Thank you, Ann Korb!

Ann Korb has retired as the Christ Child Society Newsletter Editor after serving for nearly 30 years. A member since 1976, Ann kept pace as the newspaper production became increasingly technology-based and as presidents came and went. She has covered the move from Sacred Heart Church to the former St. Patrick’s School and the plans for our next move to Town and Country, while still finding time to serve in the SUCCESS program. Ann graduated from Saint Mary’s College with a degree in English literature and earned a master’s in psychology from the University of Notre Dame. She was a respected high school English teacher for 30 years, serving at Central and LaSalle High Schools. Ann also taught as an adjunct English professor at Saint Mary’s and served as publications editor for the alumnae magazine The Courier.

In addition to her career in education, Ann served eight years on the Saint Mary’s Alumnae Association Board of Directors and six years on the Madeleva Society Steering Committee. She has volunteered with the Scholarship Foundation of St. Joseph County in many capacities.

Conversations with Ann are delightful because they are filled with references to books and travel. Throughout her life, she read a wide range of authors from Herman Wouk to Sinclair Lewis, and visited exciting places like Italy, the Galapagos Islands and China.

CCS is most grateful to have benefitted from her expertise and editing skills for so many years.

2020-2021 Board Announced

The Nominating Committee met on Friday, February 21, 2020 to discuss all of the nominees that were presented to the committee to fill five Board positions for 2020-2021. The search went very well. The Committee consisted of: Monique Deguara, Judy Kuzmich, Kathy Seidl, Debbie Spillman, Susan Walsh, and Suzanne Wiwi.

Due to the Coronavirus, the Committee had to approach the approval of the slated new members of the Board in a different way. Since the Spring Meeting/Luncheon was cancelled, the board members approved the nominees at the April Board meeting held on Monday, April 20, 2020 instead of the members approving them at the Spring Meeting.

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to present the New Members of the Board of Directors for 2020-2021. They are: Melissa Baltz, Patti Banet, Beth Barrett, Barbara Mickow, and Kae Sobczyk. Installation took place at the June Board meeting. Congratulations!
Continuing and the Importance of Pencils

Probably one year after I became an Air Force officer, I realized my address book was a mess. This was back in the days where letters were written to friends frequently because being overseas precluded us from making expensive phone calls. So, every time a military friend moved, I’d have to cross out an address and then write in a new one. After exhausting the alphabetized pages, I realized there was a simpler and neater way of updating addresses. I bought a new address book and wrote all the names and addresses in pencil. To this day I use the same address book I purchased in 1981. When I became the Christ Child Society Co-President in 2018, I purchased a large five-year calendar in order to record all meetings, fundraisers, deadlines and appointments. These items too I record in pencil. Thank goodness...

I was on a cruise ship in the Caribbean when the current world pandemic began. As soon as I returned to land and my temporary housing, I got out my calendar and realized how much was being cancelled or changed. Our world as we know it has changed. And so, we’ll move forward – but in a very different way. Already much of what we had on the Christ Child calendar has been deleted. Our Spring Mass, Meeting and Luncheon was cancelled. Derby Day was cancelled. Our Informational Coffee was cancelled. And all of our Board Meetings have been conducted telephonically. All of these cancellations were absolutely necessary due to the pandemic. So where do we go from here?

What we know is we will move into our new building during the month of July. Our Center will be blessed by Bishop Kevin Rhoades in mid-July. And we will begin providing services once again to our clients on Wednesday, August 5th. Just how we’ll serve and assist our clients is up in the air. The PEP Squad (Prepare, Execute and Prevail!) has been working diligently coming up with solutions of how we will provide services in the most efficient and effective way. Read on for the report from the PEP Squad. As new procedures are established, the membership will be notified via email and correspondence.

As my tenure as Co-President comes to an end, I want to thank the board, volunteers and all of the members of this incredible organization for your support and hard work. You’ve put your heart into serving those in need. And as the Christ Child Society of South Bend moves forward, I know we will continue our good deeds - something we can record with a pen.

