



October/November 2020

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY® OF CLEVELAND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your phone calls, your participation, and most importantly, your prayers. We feel it working as the Holy Spirit guides our volunteers forward in a new, positive direction every day.

I would like to share a passage from the biography of our foundress, Mary Virginia Merrick, as I feel there is a significant correlation to the challenges we face today.

Although deeply saddened at the passing of her parents, Mary Virginia Merrick benefited from the intellectually charged atmosphere of her home. Soon she was inspired to begin writing religion textbooks designed specifically for young children. A pattern was developing in Mary's life that was to become the unofficial motto of the Christ Child Society, "To see a need is to fill it."

The buzzword that comes to mind in the day of the COVID-19 pandemic is "pivot" – the need for us to be able to change direction based on whatever circumstances we face. As we strive to realize our mission to **Challenge Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland**, we know the pandemic has increased the need for the very services we provide. To meet this need, we have had to "pivot" – change the way we deliver our programs and services. Since we are unable to go into school libraries or Head Start classrooms, small groups of volunteers are meeting at our office to sort through 5,000 donated books to distribute to children at churches and social service agencies. Since agency representatives cannot come into our office, we meet them at the curb to hand them layettes, portable cribs, and "My Stuff" bags. Our volunteers are working at the Shoes and Clothes for Kids warehouse packing uniforms that are now being distributed curbside. We are pivoting, and like Mary Virginia Merrick, "we see a need and fill it," doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

It is vital to us that you, our members, know how important you are to our chapter. We want you to know that we welcome any ideas you may have – please share them with us. We welcome your participation with open arms, in whatever way you would like to contribute. If you are unable to physically participate, we welcome prayers for our volunteers and their families, as we are praying for you. Finally, please pray for the children and the families we serve, many who have been hit especially hard by COVID-19.

The Starlight Soiree, our 69th annual gala, will be held **virtually** on November 13, 2020. We ask for your support, as this fundraising event generates over 50% of our annual revenue. Read about our plans in this newsletter, then watch your mail and email for additional information...and please share this opportunity with your friends. Together we can further our mission to **Challenge Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland**.

God Bless,
Mary Herrick



CCS CLE NEWS!

News You Need To Know **NOW!**

October 9, 2020 **Inaugural Clam Bake**
6-10 pm
Lakeside Yacht Club
4851 North Marginal
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
\$75 per person
Any questions contact
Mary Cay McConnell

October 14, 2020 **Executive Committee Meeting**
via Zoom at 9:30 am

Oct. 25-31, 2020 **National Christ Child Society**
"Day of Service"
Watch for details!

November 11, 2020 **Executive Committee Meeting**
via Zoom at 9:30 am

November 13, 2020 **Starlight Soiree**
See information in this issue

November 18, 2020 **Board Meeting**
at 9:30 am
Format and/or location
to be determined

December 2, 2020 **Provisional Christmas Party**

December 6, 2020 **Christmas Book Sunday**



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES October/November 2020

NEW VOLUNTEER PROTOCOL:** Due to the Coronavirus situation, in order to enforce safe distancing restrictions at CCS volunteer sites, ***please know you must contact the project chair listed below to confirm your participation. The number of volunteers will be limited due to space concerns. Masks are also strongly recommended and may be required at certain locations. Thank you for your cooperation and know we greatly appreciate your time and talent and all you do for the Christ Child Society!

Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30
October 5 and November 2
Contact: **Carla Calevich**

Euclid-St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Fourth Thursday, 9:00-12:00 - *No sewing until further notice.* Sewers may call Andrea Dean for fabric.
Contact: **Andrea Dean**

Independence Sewing Group

Second Wednesday & Thursday, 10:00-2:00
No sewing until further notice.
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00
No reading until further notice
Contact: **Carol Janas**

"My Stuff" (Note the new day)

Tuesday, October 15 and Thursday, November 11
10:00-12:00
Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

First and Third Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00
No reading until further notice
Contact: **Sharon Skotko** and **Sharon Harwat**

Portable Crib Team

First and Third Tuesdays, 10:00-12:30
Contact: **Sheila Gulick**

St. Francis Library

During the school year
Tuesday 9:30-2:00/Wednesday 9:30-2:30
Reading limited at this time
Contact: **Lynn McMahan**

St. Rocco Library

During the school year Monday 8:30-12:00
Reading limited at this time
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Showcase

Shifts available Tuesdays – Saturday
11:00-2:00/ 11:00-4:00/ 12:00-4:00
Contact: **Mary Jane (MJ) Miller**

***Contact information can be found in our Chapter roster.**



The September General Business Meeting was held by Zoom call. Knowing many members were unable to participate and wanting everyone to be informed of our committee activities, we present this Chapter and Verse "Special Edition." Please contact committee chairs if you wish to participate.

