



# CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY<sup>®</sup>

## OF CLEVELAND

### WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

#### CHAPTER AND VERSE

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

I absolutely love this time of year. The air is crisp, the leaves are hinting of the brilliant colors to come, and best of all, apple cider and pumpkin season is right around the corner!

Each fall sees the beginning of a new school year. For the ladies of the Christ Child Society, this is a time of packing school uniforms, preparing school libraries, distributing winter coats, and this year, launching our Healthy Hygiene Pilot Program. Our desire is to do all we can to help disadvantaged children start the new school year on a positive note and help pave their path to a successful year.

We are so excited with the progress we've made in planning the 2021 Starlight Soirée. All the information you need to take part in this wonderful evening is included in this newsletter. It's not too late to join in on Soirée planning – we welcome anyone who would like to get involved! This is our largest annual fundraiser, and we certainly need all the skills and talents our members have to offer to ensure its success.

During this season, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah 40:8...*the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* Whatever the fall season brings, we will be prepared...we will continue to share the love of the Christ Child...we will find peace. Happy Fall!

Blessings,  
Mary



## REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER RALPH

Didn't all of us think that by now the COVID-19 pandemic would be behind us and we could return to our former ways of doing things? Well, it looks as if a new "normal" is yet to be determined. In the meantime, we need to take precautions, hopefully be vaccinated, and most of all PRAY for the victims of the virus and for the health care professionals who once again find themselves stretched to the limits in caring for those who need special attention. It is good to ask special blessings on those members of the Christ Child Society who have continued the good works of the Society even in the strangest of circumstances. We never know how our faith will be tested, and the whole experience of the Coronavirus Pandemic is a sterling example. The important thing for all of us is to never lose heart and remember that God is always with us and while He usually doesn't swoop in like Superman and set everything right, God does expect us to use our heads and do our best to make sensible choices even when the path ahead may not be so clear. That is precisely where prayer can be of such help to us in navigating our way through some uncharted waters. The work of the Christ Child Society becomes even more important in times like these. Be sure to take advantage of the help that is at hand!

Fr. Ralph



The Planning Committee is getting excited about the November 5th Soirée!  
Please join us and ride the carousel!

# CCS CLE NEWS!

## Dates You Need To Know **NOW!**

<b>October 13</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b> via Zoom at 9:30 a.m.
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Provisional Christmas Party</b> Planning Meeting CCS Office at 10 a.m.
<b>October 25-31</b>	<b>National Christ Child Society</b> <b>Week of Service</b>
<b>November 5</b>	<b>Starlight Soiree</b> Cleveland History Center
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b> via Zoom at 9:30 a.m.
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Provisional Christmas Party</b> <b>Planning Meeting</b> CCS Office at 10 a.m.
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> CCS Office at 9:30 a.m.
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Provisional Christmas Party</b> <b>Mary Queen of Peace School</b> at time TBD
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Christmas Book Sunday</b> Location and Time TBD

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### Portable Crib Program **HELP NEEDED!**

The Portable Crib Program is currently looking for a member interested in becoming a co-chairman. Your participation requires distributing cribs from our office approximately one day per month. Simple record keeping is also required. If you are interested in more information, please contact the current program chairman, **Sheila Gulick**. Thank you!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES October/November 2021

### Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30  
October 4, November 1  
Contact: **Carla Calevich**

### Independence Sewing Group

Sewing will be announced on a monthly basis.  
*Please check with Laura for details.*  
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

### Merrick House Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00  
*Contact Carol to schedule a time to read.*  
Contact: **Carol Janas**

### "My Stuff"

**Third Thursdays, 10:00-12:00**  
October 21, November 18  
Contact Kathy to schedule day to volunteer.  
Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

### Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

*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 2021- 2022 school year  
Tuesday 9:30-2:00/Wednesday 9:30-2:30  
Contact: **Lynn McMahon**

### St. Rocco Library

During the school year Monday 8:30-12:00  
*No reading until further notice*  
Contact: **Laura Cengic**

### Showcase

Shifts available Tuesdays – Saturday  
11:00-2:00/ 11:00-4:00/ 12:00-4:00  
Contact: **Sharon Hensel** or use **SignUp Genius**  
**to sign up to volunteer**

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

ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT TO BENEFIT CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

# Starlight Soirée

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

Cleveland History Center

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

### Purchase Raffle Tickets

**\$5,000 Cash Raffle** | **Jewelry Raffle**  
1 ticket for \$25 • 5 tickets for \$100 | 1 ticket for \$50 • 3 tickets for \$100

### Sponsorships/Donations

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

### Silent Auction

Please participate by donating or bidding on silent auction items.

