



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SOUTH BEND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

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

Summer 2021

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

Calendar

June

- 10** Joint Board Meeting - Desmond
Conference Room 9:00 AM -1:00 PM
- 25** In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM

Clothing Center Open for Members

Tuesday: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
9:30 AM -1:00 PM

Wednesday: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

July

- 19** Board Meeting - Desmond
Conference Room 10:00 AM
- 25** In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM
- 28** Training Day at Clothing Center

Clothing Center Open for Members

Tuesday: 6, 13, 20, 27
9:30 AM -1:00 PM

Wednesday: 7, 14, 21, 28
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

August

- 4** Clothing Center Opening Day
- 16** Board Meeting - Desmond
Conference Room 10:00 AM
- 16** Fall Newsletter Deadline
- 25** In Memoriam Mass - Little
Flower 8:30 AM

Clothing Distribution

Wednesday, 4, 11, 18, 25 8:30 -
10:00 AM

Thursday, 12, 19 4:00-6:30 PM

Sunday, 29 12-2 PM

Plan Ahead!

Clothing Distribution will be on:
Sundays (12:00-2:00): 9/26, 10/17, 11/14
and 12/5
Thursdays (4:00-6:30): 9/9, 9/16, 10/7,
10/28, 11/4, 11/18 and 12/2

New Board Members Announced

The Nominating Committee did most of its work virtually this year. Pat Falvey, as Past President, led the committee per CCS bylaws along with Susan Walsh, Betsie Pendarvis, Deb Low, Patti Banet, Suzanne Wiwi and Monique Deguara. The committee reviewed the two dozen members nominated and narrowed it down to three candidates. They approached the candidates and received their agreement to join the Board of Directors.

Normally the acceptance vote occurs at the Spring membership meeting, but as it was canceled due to the pandemic, the Board voted to approve at the March Board Meeting. We are pleased to introduce our new board members who will start their three year term on July 1, 2021.

Jean Fuehrmeyer: "From the first day I sorted books with Joan Biltz and Marge Hosinski at the old Center, I knew Christ Child is where I belong. I am energized by our mission and our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the children and families of our community. To me, reading is a powerful tool for transforming lives, so it's a natural fit for me to work in the *Book Nook* and support this amazing and successful organization."

Barb Reihl: "I have been a member of Christ Child for about 3 years, working as a Sole Sister in Shoes. Before retiring, I worked as a Guidance Counselor at Goshen High School. Currently I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children volunteer. I am especially interested in the Foster Hope program."

Lisa Smessaert: "I'm a Real Estate Agent who has been a member of our community most of my life. I have seen the living conditions children are unfortunately subjected to. I have always had compassion for children in need and want to do something to make a positive change. I was very impressed with the dedication and organizational skills of Christ Child Society's volunteer members."

Sue Seall will serve a second term on the board after very successful leadership as Membership VP. Remaining on the Board for another year are: Mary Ann Chandler, Susan Coulter, Ruth Nieboer, Betsie Pendarvis, Elizabeth Van Doren (Treasurer) and Susan Wendowski. Serving two more years are: Melissa Baltz, Beth Barrett, Barbara Mickow and Kae Sobczyk.

Monique Deguara and Patti Banet will begin their terms as Co-Presidents on July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year for the organization. Suzanne Wiwi will become Past President, as the bylaws indicate.

Many thanks to the departing Board Members **Hetty Cohen and Nancy Meyer** for their dedication to the CCS mission. Both have been active members as chairpersons and Clothing Center volunteers.

All members are eligible for nomination to the Board. In fact, anyone can nominate herself when the call for nominations goes out next winter. There are many ways Board Members serve and many opportunities to have fun and create memories!