STARLIGHT SOIREE

While we will not be able to celebrate the annual gala in person, "the show must go on," and **Chairman Kate Toma** and her committee are hard at work making plans for a spectacular Soiree, despite COVID-19! The virtual event will be broadcast on November 13 from 7:00-7:30 p.m. The always awesome Silent Auction will be available for what we hope will be some spirited bidding from November 9-16. We will be celebrating our Persons of the Year, Karen and John Kirk.

EVENTS

Chairman Karen Kirk and her team hosted a very successful "Evening on the Lake" at the Cleveland Yachting Club on August 26. The capacity crowd (according to COVID-19 policy standards) enjoyed music, dining, and great conversation, as well as a raffle that included a Peter & Co. Jewelers \$250 gift certificate. The committee is currently planning a clam bake at Lakeside Yacht Club on October 9.

SHOWCASE

Chairman Kathy Cole reports that our resale shop continues to successfully operate with a totally volunteer staff. Monthly profits have averaged nearly \$3,000. Since Salvation Army is no longer picking up donations, we have chosen to pass along items we cannot use to Edna House, St. Herman's, West Side Catholic Center, Zelig's Home, and Goodwill. All items have been very gratefully received!

DEVELOPMENT/GRANT WRITING

Chairman Meg Kearns has submitted grant applications to support "My Stuff" Bags to the Murphy Family Foundation, the Thomas C. and Sandra S. Sullivan Foundation, and the Greater Cleveland Dental Society Association. Meg reports the Christ Child Society now has a profile on the Cleveland Foundation's website. In addition, our #wegivecatholic page has been updated in anticipation of Giving Tuesday on December 1, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS/PR/SOCIAL MEDIA

Chairman Katie Camaglia has been busy trying to ruin our chapter's reputation as "the best kept secret" in Cleveland. She sent a letter to our new bishop, introducing him to our chapter. Ads have been placed in the Northeast Ohio Catholic Magazine and Currents. She has discussed a potential partnership with a senior marketing student at Franciscan University, in Steubenville, Ohio, to present a fundraising event to benefit "My Stuff." Finally, Katie has recruited 8 members to help establish a marketing/publicity plan for the next two years.



BOOK PROJECT

In preparation for our 2nd Annual Christmas Book Giveaway, **Sue Simon** has been at our office directing small groups of women who are patiently sorting through a very large holiday book donation from the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. Books are separated by type/reading level – picture books, early reader, easy chapter, middle school, and adult. The books are adorned with a Christ Child Society of Cleveland sticker, and then boxed for easy transport and distribution. As of mid-September, over 1,700 Christmas books have been processed.

NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Meg Kearns is organizing "Energize. Inspire. Engage: Expanding our Reach," Christ Child's 2020 National Day of Service. Our chapter will be creating a "Virtual Story Hour." Members will choose a children's book, then read it on video using the video feature on their phone or computer. All the videos will be uploaded to YouTube, and the link to these videos will be distributed to the schools and agencies we serve. The idea is for the "Story Hour" video to be shown during National Service Week, October 25-31.

CHILDREN'S CLOSET

Chairman Janie Nickodem and her team have been busy caring for the needs of children in many ways.

Beds Chairman Arlene McNamara reports that although deliveries were slow during the summer months due to lack of inventory and Covid-19, the need is starting to become more apparent. Families are asked to wear masks and social distance during deliveries.

Cribs Chairman Sheila Gulick reports that six children have received a portable crib. Eleven volunteers unpacked 122 portable cribs and 100 sheets and moved them to a storage facility. The program now has an inventory of 216 portable cribs and 222 sheets.

Winter Coats Chairmen Carole Moran and Jo Ann Nally are looking forward to lots of activity in the days ahead. The shipment of coats will arrive soon. This year, 584 toddler/preschool coats will be distributed to 20 agencies.

