Calendar

June

5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
17 Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM
25 In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

July

4 Happy July 4th (closed all week)
9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
15 Board In/Out Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM
24 In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

August

6, 13, 20, 27 Center Open for members 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
7 Clothing Center Opening Day 8:30 - 10:00 AM
19 Board Meeting - Desmond Conference Room 10:00 AM
15 Fall Newsletter Deadline
25 In Memoriam Mass - Little Flower 8:30 AM

Clothing Distribution
Wednesday, 7, 14, 21, 28 8:30 - 10:00 AM
Thursday, 8, 22 5:00-6:30 PM
Sunday, 11 1:00-2:30 PM

5th Annual Diaper Drop Helps Community

The fifth annual Diaper Drop was held on May 8, although collections took place at churches, schools and businesses before and after that date. Total donations of diapers neared 50,000 plus 200 packs of baby wipes.

Thanks go to our generous community that responded to the need for diapers, those who collected diapers, and the volunteers, led by Chairs Lisa Smessaert and Marie Burt, who made it all happen.

Volunteers gathered to kick off the Diaper Drop (top) and many delivered to local agencies (left).

Thanks to these businesses, churches and organizations who collected diapers

- Laidig Systems, Inc.
- Elks Lodge #235
- First United Methodist Church
- St. Therese Little Flower Parish
- St. Casimir & St. Adalbert Parishes
- Kiwanis Club of South Bend
- Indiana Trust Wealth Management
- ND and St. Mary’s ECDC
- St. Joseph South Bend Grade School

Spring Luncheon Brings Members Together

The Spring Meeting and Luncheon was held at the Morris Park Country Club on March 20 following Mass at St. Anthony’s Church. Over 80 members enjoyed the delicious food and beautiful flower centerpieces. A highlight was the multi-flavored cupcakes for dessert.

Four new board members were elected: Sara Conroy, Ellen Jessen, Karen Kubsch and Sue Montalbano. They will take office at the July Board meeting. Guests thanked those leaving the board in July for their three years of service: Barb Reihl, Sue Seall and Lisa Smessaert.

Thanks to Chair Sara Conroy for organizing the event.

Layette Department volunteers gather donated infant clothing to present at the Offertory during the Spring Mass.

Susy Porter, Pat Falvey, Judy Farrell and Elaine Throm enjoy the Spring Luncheon.
CCS Always Looks Forward

As the school year draws to a close for many, here at Christ Child we are gearing up for the new school year by replenishing our inventory of new clothing, uniforms, shoes, coats and hats, baby items and gently used clothing. Thanks to your continued support and generosity, we are able to provide these essential items to underserved children, ensuring they start the school year with confidence and dignity. The shelves of Mary’s Boutique are full of free treasures for families.

Your dedication to our mission is truly inspiring, and we are grateful for all that you do to make a difference in the lives of children in our community, from donating diapers to buying paper dolls. Together we are making a positive impact that will be felt for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

New Board Members Elected

During the Annual Meeting at the Spring Luncheon, four nominees to the Board were approved: Sara Conroy, Sue Montalbano, Karen Kubsch and Ellen Jessen.

Sara Conroy, who has one daughter, four stepchildren, and ten grandchildren, lives in Niles with her husband, Tim, and a menagerie.

For many years, she worked as a jewelry store manager and appraiser. After her daughter started preschool, she taught at the Montessori Academy and later, at St. Anthony’s School. Her volunteer efforts include chairing auctions, serving on the board of directors for Musical Arts Indiana and chairing a few of their galas, coaching Girls on the Run and serving at Pet Refuge as an adoption coordinator.

When her daughter left for college, she felt it was time to join CCS, influenced by her friend, member Cindy Crupp. After starting in New Clothes, life interfered and it was a few years before she returned, scouting out the Registration and Greeting area as a perfect fit. She noted, “My soul is refilled every day when I watch them leave with smiles and giggles, clutching their precious new coat or stuffed animal. And yes, I cry. Every. Time.”

