After two years of patiently waiting out the pandemic, The Christ Child Society of South Bend opened its doors for an Anniversary celebration on August 4. In coordination with the South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce, the evening began with a ribbon cutting and showcased the new-to-the-public Clothing Center. Local dignitaries, the business community and supportive donors were welcomed to tour the facility and learn the Chapter's history while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Mayor Dave Wood of Mishawaka participated in the ribbon cutting and was impressed by his first tour of the Center. The Mayor noted that he was surprised at how big CCS is and was amazed at how many children are clothed annually.

Co-Presidents Patti Banet and Sue Seall, who were Chairs of the event, were pleased with how the evening turned out. Patti noted, “We were delighted that so many friends joined us as well as community and business leaders.”
**Summer Ends and Fall Begins - It’s Clothing Time!**

Patti Banet  
Co-President

Schools are back in session and The Christ Child Society has already had a busy start to a new client season. August started with our long-awaited Open House that was postponed for two years due to Covid. It was a lovely evening with friends and many new faces.

The Referral Committee kept quite busy this summer. They brought a proposal to the board to put up billboards for more visibility to clients. Look for them around town at several locations. They also attended several events with vendors to inform the community of what we can do for them as well as many training meetings with our referral agencies. We are not the best kept secret anymore!! You Go Team!

When we opened for clients on back-to-back days, August 10 and 11, it was incredibly busy and exciting! We served 154 families, and close to 400 children! (Those precious faces are the best.) Let them know and they will come!

We are off to a great start, and I look forward to the rest of the season of serving our community.

Blessings to you all!

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**Notice of Bylaw Change**

The Board of The Christ Child Society of South Bend approved a motion to bring before the membership a minor amendment to the bylaws. Those members present at the Fall Members Meeting and Luncheon on October 13th at Morris Park Country Club will be voting on the amendment pursuant to Article XX of the bylaws.

At present, Article VII Section 1. states:

> This organization shall be governed by the Board, consisting of not less than 12 nor more than 17 members. The number of members of the Board shall be established by the Board. Up to five (5) members of the Board shall be elected annually for a term of three (3) years as provided in Section 3.

A motion will be made to delete “Up to 5” from the last sentence of Section 1. The rest of the Section will remain the same. The purpose of this motion is to allow more flexibility if five members of the Board have already been elected in one year and, for example, a Board member resigned and needed to be replaced. If you do not have a copy of the Bylaws contact Lexie in the CCS office and one will be mailed to you.

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**2022-23 Board Sworn In**

The Christ Child Society Board for 2022-23 was officially sworn in at the Board Retreat on June 20. New Co-Presidents, Patti Banet and Sue Seall received their Presidents’ pins before presenting each new board member with a board pin.

The outgoing and incoming CCS boards participated in a retreat that day where they learned about the duties and responsibilities of the board and were presented with the tools needed to provide strong leadership for the coming year.

The retreat is an excellent way to welcome the new Board and thank the outgoing members. CCS is indebted to Mary Ann Chandler, Susan Coulter, Monique Deguara (who also retired as Co-President), Ruth Nieboer, Betsie Pendarvis and Elizabeth Van Doren for their service on the Board.

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Co- Presidents Sue Seall and Patti Banet

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Executive Board

- Co-Presidents  
  - Patti Banet  
  - Sue Seall
- President Elect  
  - Melissa Baltz
- Vice President (Fundraising)  
  - Lisa Smessaert
- Vice President (Membership)  
  - Kae Sobczyk
- Vice President (Clothing)  
  - TBA
- Vice President (Communications)  
  - Beth Barrett
- Board Secretary  
  - Karen Van Meter
- Treasurer  
  - Sue Kinnucan
Girl Scouts Support Foster Hope

Girl Scout Troop #52067 visited the Christ Child Center for a tour in May as they were beginning to work on one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting. To earn the Bronze Award, the girls must explore their community, decide on a project, make a plan of action, put the plan in motion, and spread the word. We are pleased and appreciative that they chose Foster Hope!

The troop placed donation boxes at local businesses, advertised on Facebook, and went door to door in their neighborhood, spreading the word about Foster Hope and the Christ Child Society. In July, they returned to the Center with a van stuffed full of what they collected: 102 full size toothpastes, 55 colorful loofahs, 99 boxes of crayons, markers, and colored pencils, 37 coloring books, Barbie dolls, Lego sets, chapter books, picture books, toys, and numerous bags of gently used clothing!