School Uniforms Chairman Loraine Wancata reports that 15 Christ Child volunteers, working alongside volunteers from Shoes and Clothes for Kids, packed uniforms and other supplies to benefit 2,000 children in the Cleveland area.

LAYETTES

Chairman Carla Calevich, along with 34 volunteers, kept the LAYETTES Program running smoothly during July and August. Hundreds of blankets were sewn. Thirteen agencies happily received orders to serve 354 babies!

ST. FRANCIS LIBRARY

During July and August, **Chairman Lynn McMahon** and a small group of masked volunteers were able to go into the school to check-in returned books from last spring and complete an abbreviated inventory. New books were added to the library and preparations were made for a family book giveaway during orientation week. To begin the school year, Preschoolers will be attending school in-person. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will have the option of in-person or remote learning. Grades 2-8 will all be remote. Library time will be available for students in the building.

ST. ROCCO LIBRARY

Chairman Laura Cengic reports that while students returned to school on September 10, the library at St. Rocco School will not be functioning until it is safe for visitors to return. She will reevaluate in November or December for a possible library reopening in January, 2021.

MERRICK HOUSE

The eighteen students at Merrick House will benefit from the efforts of **Chairman Carol Janas**. She has been in contact with the preschool's lead instructor and is planning a remote program. She will be helping students build their home libraries by giving each student 10 books throughout the course of the year, beginning with *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* In addition, each child will receive a folder of "take home projects" to accompany the book.

PARKVIEW HEAD START

Chairman Sharon Skotko reports that volunteers are currently not permitted in the building. Nonetheless, she has kept the literacy program moving forward by providing books (*Green Eggs and Ham*) for teachers to read with their students. She is also busy preparing activity packets, and soon, each student will receive a new book of his/her own along with the activity packet for home use. There has been discussion of possible Zoom sessions with our volunteers reading to the students. Currently, 40 students are enrolled.

"MY STUFF"

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, **Chairman Kathy Moehring and Co-Chairman Rose Dziak** packed all the bags in July. Distribution took several days, as the bags had to be carried down to the social workers' cars. In August, eight volunteers were able to join in packing bags and restocking inventory. Since many social workers were not able to make home visits, agencies on the "My Stuff" wait list were offered bags.

MEMBERSHIP

This has been a very busy couple of months for **Chairman Carol Fondran**. As of September 6, our chapter's membership stands at 342, which includes life members. Carol hopes to have the new rosters mailed by the end of September.

NEWSLETTER

We welcome **Cathy Harbinak** as the new Chapter and Verse Chairman. **Kate Toma** will remain involved in formatting and printing each edition.

PROVISIONALS

COVID-19 cancelled the annual provisional bus tour. Plan B was a gathering, complete with social distancing, at the Jesuit Retreat Center. **Chairman Kathy Bush** reports that ten of this year's provisional class participated in the meeting. President Mary Herrick gave a brief overview of the organization, and project chairs described their work and explained how the provisionals can contribute. The event concluded with members and provisionals getting to know each other over lunch.

SPECIAL EDITION

ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT TO BENEFIT CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Starlight Soirée

Virtual Charity Event Broadcast on

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

7:00-7:30PM

Cleveland History Center

30 minute broadcast will be available to watch on

www.christchildscleveland.org



HONORING

Karen & John Kirk

2020 PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Karen and John have been blessed with opportunities to contribute time, talent and treasures to many organizations and causes. Karen currently serves as the Events Chairman on the Board of Directors for the Christ Child Society of Cleveland. Congratulations to Karen and John Kirk, Christ Child Society of Cleveland 2020 Persons of the Year. Complete bio on our website.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Silent Auction • Raffles • Sponsorships • Donations

www.christchildscleveland.org

PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE

\$5,000 Cash Raffle

1 ticket for \$25 • 5 tickets for \$100

Jewelry Raffle

1 ticket for \$50 • 3 tickets for \$100

*Raffle tickets available until November 16.

**Drawing will be held November 17
on Facebook Live**

Sponsorships/Donations

Please consider becoming a sponsor or making a donation. Sponsorships and donation form is available online

Silent Auction

Silent Auction will be available on our website November 9-16, 2020.

Silent Auction is open to all.

Congratulations to Two Chapter Members

On behalf of the entire Cleveland Christ Child Chapter, we congratulate **Susan Ferraro Smith** on her appointment as Director-at-Large on the National Christ Child Society Board. Susan has had a memorable month as she is not only a new member to the National Board but recently published her first book, *Joyful Possibilities*.