As the poet Maya Angelou wrote, I know we will Continue.

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To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness
Continue
To allow humor to lighten the burden
Of your tender heart
Continue
In a society dark with cruelty
To let the people hear the grandeur
Of God in the peals of your laughter
Continue
To let your eloquence
Elevate the people to heights
They had only imagined
Continue
To remind the people that
Each is as good as the other
And that no one is beneath
Nor above you
Continue
To remember your own young years
And look with favor upon the lost

And the least and the lonely
Continue
To put the mantle of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless
Continue
To take the hand of the despised
And diseased and walk proudly with them
In the high street
Some might see you and
Be encouraged to do likewise
Continue
To plant a public kiss of concern
On the cheek of the sick
And the aged and infirm
And count that as a
Natural action to be expected
Continue
To let gratitude be the pillow
Upon which you kneel to
Say your nightly prayer

And let faith be the bridge
You build to overcome evil
And welcome good
Continue
To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit
Continue
To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing
Continue
To float
Happily in the sea of infinite substance
Which set aside riches for you
Before you had a name
Continue
And by doing so
You and your work
Will be able to continue
Eternally

Maya Angelou
In this time of economic uncertainty, the Christ Child Society of South Bend helped some of its partner agencies with a drive-by Diaper Drop Off. Donors simply drove up and tossed diaper boxes into bins, a safe and easy way to contribute to those in need. On May 6th, 6,500 diapers were delivered to the Center for the Homeless for the toddlers who are sheltered there. A second drop off on May 13 garnered 11,000 diapers which benefitted El Campito, St. Margaret’s House and Hope Ministries. All of these organizations refer clients to Christ Child for clothes, coats, shoes and layettes.

In response to the sudden closing of school this March, the Christ Child Society donated learning materials and books to children at St. Adalbert School which Kindergarten and second grade families picked up along with their free lunches. The materials had been purchased for “learning parties” with 2nd grade and kindergarten students that were scheduled for April and May. The parties are part of the SUCCESS program that the Christ Child Society operates at the school in an effort to enhance the educational experience of the students.

Despite fundraising efforts such as graduation gift wrapping at Notre Dame and the annual Derby Day luncheon being cancelled, the Christ Child Society continues serving the children of St. Joseph County.

SUCCESS at St. Adalbert

If there’s one thing these last few months have taught everyone, it’s flexibility!

As a result of the school closures to help stem the transmission of the corona virus, two literacy events planned for St. Adalbert had to be postponed. The 2nd grade math party was to feature geometry, critical thinking, patterning and literature focused on math concepts. In May kindergarteners were set to celebrate all things ‘beach-y’ with ‘fishy’ tales, beach shells and a simple activity. Though volunteers could not work with the students in person, CCS was able to provide each student with a home learning packet that parents could use to support their children’s progress.

Continuity is important for young learners. CCS thanks the staff of St. Adalbert for distributing these materials to the families.

Who wouldn’t have fun reading and learning with these!

A Children’s Place Windfall

When Christ Child jeans buyer Suzanne McMillion received a call from The Children’s Place manager Emily Koon, little did she know the lovely surprise in store for our clients. Due to the mall’s closing throughout the spring, the store was unable to sell their entire Easter line of clothing. No one seemed to want it and the store needed room for summer stock, and then Emily thought of The Christ Child Society. A few phone calls and emails later, and we were registered with Delivering Good, a national organization that matches retailers and manufacturers with agencies serving at-risk children, families and individuals in need. It took a van and a truck to carry 24 boxes of dresses, slacks, shirts, shoes, and accessories to the Center, which will be distributed through Used Clothing and Layettes.

Can’t you just imagine the smiles?

P.E.P is the new name for what was formerly known as Christ Child’s Crisis Planning Committee. A task force of Room Chairs, Committee Heads, and others has been tossing around ideas instead of pom poms, in an effort to find the safest, most efficient way to carry out the CCS mission “in these challenging times” as every TV commercial seems to say. Both members and clients are members of at-risk populations, and yet, CCS seeks to serve the Christ Child in each and every child.