A Remarkable Three Years

Suzanne Wiwi
Co-President

Three years ago this coming October, I walked into the Christ Child Center located in the former St. Patrick's Grade School and announced that I was there to help. A long time member of Christ Child since 1984, my role as a member had been sporadic and had its beginnings at the Center on Thomas Street. By the way, if you are a fairly new member, we have come a long way. I had met Sue Walsh a couple of years earlier at an event hosted by my employer prior to retirement. She really helped me to become acclimated to the routines at Christ Child. It wasn't long before I was approached about becoming the President Elect, which was a board position. I said yes and thus began a whirlwind of years where I learned much about the mission of CCS from a totally different viewpoint.

It is so rewarding to work directly with the families who are receiving the generous gifts of clothing for their children - families who have giving hearts and love their families like all of us, unconditionally. It puts a whole new perspective on giving

and why we give of ourselves for others. During this fourth week of Easter I have been reading about the importance of the Beatitudes in our lives. This quote from "The Cross and the Beatitudes" speaks volumes:

"A person is merciful when he feels the sorrow and misery of another as if it were his own."

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

The many members I have met, worked with, and learned from these past three years have given me a whole new perspective on friendship. I have met so many wonderful women who truly live the mission of the Christ Child Society in the best way possible. They have been kind and helpful and are filled with stories of their younger years, their families, and so much more. They are women who 'at the drop of a penny' would rush and help

someone in need. Working in an environment of friendship that is made up of women who truly "live" the mission of this organization in every way possible is an opportunity that has enriched my life as a member.

Yes, it has been a remarkable three years and I am looking forward to continuing my growth as a member of the Christ Child Society who embraces our families and nourishes the friendships I have made and hope to offer to others. Thank you for this journey and may God bless all of you.

"If you are known in your community as the contact for all the poor and unfortunate of the place, you could not have a more honorable title on earth or one that would make you more welcome in the courts of heaven."

Fr. William Howard Bishop

Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Suzanne Wiwi

Monique Deguara

President Elect

Patti Banet

Vice President (Fundraising)

Susan Coulter

Vice President (Membership)

Sue Seall

Vice President (Clothing)

Betsie Pendarvis

Recording Secretary

Ruth Nieboer

Corresponding Secretary

Nancy Meyer

Treasurer

Elizabeth Van Doren

Help Wanted! Share Your Talents with CCS!

Every year on July 1, some CCS leadership roles change - Co-Presidents, VPs, Committee Chairs and Committee members. **All are welcome** to join the fun of active participation in our chapter. If a position below interests you or you want to learn more, contact Suzanne Wiwi at swiwi@sbcglobal.net or Monique Deguara at deguaara@comcast.net.

New Member Hospitality Chair, Information Coffee Chair, Mentorship Program Chair and Mentors - Inform, entertain and guide new members

Member Engagement: Lunch 'n Learn and Volunteer Luncheon Chairs

Plan fun activities for Members; get members more actively involved

Donor Relations Chair

Cultivate relationships with our donors through arranging tours, sending greeting cards, and sharing updates

Clothe a Child Fund Raiser Co-Chair - Paper doll sales at Martin's & banks

Community Projects Chairs and Committee Members

Help outreach programs such as Diaper Drop, Day of Service & Boot Drive

Faith Community & Service Organization Chair and Committee

Be the CCS contact at your parish or civic organization

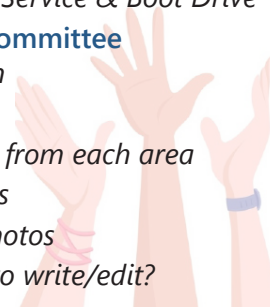
Scholarship Chair and Committee

Volunteer Hours Documentation - Tracking hours sent from each area

Thank You Notes - Handwritten notes for donated items

Historian - Maintain files of artifacts, documents and photos

Communications Committee - Former marketer? Like to write/edit?



Clothe a Child Doll Sales Update

The tradition of support continued at Saint Joseph High School for the Clothe a Child campaign. This past February the Student Council sponsored a Dress Down Day.