Sue Montalbano is the mother of three sons and has seven grandchildren. She was a special education teacher, stay at home Mom and was working in Campus Ministry at Notre Dame when she retired a few years ago.

Sue’s last three years volunteering at Christ Child Society have been spent working in Used Clothing and she thoroughly enjoys her time with the awesome group of ladies there. They are busy sorting incoming donations year-round. Her role expanded as Co-Chair for the 2023 Let Love Shine fundraiser. The LLS meetings featured the fruits of her amazing hostess skills. Sue said, “I am having an amazing experience at CCS and I look forward to the next adventure!”

Karen Kubsch was born and raised in South Bend. She attended St. Anthony’s grade school, where they are parishioners, St. Joseph’s High School and IU Dental Assistant Program. She and her husband, Steve, have been married for 40 years and have three sons, Zach, Tyler, Collin, and one daughter, Alex. They have eight grandchildren.

Karen has been a CCS member for three years, following in the footsteps of her mother, Rosemary Reiter, who was also a member. Karen said, “My mother was influential in my decision to join this wonderful organization.” Karen is looking forward to her duties as a board member.

Ellen Jessen and her husband, John, have two grown children, both married, and four grandchildren. They feel fortunate that their children live nearby, and spending time with all of them is a blessing. A fun fact is that their son and daughter share the same birthday, ten years apart.

Ellen has been serving in the Coat Department at CCS for the past four years along with a group of amazing women. She is impressed by the planning and organization that goes into the process of getting those coats on the racks according to size and dressed with matching hats and mittens. Before retiring, Ellen was a preschool teacher at The Stanley Clark School and she noted, “I find myself planning activities for my grandchildren now as the teacher in me is always there.” Ellen enjoys reading, planning events and now traveling more since her husband is recently retired. She is also involved in St. Pius X Parish. She looks forward to becoming more involved in Christ Child, meeting new women on the board and learning more about this wonderful organization.

Thank you to outgoing Board Members President Sue Seall, Barb Reihl and Lisa Smessaert, all of whom have left a lasting legacy.

New Staff Members

The Administrative Assistant job has been split into two part-time positions to increase efficiency. Jessie Bulosan has been doing a wonderful job the last few months as Donation Coordinator, tracking donation and member information in the database. She has a Masters in Social Science Administration and has experience working with non-profits.

Maria Thompson is starting as Administrative Assistant in June. She will be in the office whenever the Center is open for members or clients. She also has a Masters Degree and worked for many years with non-profits. She is very familiar with The Christ Child Society having written referrals to us. She speaks conversational Spanish as a second language.

Welcome, Jessie and Maria!
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.

**Gifts and Memorials**

The Christ Child of South Bend

Volunteers

Donations for the Christ Child of South Bend can be made at www.christchildsb.org.

**Special Occasion**

- Jan Christianson (Jean/Paul)
- Mary Fran Burt (Joe/Marie Burt)
- Donna/Patrick Dillon – Birthdays (Barbara Dillon)
- Past President Pat Falvey (Michael Kelly/Robert Hohl)
- Carolyn Gaby - Birthday (Carol Bauer)
- Jim Hesburgh - Birthday (Melanie Chapleau)
- John Jessen - Retirement (Don/Shelley Plude)
- Doug Kroll – Get well (Carol Holt)
- Pat McCaffrey - Get well (Carol Holt)
- Nancy & Del Meyer (Peggy Gerstbauer)
- Laura Kay Minteer (Joe/Marie Burt)
- Patti Paschke – Speedy recovery (Nancy Meyer)
- Kathy & John Seidl (Peggy Gerstbauer)
- Marietta Squibb (Carol Bauer)
- Mike, Marti, Jim Syrgeny – Recovery (Janice Goossens)
- Jim, Nancy & Mary Beth Yohe (Joe/Marie Burt)