Thank you to Paddy Shack Ice Cream, Jimmy’s Pizza, and the Brendan Hills Subdivision for your support of the Girl Scouts and Foster Hope.

Congratulations to Carla, Hattie, Amelia, Ava, and Lucy for earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award! Special thanks go to 7-year-old Kate for contributing to the project even though she is too young to receive the award. Girl Scout Troop #52067 has certainly made a difference in their community!

The Best Gifts Are the Ones We Give Away

Christmas in July you might ask? It’s true! Co-President Sue Seall’s great group of friends would use any excuse to get together and share family photos and stories.

What would normally be a luncheon in December turned into a celebration in July, at the beautiful home of Donna and Don Kyle, on Diamond Lake. In the past, gifts were bought and shared but this year was different. Mutually agreed upon, they decided to donate to a favorite charity, The Christ Child Society.

They were all so happy to be able to give rather than receive that they decided to do it every year.

Making Lemonade

Victoria Karamon is a very generous 8-year-old girl. A student at St. Joseph Grade School, she decided to raise money in her hometown of Plymouth after learning about how Christ Child clothes children in need as well as provides for the basic needs and comfort of foster children.

Vivi took her First Communion gift money and asked her parents to buy supplies for a lemonade stand which she set up three times outside her church, St. Mary of the Lake in Culver. She also sold lemonade at Oliver Ford Lincoln in Plymouth where her father, Chuck, is a Sales Consultant. Her efforts resulted in the presentation of a check to Co-President Patti Banet for $1211.59 on August 16.

Children helping children – a wonderful way to love thy neighbor.

This page features creative ways to support The Christ Child Society’s mission. How can YOU help?

Giving Tuesday is November 29
Please donate to The Christ Child Society of South Bend through their Facebook Page or website
Do you think you know The Christ Child Society?

Here are some fun facts about the South Bend Chapter’s 75 year history that may surprise you!

The very first layette made by the new chapter was presented through Family Welfare to an infant born just after midnight on Christmas Day in 1947.

The first Annual Mass was held in St. Patrick’s Church the week after Christmas in celebration of the infant Christ Child. The Masses were celebrated by Fr. Szabo, the CCS Spiritual Advisor at the time. By 1952, the Mass was moved to the Spring for better attendance.

The South Bend Chapter founded a ‘School for Retarded Children’ in 1963 with classes held in St. Stephen School. The school closed when South Bend Schools began to offer special education a year later.

Mary Virginia Merrick received the Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame in 1915.

Starting in the Fall of 1951, CCS members answered Christmas letters written by local children. That year, 65 children received gifts they had requested.

In 1948, CCS held a membership meeting and tea in Stapleton Lounge of LeMans Hall at Saint Mary’s College. They were invited to return in 1955. College President Sr. Madeleva attended and spoke to the members. In the 50’s, Saint Mary’s students knitted baby clothes for The Christ Child Society.

One early project was providing First Communion dresses and suits. In 1950, 20 children proudly wore their special outfits from CCS.

As the Chapter searched for needs in the community in its early years, many pleas for help were received and answered. Among them were: providing 12 Christmas dinners for families in need; covering the hospital bill for a new mother; and providing bedding for a foster home, home supplies for victims of a fire and several baby cribs and mattresses for families in need.

In 1960, CCS donated money for cribs in the new Pediatric ward at St. Joseph Hospital.

The first CCS Center was opened in February of 1955, a 7-room apartment on Jefferson Blvd. It was later torn down and CCS moved to a location on Colfax.

Although the early Christmas Bazaars were held in members’ homes (the first was hosted by Jean Egan) they became so popular that they moved to St. Joseph’s Parish Hall in 1953 and then larger quarters in St. Anthony School Gym in 1957.

L.S. Ayres in the new Scottsdale Mall sponsored its first fashion show to benefit The Christ Child Society in 1974 at Notre Dame’s ACC.

South Bend has had two National CCS Presidents, Dorothy Chamblee (1998) and Vickie Riehl (1997).

Mrs. Ara (Kathleen) Parseghian and Mrs. Knute (Bonnie) Rockne were both members in the 50s to 60s.

The Certificate of Incorporation as a 501(c)3 was obtained in the summer of 1949 and bylaws were written with the help of member Grace Dempsey’s husband Ken. He was the Mayor of South Bend at the time.