Mr. AJ Reynolds (student council moderator), Ethan Horvath, Mia Naman and Sydney Hull (executive student council members) present a check for \$692 to Mary Ann Chandler, Clothe a Child Chair.

Martin's Supermarkets participated in the Clothe a Child campaign with great success. Despite these challenging times, Martin's cashiers, in concert with their patrons, were able to raise \$14,359 for the Christ Child Society during their campaign in March 2021.

Gena Stimmel at the Heritage Square location was the top seller of "dolls" and, for the second year in a row, Tiara Robinson at the South Bend Avenue location was the second place seller.



Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. Christ Child Chapters in Milwaukee and Toledo as well as Resolutions of the National Christ Child Society also provided information upon inquiry.

The Christ Child Scholarship has come a long way since its founding. Since its beginning, fifteen individual scholarships have been given with seven of those individuals taking the opportunity to renew for at least one additional year and some of them two additional years.

This past year showed a significant decline in applications, more than likely related to the pandemic. While many applications were handed out it was felt that very possibly the reduction in the work force, time needed to be with children who were not in school, and physical limitations hindered attending school. Also, many local colleges and schools had limited scheduling opportunities available for students already enrolled in their programs.

Let Love Shine Boosts Clothing Budget

The final total raised from the *Let Love Shine* Virtual Event was \$67,510! Thanks again to the generous sponsors, donors and silent auction donors. The community always comes through for the children served by the Christ Child Society.

A special thanks to Irish Woodworking, formerly The Benefactory, who donated the majority of our silent auction items. The proceeds of *Let Love Shine* will be instrumental in helping to give children and infants new, warm clothing and educational materials.

A chairperson is still needed for the 2021 *Let Love Shine* to be held in November. Whether live or virtual, this event is crucial to the CCS clothing budget. Please consider this fun leadership role or volunteering for the planning and event committee!

Scholarship: The Past and The Future

Many of the newer members of Christ Child may not be aware of an opportunity offered to parents of CCS clients. In March of 2010, an ad hoc committee consisting of five Christ Child members and an administrator from Ivy Tech College met to discuss the formation of an annual scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 to be given to eligible recipients among our Christ Child clientele.

During this time period the committee developed an application, policies, procedures, and eligibility requirements for the Christ Child Scholarship. These were reviewed in January 2011 and approved by the Board in February 2011. In March of that same year an interview process was developed.

The following organizations provided insight and help during this process: Elkhart Rotary Club, Ivy Tech, and the

Reflection on what has worked and what hasn't worked is the direction for the Scholarship Committee in 2021-22. It is time to revisit where it began and possibly broaden the scope of offerings for the scholarship, such as offering Vocational Training and Certificate Programs as options to college.

The mission to clothe children continues to broaden and change for the betterment of CCS families and it's time to give thought to helping these families see the light at the end of the tunnel through education. The CCS scholarships have provided that light for several families already and CCS is poised to continue offering them.

Interested in being on the Scholarship Committee?
Contact Suzanne Wiwi at
swiwi@sbcglobal.net

Second Annual Diaper Drop Meets and Exceeds Goal

If the Christ Child Society needed any more affirmation that moving to a more publicly visible location, coupled with a more vigorous communications effort, is effective, one need to look no further than the Mother's Day Week Diaper Drop.

Last year's Drop brought 17,500 diapers in two days of collection at the former CCS location. It was a great effort, and all were pleased with the results. This year organizers hoped to stretch the goal to 20,000 diapers distributed to partner agencies in just one day of collection. The recipient agencies this year were The Center for the Homeless, El Campito, St. Margaret's House, St. Vincent De Paul Society and YWCA.

The 2021 Drop far exceeded expectations. By 4:00 on the day of the event, a total of 40,230 diapers were delivered to those five referral partners who help families struggling to meet the basic needs of their infants and toddlers - 40,230 diapers!