Details are still being worked out, but as of now, the clients will begin with initial contact outside the new Center. Clients will then be asked to wait in their cars or nearby rather than inside until called. Interviews will take place in the roomy Client Waiting area with social distancing enforced. Masks and hand sanitizer will be required and supplied as needed. Clients will pick up bags of clothing and make exchanges at the rear of the building.

Some volunteers will be the face of Christ Child, doing interviews, delivering orders and helping with exchanges. Since clients will not be going from room to room, other members will serve as “personal shoppers” who will assemble orders and exchanges and bring them to the pickup point without interacting with clients. And there is always filling, stocking and sorting to do.

In fact, in order to carry this off, more volunteers are needed than ever! To that end, Room Chairs have been reaching out to their regular volunteers, but many more members may now be available on Wednesday mornings, Thursday evenings, and/or Sunday afternoons. There will be opportunities in all of the Clothing Rooms, in Intake, and for a whole host of “personal shoppers” and runners. If you are interested in volunteering this year, and have not been contacted, please contact Joan Hardig at 574-277-7787 or khardig@aol.com and she will add you to the list! Prepare. Execute. Prevail!

Referral Agencies Support the CCS Mission

The Christ Child Society depends on its referral partners not only to determine which families qualify for shoes and clothing, but also to guide families to its services. The 2020 meetings for the referral agencies and schools were held on May 27, June 1 and 3. In order to best serve the clients, representatives from the agencies and schools are kept up to date on the process and protocol of referring clients to the center. They also learned about the upcoming move, and contingency plans should COVID precautions change normal processes.

New this year are posters that designate “this is a Christ Child Society referral agency,” given to each agency for display. The posters give a short synopsis of who CCS is and what it does. The boy and girl mitten kids are featured to itemize the clothing given out to children. Hopefully this new idea helps to bring more families lacking resources to the Christ Child Clothing Center.
The Christ Child Society is just a few weeks away from moving to our new home on Miracle Lane in the Town and Country Shopping Center in Mishawaka. This will be Christ Child’s third permanent home in its 73 years, and we could not be more excited to see what the future brings for us and the children we serve.

The four-mile move will take us from our 8600+ square foot center at St. Patrick’s Parish school building to the 18,600+ square foot space previously occupied by Mishawaka Furniture. Our volunteers will experience a larger clothing distribution space as well as ample storage for our clothing inventory within each clothing department. The families and children we serve will enjoy a larger waiting room, more privacy during the interview process and less congested hallways. We hope our new space will allow for added new programs, more volunteers and more children to clothe.

Since signing the lease in December 2019 with John Becker of Town and Country Shopping Center, a great deal of planning, organizing, and packing has taken place. Despite the limitations and delays created by the COVID-19 crisis, the move committee was focused on opening for clients in August.

Working with architect Jacqueline Hilderbrandt, move committee members, the executive committee of the Christ Child Board of Directors and clothing center department representatives created the floor plan for the new center. Holladay Construction Group was selected to do the build out and act as construction managers. McCoullough Scholten Construction completed the work on the restrooms and laundry room. Our new home looks beautiful.

Familiar friends of the Christ Child Society also helped with the project. Many thanks to Karen Barnett of Valley Screen Processing/Olee Creative for working with us to create and install the decorative film window coverings. Karen is the daughter of long-time member Carol Bauer. Valley Screen, recipient of the 2012 Heart of a Child Award, has donated the die cutting of all our Clothe-a-Child Mitten Kids since the inception of that fundraiser.

Mark Tepe of Closets & Carpentry Designs built the clothing shelving for Christ Child when we moved to St. Patrick’s eleven years ago. Mark, son of long-time member Dee Tepe, will help again by deconstructing and rebuilding our clothing rooms’ shelving as well as building additional units in our new home during the first few weeks of July. Rufus Ayres of Silk Purse Designs returned to help with this move, too. Rufus provided the blinds at St. Patrick’s and he installed the shades at each clothing departments’ new client service counters.