A Fall Tea (changed to a Luncheon in 1965) is held in October near the feast of the Maternity of Mary because it tied in so well with the Christ Child.

Investigating Committees visited homes to assess need. For example, in 1964 members visited 42 families and provided clothing for 216 children. Agencies such as Public Welfare and Catholic Social Services also referred children.

In 1961 a Men’s Advisory Board was formed because, as the minutes noted, “CCS members faced up to the fact that it takes a man to handle their business affairs.” Times have changed!
More CCS Facts

The Christ Child Society was regularly featured in the South Bend Tribune Society pages. Several of the section’s front pages displayed pictures from the Christmas Bazaars and the Candlelight Balls. Notices of new Board Members, Teas and even Bazaar Committee meetings were published.

Puddy Crowley gathered 16 friends to found the South Bend Chapter in 1947. They all reached out to friends, who reached out to more friends. By 1948, there were 146 members.

Fr. Ted Hesburgh volunteered as a basketball coach at one of Mary Virginia Merrick’s Boys Clubs in Washington D.C. when he was a student at Catholic University. Just before his death, he made a video in support of Mary Virginia’s canonization.

Let Love Shine Celebrates 75th at The Armory

The annual major fundraiser, Let Love Shine, will be extra special this year as CCS looks back and celebrates 75 years of success in clothing under resourced children in our community. This year’s event will be held at The Armory on Thursday, November 10, 2022. The Armory, located at 727 South Eddy Street, features gorgeous brick walls, original hardwood floors, lavish chandeliers, and exposed ceilings. This one-of-a-kind venue is perfect for celebrating the history of this Chapter.

Please plan to support Christ Child by attending this special event. Consider purchasing a table for your family, friends or office team. Come see what The Christ Child Society is all about. This is a great way to share the story of how volunteers serve the children of St. Joseph County with clothing, books and educational support.

If you’re looking for a fun and an enlightening night out on the town, this dinner auction is your ticket! There will be several exciting premier and silent auction items including fun get-a-ways, local cultural experiences, culinary experiences, unique gift baskets, and the always popular Bubble Grab. There will also be remote bidding available for those unable to attend.

Invitations will be mailed by the end of September so be sure to get your reservations in early. Tickets are $120 per person which includes dinner and premium open bar. Please consider purchasing one of our available sponsorship packages and show your continued support and commitment to Christ Child’s future. Sponsor levels are from $10,000.00 to $100.00. For more information, please email info@christchildsb.org or contact Chairperson Lisa Smeesaert at (574) 340-5497. Email: Lisa@lisasmessaert.com.

Let Love Shine is a great way to celebrate CCS history. Come see how much Christ Child Society has grown in its mission over the past 75 years. This is only possible through the compassion and generosity of friends and supporters like you. Hope to see you there!

Support 2022 National Day of Service

Once again, the South Bend Chapter will participate in the National Christ Child Society Day of Service. This year’s focus is on imaginary characters and worlds, science fiction and technology, superheroes and everyday heroes, and stories in which wrongs are made right, problems are creatively solved, and the world becomes a better place for all.

You can help by buying books or supplies yourself or donating toward a purchase before October 12.

Purchase a book from the Christ Child South Bend NDS 2022 Amazon wish list (see www.christchildsb.org for link) or choose your own favorite book geared to ages preschool through 8th grade.

Purchase a box of Crayola12 colored pencils for the Creativity Packets.

Make a donation with a note indicating it is for NDS.
Gifts and Memorials

The Christ Child Society 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 by emailing info@christchildsb.org.

Special Occasion
Louise Anella - Retirement (Mary Wisniewski, Tami McNulty)
Andrea Balconis - Birthday (Diane Quinn)
Marie and Paul Brady (Ginny and Randy Jakubek)
Kris Falvo - 70th Birthday (Carol Nash)
Joan Jaworski - 100th Birthday (Joan Jaworski)
Fr. Tom Jones, C.S.C - Golden Jubilee (Marie Burt)
Rev. Jacob Meyer – In Honor (Marie Burt)
Don Napoli (Patricia Short)
Johanna and John Pairitz (Katherine Kegal, Nancy Pyck)
Tony and Mary Schimizzi - 50th Anniversary (Teresa Jermano)
Vicki Sleevi - in Honor (Sam Sleevi)
Bob and Barb Stahl - 60th Wedding Anniversary (Suzanne Cierzniak)
Earl and Nancy Vandygriff - 50th Anniversary (Joan Hardig)