**IN MEMORIAM**

- Patrick Adamo (Kristy Botich, Esther Cyr, Mary Kubiaik, Tom/Mary Wisniewski)
- Fred Angeli (Marcia/Tom Blum)
- Carlos Arce (James/Kimberly Keultjes)
- Jean Baer (Jedd/Dawn Anderson, Denny Baer, Edward/Catherine Baer, M/Chris Cason, Melanie Chapleau, Anne Martin, Pat Snyder Perez, Timothy Ruff, Sharon Slone, Sue Slone-England, Mary/Gig Young, Art/Julie Zielinski)
- Jean/Dick Baer (Ben/Mary K. Cashman, Greg/Jean Mee, Mahlon/Jeanie Wise)
- John Barcza (Tom/Judy Burmeister, Melanie Chapleau, Sharon James, Francis/Diane James, Mary Kubiaik)
- Judge Paul Baldoni (James/Kimberly Keultjes)
- Jim Blilinski (Toni Pikuza)
- Ken Boswell (Marcia/Tom Blum)
- Mary Carmola Brehl (Laura Baloun, Melissa Baltz, Beth/Don Barrett, Kristy Botich, Joe/Marie Burt, Julie Bussert, Patty Carmola/ Mary Carmola, Monique/John Deguara, Dean/Sharri Ernzen, Patrick/Laura Flynn, Nancy, Brian, Kevin, Michael and Betty Ann Gibbons, Nicole Islinger/Family, Sharon James, Sue Kinnucan, Steve/Karen Kubsch, Judy Kuzmich, Donna/Don Kyle, Nancy/ Del Meyer, Mary Pat/Dick Nussbaum, The O’Brien Family, Rodelan Parent, Janet Pfeil, Susy Porter, Nancy/Jack Pycik, Kathy Schoenle, Sue/Rick Seall, Steve/Bonnie Seall, Kathy/John Seidl, Nicole Simonetti, Phyllis Singleton, Vickie Sleevi, Kae/Mike Sobczyk, South Bend Emergency Physicians Inc., South Bend Regional Chamber/Visit South Bend Mishawaka, Kate/John Stratigos, Phil/Susan Wendowski, Tom/Mary Wisniewski, M/M Mark Wiwi)
- Larry Carmola (Steve/Karen Kubsch)
- Dan Cavanaugh (Ann Schmiedeler)
- Joseph Corcoran (Kay Kessler, Barbara Neuer, Peter Braasch)
- Puddy/Jerry Crowley (Anne/Richard Fortmann)
- Merrill Crull (Edward/Joan Hardig)
- Dave Drach (Marti/Frank Moriconi)
- Maxine Felton (Sue Shirrell)
- Lettie Foster (JoAnn K. Axelberg, Winnie Vanden Bossche)
- Anna Giovannini (Joe/Marie Burt)
- Jim Hahn (Louise/Steve Anella)
- Laura Harris (Winnie Vanden Bossche)
- Edith P./Robert M. Hawley (James/Kimberly Keultjes)
- Mike Hiemstra (Janice Goossens)
- Clifton “Tooter” Johnson (Jerry/Betty Vascil)
- Richard Kil (Esther Cyr)
- JoAnn Kimmel (Jane Horning)
- Richard Kirchberg (Marie Brady)
- Evelyn Knapp (James T Knapp)
- Don Krahel (Marcia/Tom Blum)
- Tony Longi (Deb/Mike Low)
- Pat MacDonald (Sheila Emge)
- Irene McNulty (Mrs. Dorothy H. Mady, Jon/Becky Giszewski, Chuck/Shirley Davidson, Deb DeCook)
- Helen Mersits (Peg Riggs)
- Tony Mersits (Peg Riggs, Joan Hurley)
- James Miholich (Spike Abernethy, Kristy Botich, Kelley/Kroy Crofoot, Vic/Pam DeCola, Marcia Deren, Steve/Karen Kubsch, Jim Pauley/Rich Deuitch, Terry Gavin/Richard Sambrook, Sue/Rick Seall, Janet Steed, John Weiss, George/Peggy White)
- Norbert Miller (Joe/Marie Burt)
- Muriel Minsk (Marlene/Otto Martinec)
- Mike Montalbano (Barbara Ruff, David/Tracy McCormick)
- Bob O’Brien (Margaret Hosinski, Tom/Judy Burmeister, Marti/Frank Moriconi)
- Virginia O’Hara (Louie/Ginna Anderson, Esther Cyr, Jane Horning, Pat Stachowiak, Micky Bly)
- Ken Oler (Marcia/Tom Blum)
- Peggy Peck (Jane Horning)
- Nancy Pence (Bj/O’Brien, Ann Schmiedeler)
- James Petro (Suzanne/Dan McMillion)
- Cory Pinter (John/Suzy Halloran)

