



August/September 2020

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY[®] OF CLEVELAND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

On June 24, 2020 at Acacia Country Club, the gavel was passed. On this day, we welcomed a new board, whose members are all eager to Challenge Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland. At the same time, we face many challenges due to COVID-19. As our members volunteer their time for projects and plan for fundraising events, we are giving careful consideration to how we can comply with COVID-19 policies to keep our members safe, while continuing to address the ongoing needs of the children in our communities.

According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, approximately 50 percent of the children in Cleveland are living below the federal poverty line. The needs of today's children are great and many face significant threats to their well-being. When families who are already dependent on low pay or unstable work lose their jobs, or are forced to quarantine because of the coronavirus, they have limited options. A loss in income can have devastating consequences. For families in poverty, missing work directly relates to lack of basic necessities - food, clothing and shelter. One thing we know for sure, these are the times our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, would have felt a need to take action. She would have said, now more than ever, that "nothing is ever too much to do for a child".

On behalf of our board we ask for your prayers and continued support. Many of our events and programs may look different during these times but we are here - here for you and here for the children that may be in crisis in Greater Cleveland. Please visit our website and watch your emails – get ready to participate in any way you can. The Christ Child has a plan for us!

God Bless,
Mary Herrick



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND BOARD

Photo taken at Cleveland Yachting Club – July 1, 2020

Article to follow on page 3.

CCS CLE NEWS!

News You Need To Know **NOW!**

- August 5, 2020** **Executive Committee Meeting**
via Zoom at 9:30 am
- August 12, 2020** **Provisional Bus Tour
for the Class of 2020**
Meets at 7901 Detroit Ave., Cleveland
- August 26, 2020** **Evening-on-the-Lake,
Cleveland Yachting Club to
benefit the Starlight Soiree**
See reservation information in this issue
- Sept. 9, 2020** **Executive Committee Meeting
via Zoom at 9:30 am**
- Sept. 16, 2020** **Board Meeting** at 9:30 am
- General Business Meeting**
at 11:00 am - CCS Office
7901 Detroit Avenue,
Suite 300, Cleveland
- Oct. 24-31, 2020** **National Christ Child Society Service**
Watch for details!
- November 7, 2020** **Starlight Soiree**
Watch for details!

Provisional Class of 2020-2021 UPDATE

There are 11 applicants for the 2020-2021 provisional class. A planned bus tour has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th. The bus will leave from our office promptly at 9 am. We will return around 12-12:30 pm for a light lunch and short business meeting.

A welcome email has been sent to all applicants and they will receive a follow up reminder closer to the date. Any questions, please contact **Kathy Bush**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

August/September 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 (Note the new day)

First Tuesday, 10:00-12:30
August 3, September 14 (due to Labor Day)
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 in August
Contact: **Carol Janas**

"My Stuff" (Note the new day)

Tuesday, August 11 and Thursday, September 7
10:00-12:00
Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

First and Third Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00
No reading in August
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
Contact: **Lynn McMahan**

St. Rocco Library

During the school year Monday 8:30-12:00
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.**

BOARD TRANSITION

We want to thank the past board members who carried the torch through this challenging time especially *Cathy Caruso, Liz Niehaus, Carol Janas, Meg Kearns, Sue Simon, Jo Ann Lamb and Janie Nickodem*. We also want to thank Lisa Leduc, our Office Manager. Lisa is such an integral part of our team and we are so thankful for her dedication to our chapter.

Welcome to the new board members and volunteers who will help lead our chapter through the next two year term. The following women have graciously volunteered to serve in a leadership role and recently attended the 2020 Board Orientation held at Cleveland Yachting Club.