Over the years, the Christ Child Society leadership have all been good stewards of the generous donations received for the endowment and general operating funds. Buyers have worked to get the best clothing and shoe prices and fundraisers have brought in the funds necessary to fulfill our mission and plan for our future. Our most recent Room Naming Opportunity Appeal resulted in over $110,000 from generous donors who funded specific rooms at the new center or made unrestricted gifts.

Our clothing center volunteers have worked countless hours to prepare the current inventory and infrastructure for the move. Mark Diroll of Jamil Packing generously donated 316 packing boxes to the effort. Our volunteers accomplished the momentous task of packing up within our timeline despite the social distancing restrictions of the past few months. Our construction committee calendars were filled over the last six months with construction meetings and action items as they worked miracles to get to the June 30 construction deadline. Together we have proved that “nothing is too much to do for a child.”
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, special occasion, such as a birthday or 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:
Andy Barnes (Joe & Marie Burt)
Holden Berg (Joe & Marie Burt)
Brian Canlen (Janice and Joe Goossens)
Tom & Barb Cassidy (James & Nancy Yohe)
Bob & Tess Cassidy (James & Nancy Yohe)
Mary Ann Couture-90th Birthday (Alice Backs)
Phil & Tricia DePauw (Jim & Nancy Yohe)
Mary Ann Derda-Consolation (Barbara Dillon)
Nixon & Mary Dorvilien (Jim & Nancy Yohe)
Roy & Kay Elgass (Carol Bauer)
Vince Fayyota (Joe & Marie Burt)
Brian Florin (Joe & Marie Burt)
Madeline Gallagher – Special Birthday (Tee Miller)
Kevin & Jill Gerencer (Jim & Nancy Yohe)
Leon Glon (James & Nancy Yohe)
Fr. Ken Graber, C.S.C. (Joe & Marie Burt)
Mike Graf-Get well (James & Nancy Yohe)
Joan Hardig –Birthday (Pinky Raab, Reggie Lowenhart, Ron & Nancy Cohen)
Elizabeth Keller-Birthday (Beth Reising)
Brian Kemptiak (Joe & Marie Burt)
Isabella Lawton-Comfort & Recovery (Sheila Emge)
M/M Walter J. Lake (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Mary Liddell – Thanks for work on New Center (Patricia Falvey)
Paul Manion (Bob & Toni Kowalski)
Ronny Maggiol (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Del Meyer-Speedy recovery (Kathryn & John Seidl, Peggy Gerstbauer)
Pat Nahas (Zachary, Tyler & Lily Fitzgerald)
Joe & Lolita Pataluch (Joe & Marie Burt)
Mary Ellen Quink-Smith (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Thomas Kieger Romer-Baptism (Marie & Paul Brady)
Kay & Scott Schurz – Good Health (Brian & Ginger Lake)
Kathy Seidl – Quick recovery (Peggy Gerstbauer)
Dr. Chris Stevens – Happy Birthday (Joe & Marie Burt)
Cynthia Thiel (Joe & Marie Burt)
Tom & Jen Towers (Jim & Nancy Yohe)
Craig Vanden Bossche – Complete recovery (JoAnn K. Axelberg, Winifred Vanden Bossche)