Yet, the generosity of the amazing St. Joseph County community was not yet complete! Two additional huge boxes arrived recently bringing the total to 40,610! Additionally, a very generous regular donor to CCS sent a five hundred dollar check designated for diaper purchase. Happily, the final total appears to grow, even after the event day.

How did these amazing numbers happen?

Faithful CCS volunteers collected and



Mike Smith and Patti Banet load diapers for El Campito.



delivered diapers to the Clothing Center during the month of April resulting in hundreds of diapers already on site on the day of the actual Drop (Wednesday May 5).

Friends and great supporters at Weichert Realty, Nancy and Del Meyer, approached Beau Dunfee about collecting diapers through their realty agents. Beau added his enthusiastic support to the team and the resulting 5,863 diapers were delivered to CCS in Weichert's moving van! Volunteers working the Drop were brushing away happy tears at all the families who would benefit from the continued generosity of this great South Bend company.

Christ the King Lutheran Church has supported CCS many times in the past few years, first with a significant grant. Last year, they donated shoes, winter coats and socks through their connection with the Clay Food Pantry 'Pack a Backpack' Drive. During the month of April and on Sunday May 2, a total of 2,692 diapers were collected by this supportive faith community. Christ the King parishioners Ron and Cheryl Stuckey delivered the huge haul to the Diaper Drop.

Christ Child Board Member Mary Ann Chandler was celebrating her birthday on Diaper Drop day! Her request of friends was to collect a total of 1,075 diapers to be donated

to Christ Child as her celebratory gift. What a terrific and meaningful tribute to a great volunteer. Mary Ann proudly delivered these and there were giant birthday hugs all around.



Kristen Bien of WSBT interviews Emily Bastine, Director of Development and Community Outreach for El Campito about diaper need among their clients.

Spreading the word about diaper need

On the day of the event, drive-up donors were asked how they had heard of Christ Child Society and of the Diaper Drop. They often mentioned the excellent publicity from Kristen Bien and the crew at WSBT. Others mentioned WNDU's coverage, Redeemer Radio with supportive friend Angelo Di Carlo and Facebook posts. Some donors talked about supporting CCS



Diaper Drop Chair Debbie Low is interviewed by Melissa Stephens of WNDU

through the Clothe a Child "Mitten Children" at Martin's Supermarkets and local banks. They were happy to support us again in this new way. Many talked about the large CCS sign and visible presence in Town & Country Shopping Center.

CCS is truly blessed with a great location, excellent name and mission recognition, and dedicated volunteers. All three assets combine to help CCS succeed at relatively new projects like this one. An amazing feature of this event is that it happens at virtually no cost to the organization which merely serves as a pass-through agency to benefit referral partners.



Top: Pat Falvey gathers a drive-by diaper donation.

Bottom: Patti Banet, Lisa Smessaert and Kae Sobczyk delivered diapers to the very grateful YWCA residents.

An Unstoppable Team

Deb Low chaired the Diaper Drop, and she gives sincere thanks to the lead volunteers who made the effort go smoothly and efficiently. Beth Barrett led communication efforts and was effective in her Redeemer



The Weichert Realty Team unloads a great donation of nearly 6,000 diapers.

Radio interview. Betsie Pendarvis and Megan Fitz worked behind the scenes accepting many Amazon diaper deliveries. Patti Banet gave tours of our new Clothing Center to interested donors.

This year Kae Sobczyk led the monumental tabulation of larger numbers of donations, a big improvement over doing this manually last year! Kae's excellent vision for system analysis and all things mathematical enabled tracking of total donations, including which referral partners got the sizes that they requested. Energetic and enthusiastic volunteers on the front drive-up lines included Kathy

Seidl, Pat Falvey, Linda Botich, Melissa Baltz, Lisa Smessaert, Maggie Smith, Rose Lyphout and Ruth Schmitz. Many of these ladies also delivered diapers in this "done in a day project." Maggie Smith enlisted her husband Mike and his mega-truck and Linda Botich took the initiative to secure a U-Haul truck at the last moment when volunteers realized that the goal had been doubled.