Tickets for event and raffles available on  
[www.christchildsofcietycleveland.org](http://www.christchildsofcietycleveland.org)



HONORING

## Reverend Walter H. Jenne

2021 PERSON OF THE YEAR

### Serving the Most Vulnerable through Leadership and Example

Father Jenne's compassionate service to the poor and underserved began over 50 years ago. He was ordained May 30, 1970 and began work with Catholic Charities. He earned a Master of Social Work degree in 1977 and guided Catholic Charities for 20 years. Fr. Walt served on the Boards of Templum House, AIDS Housing Council of Greater Cleveland, Mental Health Services, Western Reserve Agency on Aging, and Greater Cleveland Committee on Hunger. In 1994 he was named Pastor of Saint Basil the Great Parish in Brecksville and Administrator of St. Catherine Parish in the Union-Miles Park neighborhood, hence forming a strong parish partnership. In 2007, St. Catherine Parish closed but their food pantry continues to serve over 7,000 meals a month. He was pastor for 26 years and retired August 1, 2020. Since his retirement, he continues his ministry serving on the Boards of Jennings Center for Older Adults and Regina Health Center.



**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Karen Kirk

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For over 100 years, the Christ Child Society of Cleveland has provided services to underprivileged children in the Cleveland area. The **2021 Starlight Soirée**, our 70<sup>th</sup> annual charity event, will be held at the Cleveland History Center on **Friday, November 5, 2021**. This event will fund nearly 50% of our annual budget. We are writing to you today to request your consideration for donating to an ever-popular part of the event – **The Silent Auction**.

**“Challenge Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland”** – that is our mission. During our last fiscal year, we assisted over **7,000 children**. Babies received layette bundles and portable cribs. Older children were given beds, winter coats, and school uniforms. Children entering shelters received clothing and essentials in “My Stuff” Bags. We promoted literacy through our involvement in preschool programs, elementary school libraries, and book giveaways. We are proud of our accomplishments, but there is so much more to be done!

We hope you will consider a donation to the **2021 Starlight Soirée Silent Auction**. Perhaps you will be inspired to donate an exciting item to spark some competitive bidding among our members and guests. Or maybe you prefer a cash donation – we will happily shop for something wonderful to add to the **Silent Auction** tables. We will acknowledge your contribution on the picture of the auction item on our bidding platform.

Your donation will help us further our mission to **“Challenge Childhood Poverty in Greater Cleveland.”** If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact me directly at the phone number or email below. In addition, the Christ Child Society of Cleveland can be reached on our office phone (216-939-3859) or by email ([christchildcleveland@yahoo.com](mailto:christchildcleveland@yahoo.com)).

All of us at the Christ Child Society of Cleveland deeply appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Gratefully,

Yvonne Schiffer  
Chairman, **Starlight Soirée Silent Auction**  
(330) 780-3027 [yschiffer@gmail.com](mailto:yschiffer@gmail.com)

501© (3) Federal I.D. Number: 34-0821251

**SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski

# Silent Auction 2021

The Silent Auction is an important part of event and we hope to make it a success with your help. If you would like to make a donation, procure a donation or give us a lead on a donation, here are some ideas:

## Holiday & Religious Baskets

### Sports/Outdoors

- Rocking Beach Chair
- Beach Cart w/ Umbrella
- Yeti Package incl. Cooler
- Camping Package incl. Tent
- Kayak Rental

## Gadgets & Gizmos

- Nintendo Switch
- Play Station 5
- X-Box Series 10
- Apple Watch
- Nest
- Roomba
- Streaming Services Basket

## Kid's Corner

- Step 2 Kitchen
- Kid's Bike
- Blow Up Pool
- Ride on Car w/ Track
- Board Games, Puzzles, snacks
- Wagon of Athletic Balls

## Wine, Beer & Spirits

- Multiple Baskets needed

If you can help in any way, contact **Yvonne**, or fill out the form below and return to the office. Thank you in advance for your help in making our Soiree a success!

## SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM

### Donor's name/business (as it should appear in the program)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name/phone number/email if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donated item(s), description and value:** Please list any specific restrictions/expiration dates/contact information/comments, etc.

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Christ Child Society member acquiring donation: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEW DIRECTIONS ARE COMING! JUNIOR CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND**

Last Spring, the Executive Committee supported an opportunity to immerse St. Joseph Academy high school juniors into the Christ Child mission: to challenge childhood poverty in greater Cleveland. Through collaboration with our program chairs for Layettes, *My Stuff*, and *Showcase*, we developed a schedule for the students to volunteer in three programs and earn school-required service hours.

Starting with an orientation breakfast meeting, the students were introduced to Christ Child, our rich history, mission, and current programs. They received a "tour" of our impressive inventory of blanket materials, baby clothing, My Stuff bags, cribs, books, and more. The students joined in the assembly of layette and My Stuff Bag packing, helped with stocking inventory, making blankets, and removing new tags. Our members welcomed, coached, and supported the young women during their volunteering in the office and at *Showcase*. As required by the Diocese, our virtue-trained VP Service, oversaw the students during their on-site activities. When their volunteer commitment ended, the students completed an evaluation of their summer experience to help us learn from them. **Carol Fondran**, Membership Chairman, **Kathy Cole**, Showcase Chairman, and **Julie Jerdonek**, Service VP, held a lovely ceremony for the students in gratitude for their service at Showcase. We congratulated them for being the first members of our Junior Christ Child Membership pilot program and presented them with Christ Child t-shirts! The young women were all-smiles for their accomplishment and excited to be honored as Junior Christ Child pilot members!