IN MEMORIAM:
Barb Algotti (James & Carol Holt)
Patricia Ann Buehler (Marie & Paul Brady)
Castro Family (Don & Mary Castro)
Christine & Family (C. M. Sergio)
Irene Chwalek (Kari Wuszke)
Rosemary Clifford (Jack & Nancy Pycik, Dottie & Ron Wallace)
R. Parke Collins (Donna & Don Kyle)
Dan Comer (Fran Austin)
Gene Corrigan (Barbara Dillon)
Joan Dean (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Elise Drouin (James & Carol Holt)
Virginia Duesterberg (Florence Duesterberg)
Nancy Fearan (Fran Austin)
Rosemary Ferraro (Sam & Teresa Jermano)
Eleanor Filipek (Rosemary & Chuck Crowell, Mary & Ed Kubiak Roy & Kay Elligas,)
Kathryn Forge (Ann Schmiedeler)
J. Charles Golba (Francis Cantelmi)
Jerry Hackett (Greg & Jean Mee)
Jane Haley (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Randi Haughton (Tom & Mary Wisniewski)
Edith Hawley (Bernie & Sandy Gorski)
Tom Hayden (Joan Blitz)
Donald Hudnall (James & Kimberly Keultjes)
Betty Irene Huston (Davie & Susan Walsh)
Zachary James (George & Natalee Cuti, Melanie Chapleau)
Marvin Janiak (Carol Bauer)
Clifton & Mary Johnson (Denise Chatman)
Martin Kennedy (Henry & Mary Ann Chandler)
Anne Klimek (Ann Korb)
Evelyn Klosowski (Esther Cyr, Lisa Fitzsimons, Brenda E. Knowles)
Catherine Koscieski (Pulmonary Services Dept./Memorial Hospital)
Kenneth J. Lalla (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Darrell Larsen (Majro Martinez, Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Raymond Ledwith (Patricia Falvey, Anne & Jim Choinack, Betty Barrett, Kathleen Seidl, Tami McNally)
Lois Leliaert (Judith Murphy)
Breanna Lentz (Peg Riggs)
Agnes Colette Lessard (Donna & Don Kyle)
Jim Lipetska (Jim & Suzy Czerok, David & Jeanine Wideman)
Brian Lochmandy (Marcia & Tom Blum)

IN MEMORIAM:
Members: Marjorie Bycroft
Gizella Probst
Theresa Van Nevel
Spouse: Joseph Pataluch
Chandler, Greg & Jean Mee
Gretchen Anderson (Ed & Joan Hardig, Mary & Katy Bradford, Nancy Pinson, Friends @ Karl Weis Auto Body Shop, Lynn & Dave Fischgrund)
Mary Donald Aubuchon (Ann Schmiedeler)
Judy Auer (Jerry & Carol Jacquay)
Dennis Banicki (Darlene Heck)
Richard Barger (Joan Fahey)
Mike Bauer’s Father (Carol Bauer)
Bill Beckson (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Don Bentley (The Mike Bauer Family)
Robert Beutter (W. L. Vanden Bossche)
Mary Blum (Melanie Chapleau)
Chanel J. Bouchard (Rolande & Roger Parent)
Sister Maura Brannick (Dottie & Ron Wallace)
Jeanne Broussard (Marilynn Toepp)
Mary Brown (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Marjorie Bycroft (Beth & Dan Barrett, Kathryinh Screeches, Judy Kuzmich, Patricia Healy, Joe & Marie Burt, Esther Cyr, Betty Cooke, Tom & Marlene Nowak, Betty Ann Gibson, John & Mary Lou Derwent, Teddi Murray, Helen Diltz, John & Sue Uhran, Margaret Hosinski, Kathy & John Seidl, Mary Jane Stanley, Kathleen Beeler, Mary & Dick Reineke, Deb & Mike Low, Sheldon Sales, Barb & John Phair, Mary Peters, Buck & Susan Miller, Ann Dean, Dave & Judy Eckrich, Paul & Patti Crowley, Paul Glass, D.D.S., Doris Smith, Patsy Bowles, Larry Taylor Family, Nanei Sanders, Patty & Mike Keller, Mark & Vicki Seyller, Susy Porter, Virginia & Eugene Bamber, Hubert & Laura O’Brien, Peter Lombardo, Jill Ross, Sharon James, The Hayes Family Foundation, Jessica Dawson, Margaret & Bradford Hogan, Wilber, Marcla & Tom Blum, Jan & Jack Frieden, Kathryn & Paul Schoenle, Diane & Gerry Quinn, Dee Tepe, Linda Rakow, Rosemary Crowe, Barbara Dillon, Mary & Ed Kubiak, Margaret Johnson, Julie Considine, Art & Mary Lou Houle, Jane Horning, Mary Lou & Pete Mullen, David & Susan Walsh, Jean & Dick Dennen, Jim & Carol Summer 2020