Mary Herrick – President
Julie Jerdonek – Service Vice President
Denise Shafer – Financial Secretary
Liz Niehaus – Corresponding Secretary

Paula Conrad – President-Elect
Kathy Michael – Organization Vice President
Marsha Gleine – Recording Secretary
Cathy Caruso – Immediate Past President

Janie Nickodem – Children’s Closet Chairman
Karen Kirk - Events Chairman
Mary Jo Dailey - Layette Remembrance
Carol Janas – Merrick House Chairman
Kate Toma – Newsletter Chairman
Terri Parker – Parliamentarian
Katie Camaglia – Public Relations Chairman
Laura Cengic – St. Rocco Library Chairman
Arlene McNamara – Beds Chairman
Carole Moran – Coats Chairman
Ann Ertle – Religious Activities Chairman
Mary Kay McConnell – Volunteer Hours Chairman

Meg Kearns – Development Chairman
Carla Calevich – LAYETTES Chairman
Carol Fondran – Membership Chairman
Kathy Moehring – “My Stuff” Bags Chairman
Sharon Skotko – Parkview Head Start Chairman
Kathy Bush – Provisionals Chairman
Lynn McMahon – St. Francis Library Chairman
Kathy Cole – Showcase Chairman
Sheila Gulick – Portable Cribs Chairman
Lorraine Wancata – Uniform Chairman
Mary Jo Dailey – Historian

MARY VIRGINIA MERRICK AWARD 2020

Christ Child Society Cleveland Chapter members gathered together for a General Business Meeting and Spring Luncheon at the Acacia Reservation Clubhouse on June 24, 2020. The Acacia staff adhered to social distancing Covid-19 guidelines and offered a comfortable atmosphere for nearly 60 guests. Members were delighted to see one another after many months of sheltering in their homes.

One special guest was undecided about attending until the very last minute. We were so happy her adult daughters convinced her that she needed a social afternoon with her friends. This member, Carole Moran, was honored with the prestigious Mary Virginia Merrick Award for 2020. Every year since 1983, a worthy recipient who emulates the selfless virtues of our Foundress is recognized for her commitment to the Christ Child Society. Carole joined 21 years ago. After her provisional year, she jumped right into chairing the winter coat program. Due to her tenacity and countless volunteer hours, thousands of Cleveland children have worn new winter coats, hats and gloves to keep toasty during the blistery winters near Lake Erie. Society members praised Carole for her ability to go with the flow when coat shipments were delayed and delivery times hindered...thus rescheduling packing dates. Agency Reps were quick to recognize Carole’s emotional ties and love of children. Her impeccable records prove that Carole personally knew her families. For instance, she remembered when an older sibling received a coat the year before so that it could now be handed down to a younger sibling.



Mary Virginia Merrick is quoted as saying, *“It is the personal element that brings true charity into life.”* Carole Moran exactly does that for the children she serves. We sincerely thank her for her dedication to the mission of the Christ Child Society Cleveland Chapter, Challenging Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland!

Remembrance/ Endowment Report

May 21 - June 30, 2020

Memory

Irene A. Campbell (2)	Al Pascale (2)
Cheryl Ann Collova	Patricia Ann Stiller
Jason Goodspeed	Frank Vergilii
Ceila Ferry Moore (2)	

Honor

Cathy Caruso
Carole Moran, Congratulations!
Mary Virginia Merrick Award Recipient

Father's Day

In Honor	In Memory
Robert Blaising	James Boumis
	Tony Dziak
	Don Morgan

In Our Thoughts

Mary Graves, death of her husband, Jeff
Janie Nickodem, death of her father-in-law,
Robert J. Nickodem, Sr.
The family of member, Marjorie Zeleznik

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

Friday, August 26, 2020 at noon
Friday, September 25, 2020 at noon

Donations May 21 - June 30 \$750.00
TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR July 1-June 30... \$15,548.00

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

**Online Remembrance Giving available on our
website at christchildsocietycleveland.org**

2nd Annual Evening-on-the-Lake

Cleveland Yacht Club



To help fulfill our mission
"Challenging Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland"

MUSIC • DRINKS • DINNER • RAFFLE

Wednesday, August 26th, 2020
6:00PM - 8:00PM

200 Yacht Club Drive, Rocky River, OH 44116
\$75 per person
Members, Spouses, and Guests are welcome

Due to COVID-19 attendance is limited to 50 people.
Reserve your place as soon as possible by mailing a check to:
Christ Child Society of Cleveland
Attn: Evening-on-the-Lake
7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, OH 44102

Or make a reservation on our website at
<https://christchildsocietycleveland.org/evening-on-the-lake>.

