



March/April 2020

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY[®]

OF CLEVELAND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Class of 2020,

March is an exciting month as we gather for the installation of our 22 new members at the cathedral and honoring milestone anniversaries at our luncheon on the same day.

I simply want to say welcome. Welcome to our Class of 2020, you are a terrific group of ladies and we are excited to call you members.

Fondly,
Cathy Caruso

JOIN US WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 AT THE

Installation Mass & Legacy Celebration

On March 25th we will install 22 women into CCS. These women have worked diligently to fulfill their requirements for membership and will add many gifts and talents to offer the CCS. Please join in welcoming these new member:

WE ARE PLEASED TO INSTALL THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONALS AS MEMBERS:

Ann Marie Baylor	Nancy Czupik	Linda Kacenjar	Paula O'Connor	Karen Tinley
Ellen Becks	Carol Fondran	Laura Labak	Karen Rebholz	Kimberly Veras
Grace Blazak	Kathy Gottschick	Joan Mayer	Patricia Seifert	Loraine Wancata
Stephanie Byrne	Cathleen Harbinak	Maura McLinden	Darlene Thomas	June Zesztut
Linda Cochran	Diane Joeright			

WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR MEMBERSHIPS:

55 Year Ditz, Kathryn Sheehan, Linda	35 Year Brinn, Mary Resek, Joyce M.	20 Year Dodge, Josephine E. Dvorak, Audrey Fox, Ginny Fox, Linda M. Gorris, Annette L. Hartzell, Gail A. McAuliffe, Joan Scarcella, Donna M. Toma, Jane	10 Year Anker, Diane Broski, Donna M. Busacca, Joanne Cengic, Laura Dolega, Kathleen A. Karam, Mary Kenney, Susan Kaye Krinsky, Peggy Lamb, Jo Ann McNamara, Arlene R. O'Shaughnessy, Colleen Palisin, Marilyn J. Pavlick, Mary Jane Steiner, Lynn A. Svihlik, Diane	Szabo, Mary Varley, Lorene Welsh, Patricia A.
45 Year Hubman, Sheila Rini, C. Carlene Rini, Eileen	30 Year Burger, Therese M. Duprow, Carolyn E. Dziak, Rosemary P. Gibel, Marilyn Johns, Barbara K. Kelly, Donna Kinner, Connie Murray, Polly	15 Year Culp, Margaret M. McHale, Kathleen M. Nickodem, Janie Niehaus, Elizabeth M. Pieschalski, Iris		5 Year Ansel, Marge Conover, Andrea D'Amato, Kathy Gleine, Marsha A. Knepp, Denise Rallo, Peggy Rydzewski, Marlene R. Salvatore, Nancy Simon, Susan Suchma, Marlene K.
40 Year Chylik, Pat Farrall, Ann S. LaPorte, Kathy Leiden, Dolores Palsa, Doris	25 Year Dailey, Mary Jo Gibel, Kathy Kealy, Carole F.			

CCS CLE NEWS!

News You Need To Know

NOW!

- March 11, 2020** Provisional Informational Coffee at our office
- March 25, 2020** Installation Mass/Legacy Luncheon Cathedral of St. John in Cleveland
Legacy Luncheon at Crowne Plaza (Playhouse Square)
- May 4, 2020** Provisional Bus Tour
- May 27, 2020** Red Wagon Luncheon at Embassy Suites Independence
- June 24, 2020** Spring Business Meeting
Installation of new Officers
Luncheon at the Acacia Reservation
- July 22, 2020** Day of Reflection at St Barnabas

PROVISIONAL INFORMATIONAL COFFEE

On March 11 we will host an Informational Coffee at 10:00 in our office on Detroit Avenue. Please help us recruit anyone you feel would enjoy hearing about our organization and our mission of serving children. If you have any questions or would like a formal invitation mailed, please contact **Jane Donovan**. Our Provisional Bus Tour for those who make application will be May 4. Please encourage your friends to apply before that date

Keep an eye out

Currents Magazine February 2020 Issue devoted an article to showcase "Women Who Are Difference Makers." Look for the story about our President **Cathy Caruso** and President-Elect **Mary Herrick**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