Christ Child Society of South Bend

Summer 2020
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Christ Child Society of South Bend

Judy McCaffrey (Bette O’Malley)
Susan Manthay (Dottie & Ron Wallace)
Ryan A. Martinec (Marlene & Otto Martinec)
Rae Marie Matt (Richard & Hedi Johnson, Edward & Teresa Maginn, Ellen & Rocco Capone, Kathleen Hojnicki, Laura M.
McConahay Family, Virginia & Eugene Bamber, Steve Prohn, Greta Romer, Scott Harmon)
Christoher Matthews (Dee Tepe)
R. DeWayne Merckx (B. J. O’Brien)
Jo Miller (Tee Miller)
Toni Nemeth (Peg Riggs)
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)
Joseph Pataluch (Rose & Jim Lyphout, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Melanie Chapleau, Margaret Hosinski, Sharon James, Tom & Marlene Nowak, Deb & Mike Low, Rita North, Kathleen Seidl, Joe & Marie Burt, Beth Barrett)
Stephen R. Pinter (Joan Biltz, Toni Pikuza, Beth Barrett, Kathy & John Seidl, Bette O’Malley, Ed & Joan Hardig, Terry Slamkowski, Sheila Emge)
Gisella Probst (Mary Prekosovich, Josephine Howarth, Mary M. Brown, The Jordanich Family, Ann M. Jordanich, Mary Jo Siney, Tom & Judy Burmeister, Patricia Swhart)
Bob Rakoczy (B. J. O’Brien)
Lucile D. Rawcliffe (Susan & David Walsh)
William Riblet (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Edward Richart (Jerry & Carol Jacquay)
Bob Robison (Dottie & Ron Wallace, Melanie Chapleau)
Jean Marie Rozek (Mary Ann & Henry Chandler)
Thomas J. Ryan (Greg & Karen Cordial)
Elsie Sanders (Dee Tepe)
Karen Sanders (Sandy Redden)
Dominic Schimizzi (San & Teresa Jermano)
Shirley Shuman (Otto & Marlene Martinec)
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, Susan and David Walsh)
Katherine “Kay” Smessaert (James & Suzanne Cierziak)
Margaret Smith (Marcia & Tom Blum)
Sharon Taghon (Art & Mary Lou Houle)
John Tedeski (Otto & Marlene Martinec)
Billie Thomas (Ed & Joan Hardig, Helen Diltz)
Charles Toepp (Marilyn Toepp)
Anne Treckelo (Mark & Kim Knowlton)
Edward Trippel (Kent & Katy Perry)
Ed Trubac (John & Suzy Halloran)
Theresa Van Nevel (Esther Cyr)
Ron Walker (Janice & Joe Goossens)
Nole Walters (Teddi Murray)
Everett Webb (Julie & Art Zelinski)
Patricia Welling (M/M James Keultjes)
Darlene Welty (Mike & Deb Low)
Fred E. Williams (Winifred Vanden Bossche)
Jerry Wood (James & Carol Holt)
Nolan Zent (James & Kimberly Keultjes)

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 Society office.

Please refer any questions to Norma Villanucci at 574.243-0621.

Monique Deguara, Pat Falvey and Suzanne Wiwi plan for a challenging year ahead.

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.

Due to COVID 19 the Book Club is not meeting for now, but they hope to be gathering again soon.

All members are welcome to join for some lively discussion. Contact Marge Hosinski at 574.255.9728 if you are interested.

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Twitter: @ChristChildSB website: www.christchildsb.org