All in all, it was a terrific day and one that would never have been possible without the power of Christ Child Society volunteerism. Clearly, the need is great, and the community response was tremendous.



The Diaper Drop Team rests on the back of a U Haul before delivering 40,000+ diapers. Left to right: Patti Banet, Kae Sobczyk, Linda Botich, Rose Lyphout, Maggie Smith, Lisa Smessaert, Beth Barrett and Chair Debbie Low.

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 (277-7787).

SPECIAL OCCASION:

Sr. M. Lorraine Black – 100th Birthday
(Toni & Bob Kowalski)
Evan Collins – First Communion (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Ian Collins – First Communion (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Mary Ann Corcoran – 90th Birthday (Joe & Pat Corcoran)
Esther Cyr – Birthday (Thomas Cyr, Carol Bauer, John & Nancy Cyr)
Ken-Zorka DeFreeuw – 60th Anniversary (Carol Bauer)
John Deguara – Recovery (Dottie Wallace)
Molly Edgette – Healing (Pat Corcoran)
Margaret Gerstbauer – Get Well (Nancy & Del Meyer)
Ilene Hurley – Improved Health (Robert & Toni Kowalski)
Walter J. Lake (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Nancy Meyer – Thanks a bunch (Peggy Gerstbauer)
Phyllis Miller – Happy Birthday (Joe & Marie Burt)
Rev. Geoffrey Mooney, C.S.C. (Carol Bauer)
Marietta Squibb – Birthday Wishes (Carol Bauer)
Kathy Seidl – Thanks for all your help (Peggy Gerstbauer)
Joanne Smith – 90th Birthday (Janice Goossens)
Ronnie Taylor – Get Well (Nancy Meyer)
Janet Turnock (Jim & Pat Short)

IN MEMORIAM:

Lois Abrahamson (Joan Frances Hurley)
Donald Andzejewski (Joan Jaworski)
Nancy J. Berry (Susan Ganser)
Jack Bland (Esther Cyr)
Mary Coty Brown (Helen Diltz)
Thomas Brunner (Suzanne & Mark Wiwi)
Sandra Burns (Tom & Mary Wisniewski)
Agnes Carney (Don & Carol Nash)
Jennie Mae Case (Janice Goossens)
Joseph A. Catanzarite (Teresa & Sam Jermano)
John Cheesemen, OFS (Joan Frances Hurley)
Georgianna Cholak (Jacquelyn Boynton, Donald J. Berger, Judy Kelly, Suzy Halloran, Tom & Roberta Spencer,

DECEASED MEMBERS:

Loretta Chillag
Georgianna Cholak
Helen Diltz
Betty Goodwin
Andrea Incropera
Rosemary Reiter
Gerri Jean Ullery

DECEASED HUSBAND:

Matthew Payton
Gerald Quinn

Suzanne & Mark Wiwi)
Betsy Cooke (Kathy & John Seidl, Joe & Marie Burt, Ed & Joan Hardig, Tami McNally, Diane Boehnlein, Mary Lou Mullen, Margaret Johnson, Tom & Judy Burmeister, Peg Riggs)
Brett Covert (Greg & Jean Mee)
Carla DeSousa (Jane Dietrich)
David Deuch (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Grace Devetsky (Dottie Wallace)
Helen Diltz (Warren Diltz, Mary Jo Gorman, Thomas & Leah Richardson, Mary & Joe Woodka, The Bauer Family, Karen & Darrell Barnett, Esther Cyr, Bob & Denise Blanche, Irene & Stanley Oboy, Charles & Mary Jo Bassett, Janet & John Sabo, Harbor Springs Financial Mgmt., LLC, Kristina Basicker, Anne Marie Laverty, Lois Poynter, Maureen Clark, Denise Morton, Susan Ring, Carol Sleger, Dorene Albright, Mary McLoughlin, Melissa Angyus, Pat Lennon, Denyse Buck, Sr. Joyce Diltz, Suzanne Cierzniak, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, Patricia & Lowell Paschke, Mary Anne Retseck, Alan & Linda Selner, Metzger, Mancini & Lackner, LLP, Karen Robinson, Rob & Linda Diltz)
Gabriella Doolan (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Gay Eades (Bette O'Malley, Esther Cyr, Judy & Jerry Kearns, Barbara Dillon, Lyla Lockhart, Denise Roemer, Kathleen Lawton, Rosemary Crowe, Carol & Michael Bodnar, Margaret Johnson)
Pat Fewell (The Corcorans, Marilyn Toepp, Ed & Joan Hardig, Jim & Nancy Yohe)