March - April 2020

Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30
March 2, April 6, May 4
Contact: **Jean Boldt**

Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Fourth Thursday, 9:00-12:00
March 26, April 23, May 28
Contact: **Andrea Dean**

Grandmothers' Program Merrick House

Note: Volunteers must wear socks.
Contact: **Stephanie West**

Shaker Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group

Third Tuesday, 10:00-12:00
March 17, April 21 and May 19
No sewing June-August
Contact: **Irene Chalko**

Independence Sewing Group

Second Wed. & Thurs., 10:00-2:00
March 11 and 12, April 15 and 16, May 13 and 14
No sewing June-August
August Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays 9:30-11:00
March 3 and 17, April 7 and 21 and May 5 and 19
Contact: **Stephanie West**

"My Stuff" Packing

Third Monday, 10:00-12:00
March 16, April 20, May 18
Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

First and Third Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00
March 3 and 17, April 7 and 21 and May 5 and 19
Contact: **Marsha Gleine** or **Sharon Skotko**

St. Francis Library

During the school year Tue: 9:30-2:00 / Wed: 9:30-2:30
January 7 until May 6
Contact: **Anne Mooney**

St. Rocco Library

During the school year Mon: 8:30-12:00
January 13 until May 18
Contact: **Paula Conrad**

Showcase

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday:
11:00-2:00 / 11:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00
Contact: **Marge Ansel**

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

“My Stuff” Distribution Breaks Record this Year

The “My Stuff” program, unique to the Christ Child Society Cleveland Chapter, provides comfort to children in crisis by caring for them with a colorful bag packed with much needed clothing and toiletries. Every month local social workers are faced with housing distressed families suddenly taken from their homes and call for help from us. Many children find themselves entering safe shelters with nothing but what they were dressed in.

Since 1993, the Christ Child Society of Cleveland’s office has been busy packing “My Stuff” Bags on the third Monday of every month. Under the current leadership of Chairperson **Kathy Moehring** and Co-chair **Rose Dziak**, the process begins with 14 different agency representatives who in advance request their desirable monthly needs...respectively asking for gender and size specific bags for their children.



On packing day, volunteers take their places around high top tables portioned off by piles of seasonal play clothes, underwear and socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, deodorant, crayons and coloring books, markers and composition notebooks, flash cards and even small cuddly blankets for the wee ones. These bags are designed individually by gender for sizes 3T to XL. The office atmosphere is filled with love for children as you hear the workers gush over the adorable outfits. A most efficient assembly line packs 150-170 bags in about an hour. With size and gender plainly marked, bags are counted and gathered according to the social workers’ requests and staged for that afternoon’s pickup. The overstuffed colorful bags jamb pack the reps’ cars and it is quite a lovely site to see! Finally, the last task of the day is to restock the barren shelves of underwear, toiletries and school supplies and make ready for the following month’s packing day.



The “My Stuff” service project includes the No-Sew blanket duty. This offers an opportunity for volunteers to sit and make blankets while they log their service hours. Fleece fabric bolts are precisely measured and cut to a 36”x28” squares. Blanket edges are “fringed” by cutting strips that are pushed through a strategically placed small hole. To subsidize the blanket inventory, several area churches and high school students donate their time making blankets as service projects and add over 250 blankets per year to our inventory.

Mr. Alan Silverman, who was honored as our “2018 Person of the Year,” offers his volume buying power with his vendors and passes the savings on to us for the underwear and the socks needed. He has been immensely helpful for decades. Local grants and contributions have especially deferred the cost for toothbrushes and toothpaste. The generosity of our members continues as soap bars are being supplied on a regular basis.

Our Community Assessment Study this past year confirmed the social workers’ dire requests for more “My Stuff” Bags. Last year, a total of 1,700 were distributed. This year, the demand is approaching 2,000. Since 2016, the need has increased by 40 percent. Presently, there are 4 additional inner-city agencies waiting to benefit from the “My Stuff” program. This service project exemplifies that we believe in challenging poverty, one child at a time.

Join and support the “My Stuff” service project. The next packing day is March 16th at 10:00 AM at the CCS office.