**Please consider making a donation to support
our mission if you are unable to attend.**

Also, know The Cleveland Yachting Club promises and follows strict
COVID-19 safety precautions to protect guests and employees.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Our annual membership renewal cycle runs from July 1 to August 15. The 2020-2021 Membership Renewal Form and Volunteer Hours Record Form were printed in the June/July issue of Chapter and Verse. Due to the Covid virus limiting volunteer opportunities, the Board has eliminated the fifty (50) hours requirement for the fiscal year just ended. Please be reminded, the Membership Renewal Form must be received by August 15 in order to guarantee inclusion in the 2020-2021 Membership Roster. Contact Carol Fondran, Membership Chairman, if you have any questions. (Note: Carol's phone number in the roster is incorrect. The three-digit exchange ends in 2, not 1 as printed. The email address is correct.)

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

The Board of Directors has approved that the Christ Child Society of Cleveland change its mission statement to

“CHALLENGING CHILDHOOD POVERTY IN GREATER CLEVELAND”.

The Society is changing our mission statement because we have found that the current statement inadequately describes our programs and activities. A mission statement should be short, easy to remember, describe what an organization does, whom it serves, and where its impact is the greatest. It should explain the organization’s reason for existence in a single compelling sentence. As stated in our bylaws, our purpose will remain “to foster a personal love of Christ expressing itself in service to needy children, regardless of race, color or creed”.

A lot of thought was given in crafting the new statement. The word “challenging” was chosen because it is a strong and passionate action word whose synonyms include “confronting”, “facing”, “disputing”, “contesting” and “defying”. We want to disrupt the cycle of poverty in our community. Additionally, challenge has been used in our annual report, as well as the National Christ Child Society’s tagline – Challenging Poverty – One Child at a Time.

The word “childhood” was chosen because we serve children – from infancy to young teenagers. During the Community Needs Assessment, many social service agency representatives requested items that would fulfill the needs of parents. And, while helping parents ultimately helps the entire family, our focus has always been on the needs of the child.

The goal of each of our programs is to improve the lives of under-served children in our community: to challenge poverty. In basest terms, poverty can be defined as a lack of resources – monetary resources, material resources, educational resources, etc. Our programs are designed to specifically address needs relating to poverty – and its impact on children. By providing for basic material needs and fostering educational development, we help to reduce resource disparities and create an equalizing effect for the children we serve.

The new mission statement will enable the Christ Child Society to increase awareness in our community (it is easy to remember and talk about); and aid us in our grant-writing and marketing endeavors.

When asked what our mission statement is – our members can say: “Our mission is challenging childhood poverty in Greater Cleveland. We do this by providing layettes, “My Stuff” bags, winter coats, school uniforms, beds and cribs to children in need. We also recognize that literacy is a pathway out of poverty so we staff and fund two school libraries and two pre-school reading enrichment programs. The Christ Child Society longs for a day when our services are no longer required, but until then, we will challenge poverty – one child at a time.”

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Meg Kearns**.

THE ROARING 20s STARLIGHT SOIRÉE

This year we will go virtual with a live broadcast including sponsors, testimonials and videos from our members. We need YOU more than ever to spread the word this year. The children we serve through our projects depend on this event being a smashing success. We will still have a silent auction, raffles, sponsorships, and more new exciting things this year. Many hands make for light work, and we are hoping to add more members to the planning committee. Contact Kate Toma if you would like to volunteer.