Ed Fitzgerald (Roy & Kay Ellgass)
Charles Fletcher (Bob & Ruth Huyvaert)
Ron Frances (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Ken Garr (Fran Austin)
Betty Goodwin (Diane Quinn, Winifred VandenBossche)
Betty Gough (Greg & Jean Mee, Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Fr. Ken Grabner (Joe & Marie Burt)
Matthew Haller (Jane Dietrich)
Judy Henry (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Eileen Hurley (Kari & Greg Wuszke)
Chuck Hurley (Roy & Kay Ellgass, James & Kimberly Keultjes, Dottie Wallace)
Zachary Kidd (B.J. O'Brien)
Betty Kill (Kae Sobczyk)
Bill Killilea (Toni & Bob Kowalski)
Teresa Kress (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Louis Joseph Lanthier, Jr. (Esther Cyr)
James Langenkamp (Mary & Joe Woodka)
Christine Larimer (B.J. O'Brien)
Raymond P. Ledwith (Monique Deguara)
Christopher Lively (Karen & Darrell Barrett)
Michael Lutomski (Mike & Deb Low, Beth & Dan Barrett)
Kevin McCombs (Joan F. Hurley, Peg Riggs)
Mary Ann McTigue (Diane & Gerry Quinn, Deirdre & Tim McTigue, Carol & Michael Bodnar, John & Virginia Riopelle, Robert & Michele McCormick, Jeff & Mary Walsh, Austin & Susan McGuan, Richard & Sara Noel, Cheryl Martzahl, Michael & Nancy Konecny, Shamrock Club of N.E.W., Inc., Jeffrey & Mary Meisinger, Dottie Wallace)
Red Mack (Ed & Joan Hardig, Carol Bauer)
John Moore (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Dale Morse (Mark & Suzanne Wiwi)
Bill Moshak (Marti & Frank Moriconi)
John Moylan (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Frances Olivera (James & Carol Holt)
Pam Paldino (Ed & Joan Hardig)
Matthew Payton (James & Carol Holt, Nancy Creech, Thomas & Carolyn Haluda, Carole Pinter, Kathy & John Seidl, Margaret Hosinski, Mary Beth & Duffy Burns, Esther Cyr, Michiana

Sigma Pi Alumni, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Kari & Greg Wuszke, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, The Cuttendar Family, Tim, Kathy & Nick Wolf, Douglas & Jennifer Mulvaney, Kent & Janice Beutel, Kim & John Kerkemeyer, Bette O'Malley, Ed & Joan Hardig, Joan Biltz, Peg Riggs)

Lillian Peska (Patricia Falvey)

Mary Lynda Redfern (Suzanne Cierzniak)

Tully Reed (Ann Schmiedeler)

Rosemary Reiter (John Reiter, Dee Tepe, Creekwood Villas Assoc., Jacqueline Badics, Frank Johnson, Judy & Hugh Kuzmich, Jane Horning, Ann Schmiedeler, Rosemary Crowe, Ed & Joan Hardig)

Mary Lou Rinella (Marcia & Tom Blum)

Larry Smith (Marcia & Tom Blum)

Thomas Teeter (James & Carol Holt)

Joanne VanAvermaete (Peg Riggs)

Vicki Verteramo (Teresa & Sam Jermano)

Tina Wassenhove (Marcia & Tom Blum)

Mary Beth Wilhelm (Maureen Jones)

A Kind Note from a Friend

A lovely package arrived for the Layette Department from Tedi Murray, a long time - if distant - member and former President (1995-96 and 2004-05).