Installation Mass & Legacy Brunch

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

A DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Installation Mass

Celebrated at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
East 9th & Superior Avenue

Legacy Brunch

Immediately following Mass
Crowne Plaza at Playhouse Square
1260 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland

Please join us for these wonderful events as we welcome the newest Christ Child members and honor those who are marking membership anniversaries.

PLEASE NOTE: Free valet parking is available at the Crowne Plaza. The hotel will offer shuttle service from the hotel to the cathedral and back. Parking at the cathedral is not included.

No separate invitation will be mailed.

LEGACY BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Reservation Deadline: Monday, March 16th

Reservations can be made online at: christchildsocietycleveland.org/legacy-brunch

Payment must accompany reservation form

Please Reserve: ___ Tickets @ \$40 each

___ Silver Patron @ \$60 (\$20 tax deductible) ___ Gold Patron @ \$85 (\$45 tax deductible)

I cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Phone: _____

Seating Requests (Tables of 8) Indicate Member (M), Guest (G), Other Chapter (O), Provisional (P)

List your name and the names of those you have confirmed will be sharing your table.

Incomplete tables will be filled with other Christ Child members and their guests.

1. _____ M G O P 2. _____ M G O P

3. _____ M G O P 4. _____ M G O P

5. _____ M G O P 6. _____ M G O P

7. _____ M G O P 8. _____ M G O P

_____ **I have no seating preference** _____ **I prefer the vegetarian option**

Checks made payable to the Christ Child Society
MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name: _____

Account Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail reservation form with payment to:
Christ Child Society, 7901 Detroit Ave., Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102
Attn: Legacy Luncheon

Remembrance/Endowment Report

December 18 - February 19, 2020

Memory

Rita D'Agostino Josephine Palumbo
Jean Castele Frank Petrancek
Dolores Cengic (3) Abigail Sammon
Alba Graziano Viola Schwam (6)
Barbara Grocop Mark Sharnas
Jerrold Jbara Emma Sue Sikora
Robert Michalski Grandma Swank
Edward "Bud" Morrow Ernestine Yockey
Michael Michael O'Donohue

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

Honor

Mark and Shirley Baker-50th Wedding Anniversary
Bill and Kathe Bartel-Merry Christmas
Jean Canestraro
Mrs. John Miller-Happy Birthday
Julie Paulus-Get Well
Bishop Nelson J. Perez
Kaye Rowe
Art and Fran Schartner-Merry Christmas
Jim and Rose Welsh-50th Wedding Anniversary (4)

St. John Cathedral Mass for Christ Child members, living and deceased, and for their families.

Wednesday, March 25, 10am
this will also be the Christ Child Society Installation Mass.

Friday, April 24, Noon

In Our Thoughts

Laura and Margo Cengic
 -death of mother-in-law, Dolores Cengic
Marilyn Deliberato, death of husband Danny
Ginny Fox, death of son Mark Sharnas
Margaret Gross, death of her husband John
Shirley Vilinsky, death of mother Marie Breidenbach
The Family of Lorraine Zavango

Donations December 18-February 6 \$4,133.00
TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR \$9,903.00

Online Remembrance Giving available on our website at christchildsocietycleveland.org

REFLECTION WITH FR. RALPH

Isn't it a wonder how quickly the grays and browns of winter begin to give way to the brightness and multi-colors of Spring? And what a welcome experience that is! It doesn't take much...just a few nice days in Spring and perhaps a good Spring rain, and all of a sudden the dreariness of winter is left behind. That is always such a good reminder that "tomorrow" is always a reason for hope, always a reason to look ahead just a little bit. That certainly applies to life in general and not just to the passing seasons. So many of the works of the Christ Child Society are like that as well - seemingly small things that give a little bit of glimpse of good things yet to come. Keep on providing those glimpses because they also have the added effect of enabling US to have reason to hope, to see past difficult things and to be reminded that so many good things are waiting for us in the days and months and years ahead. Have a blessed Lent and Easter!

Fr. Ralph



Mary Virginia Merrick Award, 2020

For the past 37 years, our Chapter has recognized one of its own whose spirit, values, and service exemplify those of Mary Virginia Merrick. This year, the prestigious Mary Virginia Merrick Award will be presented at the Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, June 24.

