-6028 or email [info@christchildsb.org](mailto:info@christchildsb.org)**

# 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 significant life event. Friends or relatives will be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass and names will be printed in each newsletter. Cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (574.277.7787). Donations also accepted through [www.christchildsb.org](http://www.christchildsb.org).

## Special Occasion

Melissa Baltz (2024-2025 CCS Board)  
Fr. Andy Barnes-Ordination (Joe/Marie Burt)  
Brother Joseph Fox, CSC-Retirement (Bette O'Malley)  
Peggy Gerstbauer-Happy Birthday (Kathy/John Seidl)  
Anne Housemeyer (Andrea/Frank Schaffer)  
Abigail Igarta (Pat Corcoran)  
Pam/Dave Jarrett-50th Wedding Anniversary (Sue/John Shirrell)  
Joyce Knapp-Get Well (Carol Holt)  
Maryann Kotyuk-A Good Recovery (Joe/Marie Burt)  
Rya Lawler (Rick/Sue Seall)  
Jennifer Levack-Recovery from Illness (Karen/Darrell Barnett)  
Frank/Marti Moriconi-60th Anniversary (Pat Corcoran)  
Tammy Penez (Jim/Pat Short)  
Drew Riggs/Claire Peters-Marriage (Peg/Dean Riggs)

## In Memory Of

Lois Ann Bajdek (James/Kimberly Keultjes)  
Rick Baker (Tom/Judy Burmeister)  
Hal Berding (James/Kimberly Keultjes)  
Thomas Cahir (Beth Barrett, Marcia/Tom Blum, Joe/Marie Burt, Mary K. Cashman, Peg Claeys, Michael/Kathy Crowley, Jean/Dick Dennen, Barbara Dillon, Marsha Huckins, Maryann/Barry Keating, Karl/Margaret King, Mary Ann/Gary Kono, Kathleen Lawton, Cheryl Marshall, Joe/Michele Pederzoli, Jack/Nancy Pycik, Diane Quinn, Jim/Pat Short, Janet Turnock)  
Thomas and Matthew Cahir (Louise/Steve Anella, Patti Banet, Sheila Emge, Patty/Mike/Kelly Flynn, Ed/Joan Hardig, Jane Horning, The Johnston Family, Jerry/Judy Kearns, Judy/Hugh Kuzmich, Barbara Mickow, Jake/Megan Rosenblatt, Teddi Murray, Kathy/John Seidl, Nancy/James Windler)  
Mieko Carrera (Marcia/Tom Blum)  
Julie Considine (Tim/Mary/Sarah/Cody/Buck Andrews, Peggy Bauer, Bob/Denise Blanche, Sharon/Richard Brown, Suzanne Cierzniak/Family, Trish/William Coleman, Janice/John Horan, Kathleen Lawton, Teddi Murray, Diane Quinn, Jim/Dori Reidy, Bernadette Reidy, Kathryn/Paul Schoenle, Kathy/John

## Deceased Spouse

James Crance

Seidl, Jeff/Gina/Hannah/Lauren Toepp)  
Alice Crowley (Patty/Mike/Kelly Flynn)  
Ken Czachowski (Peg/Dean Riggs)  
Samantha Dean (Dorothy Mady)  
John Fecteau (Pat Corcoran)  
Jeanne Gastineau (Joan Hurley)  
Dr. Peter Goyer (Ann Schmiedeler)  
Mary Schumaker Hintz (Patricia Flowers)  
Marilyn Housemeyer (Crystal Bower, Jean Chrzanowski, William Pittman, Terri/Jack Desatnick, Susan Fassett, Judith Hums, Michael Jaicomo, Daniel Raab, Andrea/Frank Schaffer, Larry/Nancy Sumpter, Tim/Deb Taylor, Tom/Jane Vandewalle)  
Robert Kaniewski (James/Kimberly Keultjes)  
Marlene Kazmierczak (Joan Hurley)  
Laura Koscielski (Sue/John Shirrell)  
Robert Marovich Sr. (Karen/Darrell Barnett)  
Mason McGowan (Fred/Carol Wasoski)  
Michelle Mikula (Jim/Beverly Michels, Nancy/James Olson)  
Shelby Mittendorf (Diane Quinn)  
Judy Morse (Ed/Joan Hardig, Kathy Miller, Suzy Porter)  
Dixie Niebur (Marcia/Glen Niebur)  
Denny Norkus (Tom/Judy Burmeister)  
Robert Osborne (Jim/Pat Short)  
Anne Riley (Diane Quinn)

Donald Ross (Maureen Cahir)  
Michael Rountree (Dan/Suzanne McMillion, Don/Carol Nash)  
Gregory Schnabel (Dorothy Mady)  
Kathryn Screes (Anonymous, Sheila Emge, Carol Holt, Charlene Hutti, Roseann/Dennis Janowiak, Kathleen Lawton, Diane Quinn, Kathy/John Seidl, Katherine Whitaker)  
Joan Sherman (Kathy/John Seidl)  
Frank Squadroni (Mary Ann/Henry Chandler)  
Mary Beth Squibb (Ed/Joan Hardig, Peg/Dean Riggs)  
Gerald Van Overberghe (Jerry/Carol Jacquay)  
Jerry Vascil (Sheila Emge, Sandy/Bernie Gorski, Margaret Hosinski)

## Guardian Angels

A one time \$1,000 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 and will be officially enrolled upon their deaths. All Guardian Angels' names are recorded on a plaque located in the Christ Child Society office. Please refer any questions to [info@christchildsb.org](mailto:info@christchildsb.org).

## Christ Child Society Book Club 2025-26

Please join us for book discussions at 3 p.m. on the third MONDAY of each month at River Park Branch of the St. Joseph County Public Library  
2022 E. Mishawaka Ave., South Bend, IN 46615

*New members are welcome!*

### AUGUST 18

*The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner  
Discussion: Pat Short

### SEPTEMBER 15

*The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden  
Discussion: Mary Lou Mullen

### OCTOBER 20

*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer  
Discussion: Louis Anella

### NOVEMBER 17

*My Friends* by Fredrik Backman  
Discussion: Melissa Baltz

### DECEMBER 4 (NOT THE 3RD MONDAY)

*The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife*

by Anna Johnston  
Discussion: Terry Slamkowski

### NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY

### MARCH 16

*West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge  
Discussion: Mary Ann Chandler

### APRIL 20

*Book to be determined*  
Discussion: Barb Phair

### MAY 18

*My Daughter's Keeper* by Adiva Geffen  
Discussion: Judy Kearns

### JUNE 18

*Book to be determined*  
Discussion: Maureen Jones