In Memoriam
Pietro Agostino (Joan Hardig, Teresa Jermano)
Daniel Bencie (Marcia Blum)
Paul E. Brady Jr. (Mary Jane Horning, Joan Hardig, Joan Kanute, Timothy Balmat, Jean Mee, Theresa Miller, Peg Riggs, Mary Ann Randall, Margaret Claey, Melanie Chapleau, Nancy Pyck, Rita Keety, Maura Lanciotti, Denise Moyse, Diane Boehnlein, Jane Dietrich, Cindy Kentner, Robin Snyder, Sue Atwell)
John Butkovich (Louise Anella)
Ed Cherney (Marcia Blum)
Mary Pat Deputy (Joan Hardig)
Dan Dobrzykowski (Tricia Shafer)
Peggy Dotterweich (Marcia Blum)
Kevin Finegold (Donna Kyle)
Margareth Folding (Mary Wisniewski)
Kirsten Guenther (Deb Low)
Frank Hagan (Joan Hardig)
Pat Harrison (Deborah Harrison)
Fredric J. Hillebrand (Kathy Seidl, Denise Eversole, Sharon James, Sharon L. Emmert, Beth Barrett, Deb Low, Theresa Scott, Linda Hillebrand, Paula Balmer, Katy Maes, Ed Hornung)
Robert “Herby” Hintz (Kimberly Keultjes)
James Houk (Mary Wisniewski, Judith Kearns)
Mary Lou Houle (Sue Viau, Julie and Mark Ledogar, Roderick Demaso, Sue Stuever, Dale Tithof, Peg Riggs, Sharon James, Joan Fahey, Fran Langewisch, Rachel Toole, Michelle Stanley, Lauralee Schmitz, Cindy Krupp, Ann Schmiedeler, Cynthia Lawrence, Creekwood Villas Association, Sara Conroy, Connie McKay, Karen Van Meter, Judith Hilbrich, Donald Lutznerski, John L. Lehner, Kathy Seidl, Diane Quinn, Anonymous,

Deceased members
Winifred Farquhar Caponigrifi
Patricia Chodzinski
Fred Hillebrand
Rita North

Spouses
Paul E. Brady Jr.

Joan Hardig, Mary Wisniewski, Esther Cyr, Dianne Quinn, Mary Lou Derwent, Jennifer Miller, Patricia Crowley, Marie Burt, John Robert Blakey, Deanna Jenkins, Debra Low, Peg Riggs, Helga Jean, Roger Skurski

Mark Hurray (Carol Nash)
Patricia Janda (Mary Ann Randall)
Cathy Kearns (Joan Hardig)
Arnie Kempf (Marlene Martinec)
Dennis Kielton (Marie Burt, Sheila Emge)
Robert Klotz (Julie Zielinski)
Toni Kowalski (Mary Lou Cressy, Patricia Jordan, M. Carole Reverman)
Kenneth R. Kuester (Nancy Meyer, Judith Kuzmich, Suzanne Wiwi, Martha Moriconi, Kathy Seidl, Diane Quinn)
Lois Laatsch (Marcia Blum)
Eugene Ladowski (Marie Burt)
Ralph Makowski (Martha Moriconi)
Helen Manley (Carol Holt)
Donnalee Markiewicz (Patricia Paschke, Antoinette Pizuka)
June Martinez (Marlene Martinec)
Charlie McCullough (Marcia Blum)
Judy Miller (Marie Burt)
Ann Molenda (Junior League of South Bend, Inc.)
Marco Moreno (Marcia Blum)
Dennis Nemeth (Peg Riggs)
Rita North (Sharon James, Sherry North, Cindy Blinski, Patricia Flowers, Susan Boyd, Esther Cyr, Cathy Staley, Jeffrey North, Rolande Parent, Mary Jane Horning, Lola Patalach, Sandy Smith, Sheila Emge, Jean Fuehrmeyer, Joan Hardig, Beverly Brunee, Erin VanDieren, Carol Bauer)
Dr. Patrick O’Malley (Marie Burt)
Lucy Parish (Peg Riggs, Joan Hardig, Bette O’Malley)
Phoebe Patton (Maureen Cahir)
Gerry Quinn (Andrea Balconis)
Anna Romeo (Sara Zappia)
Dorothy Rowland (Creekwood Villas Association)
Kim Sandy (Carol Jacquy)
Rosemary Schmiedeler (Ann Schmiedeler)
David Schrader (Diane Boehnlein)

THE GUARDIAN ANGELS
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. These Angels are remembered monthly and each year at the annual Mass.