**Deceased Members**

Joan Jaworski
Betty Krizmanich
Ginger O’Hara

**Deceased Spouses**

Jim Yohe
Merrill Crull
John Barcza

Sonja Riffel (Cathy Kerr)
Terry Riordan (Jack/Nancy Pyck)
Denise Roemer (M. Helga Jean)
Ann Marie Rotge (Martin/Kathryn Albright)
Kathy Rychlick (Carol/Donald Nash)
Dan Saracino (Barbara Dillon)
Jean Scott (Janice/Jo Goossens)
Benard Schroeder (Patti/Lowell Paschke)
Milred Seall (Steve/Karen Kubsch)
Theresa Sharpe (Kathleen Lawton)
Debra Siffrar (Marlene/Otto Martinec)
Greg Stroude (Joan Hurley OFS)
Barbara Szczepanski (Toni Pikuza)
Robert Szerenes (Diane Quinn)
Sue Thomas (Jane Horning)
Bill Tibbits (Greg/Jean Mee)
James Toepp (Esther Cyr)
Bobby Walker Jr. (Janice Goossens)
Steve Watford (Patti/Lowell Paschke)
Mary-Lou Wolfe (Donna/Don Kyle)
James Yohe (Joe/Marie Burt)

Enroll a loved one as a Guardian Angel
Contact info@christchildsb.org for information

**Clothe-A-Child Dolls**

Martin’s Supermarkets participated in the Clothe-A-Child campaign this Spring from April 22 to May 12, 2024. Thank you to all who purchased a Christ Child Doll at the checkout. The campaign raised $2,582 to purchase clothes for local children.
Calling Volunteers with an interest in and aptitude for computer data entry!

When clients come to The Christ Child Society for assistance, the first thing they do is work with a volunteer to determine the size of the coat, shoes and clothing items each child will receive. Sizes are shared with the computer room where volunteers enter the data into the Client Database, a Family Order Form is created and sent to each department so the family’s order can be gathered.

If you are detail oriented and comfortable with keyboarding and computers, Christ Child needs you. Training sessions on the specifics of how to enter the data and print the orders will be held in July with plenty of time to practice before the distribution begins early August. Data Entry volunteers are needed whenever clients are served - Wednesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons - you choose when you want to help.

If interested, please send an email message to info@christchildsb.org and use the Subject of Data Entry Volunteer. Include your full name, phone number and any questions you have about this volunteer position. You will be contacted to answer any questions and provide more details about the training.

Information Coffee a Success

The annual Informational Coffee was held on Wednesday, April 24, at the CCS Center. The 18 guests were all very impressed with their tour of the Center.

While enjoying delicious refreshments, they learned about CCS from Co-Presidents Sue Seall and Melissa Baltz. Some have already joined while others have come in to begin volunteering.

Volunteer Opportunities

Get more involved! Volunteers are needed to fill these positions:

**Chairpersons Needed**
- United in Service (a one-time National project held in the Fall)
- St. Adalbert’s/SUCCESS (volunteers are needed also)
- Annual Appeal
- Motor Corp

**Co-Chairs Needed**
- Donor Relations
- *Let Love Shine* (Carolyn Sherman is in search of a Co-Chair. Plans are underway: the date, venue and committee chairs are set).

The Clothing Program opens for clients on August 7
Come volunteer!