Who do you believe is deserving of this award? Who do you believe has given of herself in the name of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland, either publicly in the "front lines" or quietly and consistently "behind the scenes?" Please consider nominating the member you believe deserves this special recognition. Your nomination is important...your opinion matters...your thoughts count!

NOMINATIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING
AND RECEIVED BY MAY 22

Please include your nominee's name and why you believe she deserves the 2020 Mary Virginia Merrick Award. All nominations are confidential and are due by May 22. For a list of past recipients, please refer to page 1-5 in the Christ Child Roster. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact **Katie Camaglia**.

Mail to: Christ Child Society – MVM Award
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Or email to: **Katie Camaglia**
(Email address is in the Christ Child Society membership directory)

RED WAGON LUNCHEON

Make plans today to attend our Red Wagon Luncheon this Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at the Embassy Suites on Rockside Road in Independence. You can help to support our *second most important fund-raising event* of the year by inviting your friends and family to enjoy this day of boutique shopping, a spring luncheon, and a spring fashion show put on by Chico's with the store manager of the Southpark and Crocker Park, Mary Ann Huffman. Our models this year will be our own members and we always thank them for their enthusiasm, great style and love of our Chapter and the children we serve. We will also be collecting hats and mittens at this event.

You may make reservations for this event online at our website (our preferred method) or use the form in this edition of this Newsletter. This year, we will be asking you to include both the names of your guests and their email addresses so that we may thank them for their attendance after the event. We appreciate the support of every single person who attends and contributes to our fundraising event!

Since this May 27th date is quickly approaching, now is the time for you to contact our Committee Chairs to offer your referrals, raffle basket donations or offer to volunteer to help us. We thank all of you for your continued support:

VENDOR REFERRALS

Karen Bush

RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS

Carol Gedeon or **Cindy DeStefanis**

COUNTRY KITCHEN

Sharon Shopko or **Carla Calevich**

VOLUNTEERING THE DAY OF THE LUNCHEON

Kathy Cole

Please feel free to contact either **Cathy Caruso**, **Mary Herrick** or **Carol Janas** with any questions or concerns.



RED WAGON LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

EMBASSY SUITES - ROCKSIDE



5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, Ohio 44131
Self-Parking

9:30 A.M. Boutique Begins – 12 Noon Luncheon
Fashions presented by *Chico's* at Crocker and South Park Malls.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Friday, May 15, 2020
Online reservations begin March 25 and end May 15th

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PLEASE RESERVE:

_____ Tickets: \$55 each (\$20 tax deduction) • _____ Silver Patron Tickets: \$75 each (\$40 tax deduction)

_____ Gold Patron Tickets: \$100 each (\$65 tax deduction)

Total enclosed: \$ _____ I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation of \$ _____

NO REFUNDS

Payment Options: Check made payable to **Christ Child Society** or

Master Card **Visa** **Discover** **American Express**

Cardholder Name _____ Account Number _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

SEATING REQUEST (Tables of 10) PLEASE PRINT your name and the names of those you have contacted and have agreed to share your table.

Only paid reservations will be considered for seating. Incomplete tables will be filled with other Christ Child members and their guests.

I have no seating preference. Feel free to seat me anywhere. • **I prefer the vegetarian option**

Indicate: (M) for Member • (G) for Guest • (O) for Member - Other Chapter

- 1. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 2. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 3. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 4. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 5. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 6. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 7. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 8. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 9. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O
- 10. _____ EMAIL: _____ M G O

Send Reservations to: Christ Child Society, Attn: Red Wagon, 7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio 44102



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 March 1st.

Articles for the newsletter

Please contact **Kate Toma** if you have any special needs or volunteer requests for the newsletter.

Articles for the May/June issue will be due by Wednesday, April 15th.

Cathy Caruso
President

Mary Herrick
President-Elect

Liz Niehaus
Service VP

Carol Janas
Organization VP

Sue Simon
Recording Secretary

Jo Ann Lamb
Corresponding Secretary

Meg Kearns
Financial Secretary

Mary Jo Dailey
Endowment/
Remembrance

Kate Toma
Newsletter Editor

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski
Spiritual Advisor