Members and spouses may pre-enroll in the program and will be officially enrolled upon their deaths. All names are recorded on a plaque at the Christ Child Society.

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

John Simon (Peg Riggs)
Leonard Sobecki (Esther Cyr, Joan Blitz)
Jim Spencer (Jean Mee, Suzanne Wiwi)
Joan Stanley (Helga Jean)
Charlie Susano (Sheila Emge)
Sue Suver (Sandi Gorski)
Thomas Swartz (Nancy Kromkowski)
Thomas Turnock (Maureen Cahir)
Craig VandenBoschke (JoAnn Axellberg)
Brian Watts (Darlene Heck)
Peggy Weber (Joan Hardig)
Jerry Wray (Catherine Lower, Anonymous, Nick Lebbin, Barb Finch, Kathleen Smeri, Mary Ann Clark, Patricia Bilello, Ann Marie Szymanski, Lucy Cannata, Lynn Konopinski, Sherry Pinter, Paul Saksa, Amy Curtis)
Lorraine Yocum (Mary Beth Aldrich)

The Fall Membership Luncheon & Meeting

Thursday, October 13 at the Morris Park Country Club

Cost: $30
Get your reservation in today!

Contact Lexie at info@christchildsb.org or 574 288 6028 for more information
Finally, we could have a community Open House. What better time to reflect back to the beginning...

Walking through our Center on Miracle Lane, all we can do is smile and pinch ourselves! Over 3 years ago, we had the daunting task of trying to find a suitable new space to move into as our lease at St. Pat’s was expiring.

In trying to determine how big a space we’d need and how it would be arranged, all departments were asked to submit a ‘wish list’ of what they’d like to have. Some members even submitted ‘fantasies.’ On August 5, 2019, a list was compiled (a very abbreviated list is below). Who would have guessed in their wildest dreams that we would be so blessed to have it all – and then some! Miracles do happen!

**NEW CENTER NEEDS/WANTS**

**INTAKE-COMPUTER ROOM**
- Five+ work stations, desks for volunteer, space for individual clients to sit, space for printer
- Closet for supplies (either in this room or nearby)

**LAYETTES**
- Long table space/work station to assemble layette items
- Storage area (for boxes of clothing & also storage for prepared Layette Bags)

**SHOES**
- Shelving for New shoes and Used shoes & boots
- Work space for volunteers to conduct inventory/do paperwork

**NEW CLOTHING**
- Adequate spacing for staging sorted clothing: pairs of underwear, socks, toddler outfits, toddler pjs, jeans, T-shirts, sweatshirts, khakis, sweatpants, teddy bears, with separate sections for boys and girls items
- A table to unpack shipping cartons

**COATS**
- Space for racks to hang boys and girls coats (by size/gender)
- Space for wire racks filled with sorted hats, gloves/mittens, scarves (by size/gender)
- Countertop to take off tags from hats, gloves/mittens, scarves

**USED CLOTHING**
- Area to sort donated clothing (Presently using 2 long tables that seat 16 members)
- Space for orders/bags that are filled and ready to be given to clients
- EXTRA cabinets or storage
- Bins to store items needing washing
- Washer/dryer

**LIBRARY**
- Area for shelves for book storage
- Book display area so clients could pick out age appropriate books

**STORAGE and MORE STORAGE!**
- Need space to park empty hampers, flat carts, and 2-wheel dollies
- Need space to store cabinet filled with office supplies

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**FANTASIES FULFILLED!**

Combine Break Room/Kitchen & Board Room/Meeting Room & Volunteer Work Room into a greeting room for members. If everyone is working on their projects in one designated area, the members might be more willing to help out in other areas and they will get to know each other! Nice restrooms for volunteers and clients.

A delivery door with a dock near storage space.
Clothing Distribution Season Opens with Record Numbers!

The month of August was a very busy one at the Clothing Center. During the 7 open days, over 1200 children received new coats, clothing and shoes! The volunteers can’t wait to see what the Fall brings.

We need volunteers!

Join the happy CCS team on Wednesday mornings (8-11:00), Thursday evenings (4-6:00) or Sunday afternoons (1-3:00)!
Contact info@christchildsb.org for details

Save the Date!
Let Love Shine 2022
November 10 at the Armory
see page 5 for details