However, if you are not able to serve on the committee, there are other ways you can help:

- Donate an item to the Silent Auction. Contact **Sheila Gulick**.
- Consider an Individual or Corporate Sponsorship. Contact **Terri Parker**
- Place or secure an individual or business advertisement. Contact **Karen Kirk** or **Kathy Marsh**
- Purchase \$5,000 CASH RAFFLE tickets-1/\$25 or 5/\$100! JEWELRY RAFFLE tickets-1/\$50 or 3/\$100! Drawings will be held live during the broadcast of the Soirée. Contact **Annette Gorris**

COVID-19 CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY PREVENTIVE GUIDELINES

FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN OFFICE BUILDING SERVICE PROJECTS & MEETINGS

None of us may be immune from being infected with COVID-19. Out of respect and courtesy to one another, Christ Child Executive Board values basic preventive measures to keep our membership safe and healthy using information from the Ohio and Cleveland Health Departments. To do this, we will implement basic preventive guidelines when participating in our service projects immediately. These preventive guidelines will give everyone confidence in knowing what to expect when you participate in a Christ Child service project or attend a meeting in our office, and, a trust that each of us also values one another's health and safety during this crisis. This will enable us to continue our projects to the children we serve.

1. Please wear a mask or face shield while in the Christ Child building and grounds and for curbside delivery. Your mask-wearing is a preventive measure to protect people around you should you cough, sneeze, or laugh loudly. If everyone is wearing a mask, this reduces everyone's risk of becoming infected and doubles prevention.
2. Please sanitize your hands upon entry to our offices, and after using the restroom. Sanitizer (70% alcohol) will be available. Sanitizers eradicate viruses and bacteria present on door knobs, elevator buttons or anything your hands touched before arriving.
3. Please take your temperature before leaving home or upon entry to our offices to verify you don't have a fever of 100.4 or higher. A thermometer will be available at the office. This preventive practice helps identify a possible COVID-19 symptom and the person should return home.
4. Please social distance 6 ft. during work projects and as you move about the room. (Various project chairs will pre-plan work processes to implement this effort) This is a preventive measure.
5. Please adhere to ONE-WAY foot traffic flow in our office. "ENTER ONLY", the first door nearest the elevator and keep the traffic flow clockwise. EXIT ONLY, the door nearest the restroom. Please move about the room clockwise as best you can during your service project work. This helps reduce the risk of transmission of the virus rather than face to face passing.
6. Prior to the start of your work or meetings, please spray and wipe down tables and surfaces with a Lysol/Bleach-typed disinfectant. This is a preventive practice to eliminate 99.9% of viruses and bacteria on surfaces. A disinfectant spray and paper towels will be available at the office.
7. Please stay home if you are not feeling well, especially if you have an elevated temperature, a cough, or any symptom of COVID 19.
8. Please do not share an open plate or buffet of food at this time. Individually wrapped items are okay.
9. Please be mindful of the above guidelines when you are providing Christ Child service in the community libraries and schools and adhere to their specific COVID -19 requirements.
10. Please pray for people of all ages suffering from COVID -19 throughout the world, especially infants and children.

Update on Showcase and Important Donations Notice

Showcase is up and running despite the Covid crisis. The store is open from 11 am to 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Stop in and take a look at all the updates and check out our phenomenal merchandise. We are wearing masks at this time and following guidelines from the State of Ohio for the safety of our volunteers and customers.

The Bag Sale will be on September 12th and 15th and half day on the 16th. Changeover will be September 16, 17 and 18, if necessary. We will reopen on Saturday, September 19. Sign-ups will be at Showcase.

Showcase is now accepting donations from outside of membership. We will be labeling the donation with the date it was accepted and a date to be opened 3 days later. According to best practices, 72 hours (3 days) should be adequate to be free of Covid. All clothing items tried on by customers are steamed as an added precaution. As always, we are taking every safety measure to protect our members and customers.