We also thank and acknowledge **Mary Beth Baucio** for her service to the Cleveland Chapter and as a Past President for the National Christ Child Society. Marybeth served eight years on the NCCS Board. We're looking forward to having her back to help us further the mission of our Chapter.



CALLING ALL READERS!! NCCS NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

This year's National Day of Service event will be held during the week of October 25-31. This year's theme is: **"Energize • Inspire • Engage: Expanding our Reach"**. The goal of this theme is to encourage chapters to customize an event around an existing program or an unfilled need in their community.

This year, the idea for the Cleveland Chapter's National Day of Service is **"Virtual Story Hour"**. Because, at this time, we are unable to directly interact with children, and are as a Society, completing our regular programs and fundraising efforts while practicing physical distancing, we are going virtual with the National Day of Service.

We are looking for members willing to read a children's book – of your choosing – on video. The videos will be uploaded to YouTube and titled, for example – "Christ Child Society of Cleveland reads *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*." Links to the videos will be distributed to the schools and agencies with whom we work. We would like a minimum of 10 books recorded so that the schools can show two each day if they choose.

How it works –record your book using the video feature on your phone or your computer. Also, have someone in your household take a photo of you reading the book so that we can send the photos with our report to National.

Send the completed video and photo – using Dropbox – to **Meg Kearns** no later than October 15. The videos will be uploaded to YouTube and a list of links will be compiled to be sent to the agencies and schools. Please contact Meg if you have any questions.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Honored by
Shoes and Clothes for Kids



Shoes and Clothes for Kids held its 15th Annual Night @ the Shoreby on July 28, 2020. This year's event, held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, also celebrated SC4K's 50th anniversary. The Christ Child Society of Cleveland has worked alongside SC4K to provide uniform packages to elementary school children for the past five years. During the event, Christ Child Society President, **Mary Herrick** and Immediate Past President, **Cathy Caruso** were presented with the Allan C. Krulak Golden Shoe Award for our involvement and dedication to making sure children in need are equipped to attend school. It is because of you, our members, that we received this recognition. Your volunteer time, support, and boundless love for children give us the opportunity to partner with SC4K and make a difference.

Evening-on-the Lake

The Second Annual Evening-on-the-Lake fundraiser was held at the Cleveland Yachting Club on August 26 and while smaller than last year, was still a sellout. Dinner, music, drinks and a raffle complimented the lovely facility and contributed to another successful Christ Child Fundraiser. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of **Karen and John Kirk** as Christ Child's 2020 Persons of the Year.

Yet again, the coronavirus impacted the evening by limiting the number of attendees, altering the physical arrangements, and requiring masks and social distancing. The Cleveland Yachting Club promised and followed strict Covid-19 safety precaution.

***Masks were briefly removed for these photos.**



Showcase is Ready for Fall Sales

After a great deal of work by many volunteers, Showcase is open and ready for fall sales. The floor is filled with a wide variety of fall clothing, including dresses, tops, jackets, pants and coats. The Bag Sale was a huge success with loyal customers who helped clear the racks for the fall items. Our customers waited outside following Covid-19 protocols as the number of customers had to be limited.



Installation Mass for 2019 Provisionals

Delayed for several months due to the coronavirus, the Installation Mass for the Christ Child 2019 Provisionals was held on July 22, at the Jesuit Retreat House, which just completed a renovation. The twenty-two members of this class and their sponsors gathered for a memorable, but smaller than normal, installation and lunch. Father Ralph Wiatrowski celebrated Mass.

Our newest Christ Child Society members are **Ann Marie Baylor, Ellen Becks, Grace Blazak, Stephanie Byrne, Lind Cochran, Nancy Czupik, Carol Fondran, Kathy Gottschick, Cathy Harbinak, Linda Kacenjar, Laura Labak, Joan Mayer, Maura McLinden, Paula O'Connor, Karen Rebholz, Patricia Seifet, Darlene Thomas, Karen Tinley, Kimberly Veras, Loraine Wancata** and **June Zeszut**.