As volunteers come and go, it is a true kindness to be remembered and lauded by a woman who was very much a part of the growth and development of CCS.



To the Ladies of the Layette Department:

When I moved to Arizona in 2006, I kept my membership in the South Bend Chapter. However, I also joined the Phoenix Chapter. Since then, I have been making sweater sets and baby afghans for the Phoenix Layette Program.

Over the past year, I have spent a lot of time at home, as I am sure most of you have as well. It gave me a lot of time to knit and crochet. I decided to make a sweater and blanket for a South Bend layette. You will find it enclosed.

I am so impressed with the advancements you have made and the success you continue to enjoy. Your new Center is beautiful. My friends in the Phoenix Chapter are probably tired of hearing me brag about South Bend.

I hope some mother will be pleased to dress her baby in my sweater and cap and wrap her baby in the blanket.

Tedi Murray



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 Desmond Conference Room.

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

Guardian Angels 2020

Daryl M. Chapman Lonergan
Mary Lou Carrico Lonergan
Miss Ann C. Korb

Living Angels 2021

David P. & Lisa L. Smessaert

Layettes of Hope: Then and Now

The Christ Child Society's Layettes of Hope began in 2004 as a joint effort between CCS and the Women's Care Center (WCC). At first an investigation into various items such as bodysuits, socks, and pacifiers was made. The idea was to put these into a small gift bag that the WCC would give to a woman who had a positive pregnancy test.

After much thought and discussion it was decided by the Society that they would purchase 1500 multi-colored bodysuits, socks, prayer cards, and seals. Each bodysuit would be carefully folded and placed in a plastic bag with a pair of socks and the card with the seal affixed on the front. The cost was \$1950 for the clothing. Additional money would cover the enclosed card, seal, and bags. All of this would be part of the Layette Department Budget.

A letter was then sent to the Board of Directors of WCC, informing them of this new project. Ann Manion of the WCC sent a letter back to the Society, stating they were very pleased with this new endeavor.

And so began Layettes of Hope on July 1, 2005. Today the number has grown to 4000 of these little gift bags which are assembled annually in March and delivered to WCC the first week of April. Between 10 and 60 members of Christ Child gather to prepare them. This year, however, approximately 1700 were made due to the pandemic.

"Oh my gosh, baby clothes!" "What a sweet, sweet gift!" "This is so special." These are some of the comments made by the mothers-to-be when they've received a Layette of Hope. For many women it is the first tangible gift they receive. For others it is the first item they acquire after making a decision of life for their unborn child. Some clutch the gift, thrilled to see the socks and bodysuit. All are most appreciative.

It quickly becomes apparent that these small gifts provide fond moments of anticipation "so early on." Truly the Society's members clothe our smallest brothers and sisters "in the love and spirit of the Christ Child."

Christ Child Society of South Bend
2366 Miracle Lane
Mishawaka, IN 46545



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SOUTH BEND, IN
Permit No. 239

Return Service Requested



The littlest diaper donor



Mary Ann Chandler delivers her "birthday gift" of 1,075 diapers.



The Diaper Drop is ready to start!



Thanks to parish members and students who donated boots to keep little feet warm next winter.



El Campito staff was delighted with the diapers they received for the children in their preschool.

Experience the satisfaction and fun of active membership!

Christ Child Society needs **YOU** to sign up for a committee, take on a chairperson role, volunteer at the Center on Wednesdays, Sundays and Thursdays.

And remember to send in your membership form and dues!