Thank you to all the volunteers at Showcase during this trying time. Your dedication to the Christ Child Society and the children of Cleveland is amazing. Consider volunteering at the store for the bag sale or changeover. It is a lot of fun and very rewarding. You can also get first dibs on our great merchandise!

RED WAGON LUNCHEON HOME EDITION: PROOF OF WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Upon returning to school each year, children are often asked to write a report entitled "What I Did Last Summer." This year the assignment theme could be: "What I Did for Fun During the Covid-19 Pandemic." Should this question be posed to the Christ Child Society Cleveland Chapter, the title would read: "While Sheltered in Place, We Hit a Homerun." The Annual Red Wagon Luncheon and Fundraiser was originally planned for May 27th and was scheduled to include a lively luncheon with a delicious entrée, goodies from the Country Kitchen Bake Sale, vendors who love CCS, raffles and a runway fashion show presented by Chico's. The plan was overruled due to Governor Mike DeWine's recommendation to keep Ohio safe by limiting assemblies to no more than ten people in a venue. Now, how can we make a good time for 400 members and friends of the Christ Child Society?

The Red Wagon Luncheon Committee led by Co-Chairs, Cathy Caruso and Mary Herrick, swiftly switched gears and planned a virtual event, "Red Wagon Luncheon—Home Edition," spanning from May 27th thru June 12th. To stir up interest, the Co-Chairs videotaped a conversation introducing the event and aired it on the CCS website and YouTube. Quickly adorable invitations, including five star rated recipes recommended for small in-home gatherings, were printed and mailed announcing the fundraiser. This could be an enjoyable and entertaining way to celebrate Spring in our own homes. The event was kick-started by CCS President Cathy Caruso, welcoming everyone to her home via a self-recorded video, which was also shared on the CCS website and YouTube. Chico's came through with a pre-recorded runway show narrated by Mary Ann Huffman, Chico's store manager for SouthPark and Crocker Park Malls. We thank our members, Carol Janas, Cathy Houk, Mary Feikle and Cathy Caruso who modeled the Spring and Summer collections.

The Red Wagon Luncheon has always been our second largest annual event to raise funding for our service projects. 2020's virtual event exceeded all expectations by collecting over \$30,000 after minimal expenses. The Red Wagon Committee was confident about the possibility of success. They knew the children we serve were in more need than ever and that the Christ Child Society members and friends would answer that need through their generosity. The Committee sincerely thanks everyone who donated items or purchased chances for the door prize raffles, and especially those who supported the event with a reservation and individual donations. Congratulations to the lucky raffle winners whose names were drawn after the 17 day affair: Peggy Krinsky, Judy Lencewicz, Karen Tinley and Sheila Gulick. This event will be remembered as one of the longest running and finest for Christ Child Society Cleveland Chapter. The Red Wagon Luncheon—Home Edition undoubtedly brought in record-setting income which proves that our Cleveland Chapter emulates Where Love Leads to Action....even through a worldwide pandemic in 2020.





Christ Child Society of Cleveland

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

www.christchildsofcietycleveland.org

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DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by August 1st.

REFLECTION WITH FR. RALPH

Isn't it amazing how quickly life can change! Who would have ever believed six months ago that just about everything we are familiar with could be turned upside down. One constant to latch onto is prayer. Prayer has a way of settling us down and giving us a sense of continuity even in the midst of unexpected changes. The bottom line is "don't panic"...PRAY! We can only take one day at a time and right now, that is plenty. Take courage!

Articles for the Newsletter

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

Articles for the Oct/Nov issue will be due by Thursday, September 10.

Mary Herrick
President

Kathy Michael
Organization VP

Denise Shafer
Financial Secretary

Cathy Harbinak
Newsletter Editor

Paula Conrad
President-Elect

Marsha Gleine
Recording Secretary

Mary Jo Dailey
Endowment/
Remembrance

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski
Spiritual Advisor

Julie Jerdonek
Service VP

Liz Niehaus
Corresponding Secretary