***Masks were briefly removed for this photo.**

Saint Dominic's Sewing Group

The sounds of a sewing machine humming and volunteers chatting as they sew blankets for children will no longer be coming from a St. Dominic School's classroom. After 58 years, the St. Dominic's Sewing Group has closed up shop. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who participated in this project over the years.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve." **Irene Chalko** was a member of the Christ Child Society and served for 51 years sewing blankets at St. Dominic's. She is now 95 years old and definitely is an expert at sewing blankets for layettes. She and others were given a vacant classroom at St. Dominic School in 1962 by Father Arthur Gallagher. Every third Tuesday the ladies would meet to sew. Irene also enlisted the help of a bridge group to sew blankets. When necessary, she would pick up a sewer and take her to St. Dominic's so she could sew with the group.

Members like Irene and all those who made blankets for nearly six decades at St. Dominic's exemplify the greatness of the Christ Child Society. After all these years Irene still believes, "It's one of the best things you could ever do!" As the St. Dominic sewing group ends, we remember all the great ladies who served the Christ Child Society making blankets.



Annual Uniform Distribution

Due to Covid-19, the annual back to school uniform program was revised day by day. Our friends at Shoes and Clothes for Kids did a tremendous job adjusting to all the changes. Instead of packing for each individual child, we packed supplies in bulk for the agencies to distribute.

Volunteers began on Friday, August 21, and worked for the following three Fridays. There was only one shift from 10 a.m. to noon with a limit of six volunteers per shift. SC4K was also involved in several other outreach programs for children during this pandemic and our volunteers assisted in those efforts, as well.



**Masks were briefly removed for this photo.*

CRIB DELIVERY DAY!

On a hot August day, eleven volunteers, including family members, unpacked 122 portable cribs and 100 sheets and moved them to a storage facility. Any member wishing to assist with the Portable Cribs Program is more than welcome! Help is needed in distributing the portable cribs on the first and third Tuesday or Thursday of each month. Adjusting to the Covid-19 environment, we meet the social workers curbside where they place the portable crib in their trunk. If interested, please contact **Sheila Gulick**. Thank you!



Remembrance/Endowment Report

July 1 - September 5, 2020

Memory

Dean Brunner
Irene A. Campbell (21)
Elsie Casey
Eddie Graskemper
Jeffrey B. Graves (154)
John Ivanek

John Korsnak
Thomas Leonti, Sr. (10)
The Honorable Ralph A.
McAllister (5)
Mamel Moallemi
Robert Nickodem, Sr. (5)

Margaret Parkins
Jean Patterson
Julie A. Paulus (25)
Thomas Platten
Marianne Saraparré
Helen Ruth Smith (11)

Honor

Lia Augoustidis- Happy Birthday
Irene Chalko-Happy Birthday
Carole Moran-Congratulations on receiving the Mary Virginia Merrick Award
Cathy LaPorte-Happy Birthday

In Our Thoughts

Anne Marie Baylor on the death of her mother, Louise Kulmatycki
Carolyn Duprow on the deaths of her husband, Frederick and brother-in-law, Rick Nawrockie
Julie Dzuban on the death of her son, Fred
Family of Rosemary Harrison
Family of Carole Ann Mancini
Rosemary McAllister on the death of her husband, The Honorable Ralph A. McAllister
Terri Parker on the death of her father, Thomas J. Leonti, Sr.
Family of Jean Patterson
Family of Julie Ann Paulus
Family of Helen Ruth Smith
Goldie Weiss on the death of her husband, Louis J. Weiss

Please notify the Christ Child office regarding deaths of CCS members or their immediate family members.

Send Remembrance/Endowment checks to:

Christ Child Society of Cleveland,
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300,
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Masses for Christ Child members, living and deceased and their families are:

Monday, October 26, 2020 at noon
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at noon

Online Remembrance Giving available on our website at christchildsocietycleveland.org

Donations July 1-September 5	\$10,405.00
TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR	\$10,405.00



Christ Child Society of Cleveland

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

www.christchildsocietycleveland.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by October 1st.

Articles for the Newsletter

Please contact **Cathy Harbinak** if you have any special needs or volunteer requests for the newsletter.
Articles for the Dec/Jan issue will be due by Thursday, November 12.

Mary Herrick
President

Paula Conrad
President-Elect

Julie Jerdonek
Service VP

Kathy Michael
Organization VP

Marsha Gleine
Recording Secretary

Liz Niehaus
Corresponding Secretary

Denise Shafer
Financial Secretary

Mary Jo Dailey
Endowment/
Remembrance

Cathy Harbinak
Newsletter Editor

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski
Spiritual Advisor