The Executive Committee supports continuing the Junior Christ Child Membership pilot program in alignment with the National Junior Christ Child Society guidelines. We are building a team of Christ Child members to further develop our outreach to students in Grades 6-12. We will keep everyone informed about this exciting new direction for our chapter in the weeks ahead!

### **The Following Comments from the Junior Christ Child Members will warm your hearts!**

"I enjoyed the community of volunteers I had the opportunity to work with. They were all so welcoming and uplifting. Their dedication and work is so inspiring and I hope to reflect the same values and efforts in my own volunteering."

"I really enjoyed getting to work with all the ladies in the My Stuff and Layette Programs. They are all so kind, have such a great community and dedication to serving others. I learned many important lessons about helping those children in need."

"I think the program is run so well and I am so grateful for the opportunity to help out."

"I like how everything we were doing was for a good cause and how important these projects seemed to everyone involved. I learned the dedication this program has and how much hard work is being put in to each project."



**Deacon Lou Primozic**  
*I'm In Ministry!* Founder  
 is awarded the  
**2021 Red Wagon Award**

**Deacon Lou and *I'm In Ministry!***  
 are instrumental in helping us  
 “Challenge Childhood Poverty  
 in Greater Cleveland”

**Thank you Deacon Lou & I'm In Ministry!**  
 to learn more about “I'm In Ministry!”  
 go to: [www.iminministry.com](http://www.iminministry.com)

Deacon Lou Primozic, founder of *I'm In Ministry!*, provides delivery and set-up for our twin bed program for children in need of beds. **We could not do this without his generous help.** He not only assists with delivery and set-up but goes well beyond and provides pillows, additional bedding, furniture and household items as needed to the families receiving our beds. Those families become part of the “*I'm In Ministry!*” family through a program called Compassionate Care and will be contacted for any future needs.

## EVENING-ON-THE LAKE

One of the signs of summer drawing to a close is the Annual Christ Child Society's Evening-on-the Lake social event hosted at the Cleveland Yachting Club by member **Karen Kirk**. This year on August 18, approximately 130 guests attended and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow members and guests, the music of the Michelle Romary Trio, a light dinner and of course, the view of the lake.

Long time Christ Child member **Connie Kappos** was at the Club for a separate dinner on August 18, but she stopped by to say hello and purchased tickets for the 50/50 Raffle. Not only did she win, but she donated her winnings back to our Chapter. Thank you, Connie. Connie's dedication to Christ Child extends to being one of the founders of the Naples, Florida Chapter.



Host Karen Kirk (second from right) and husband, John, enjoyed the Evening-on-the-Lake festivities with family, John's twin brother Jim Kirk and his wife, Jean.



From left to right: Denise Shafer and Kathy Bush (seated) and Karen Kirk, Meg Kearns, and Mary Cay McConnell (standing), greeted guests, signed them in and sold raffle tickets at the Cleveland Yachting Club.



President Mary Herrick and member Karen Kirk thank former Cleveland Christ Child member Connie Kappos for winning the 50/50 raffle at the Evening-on-the-Lake and then donating her winnings to our Cleveland Chapter.

## SHOWCASE READY FOR FALL SHOPPERS

Showcase Chair **Kathy Cole** reported the Bag Sale was a huge success netting a considerable profit for our Christ Child programs. She also shared the semi-annual changeover was accomplished with the help of "awesome" volunteers in less than two full days! Showcase is now sparkling clean and stocked with fall merchandise. Come in and go home with some great fall bargains. Check out the autumn themed windows designed by member **Irene Bellomo**. Showcase continues to operate with an all-volunteer staff. Please consider joining the fun and camaraderie as a showcase volunteer. Sign up to volunteer for a day or two on SignUpGenius. The Showcase Crew would love to have you join them.



*Happy Thanksgiving*  
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 4:6-7)

May all the good things of life be yours, not only at Thanksgiving but throughout the coming year!

Sincerely, The Officers and Directors  
of the Christ Child Society of Cleveland

## PROVISIONAL CLASS OF 2021 IS HARD AT WORK

**Kathy Bush**, chair of Provisionals, is happy to report that this year's class boasts 18 members. They are currently hard at work planning the Annual Provisionals' Christmas Party. The party this year will be for 62 three, four and five-year old children at Mary Queen of Peace School on December 2. Additionally, 40 Mary Queen of Peace staff members will enjoy lunch that day provided by the Provisional Class. The second Wednesdays of October and November will be planning days for this very popular event.

# Remembrance/Endowment Report

July 1 - September 6, 2021

## Memory

Rita Buckon (13)  
John Cengic  
Carolyn Herman  
Mary Josephine Kobb  
Thomas Leonti  
Joan Katherine Matsko  
Rosemary McAllister (3)

Ann Millett  
Beth Olson  
Gordon Pratt (2)  
Lee Severns  
Michael Starinsky (21)  
Barbara Ann Soucek Stanton

## Honor

Jean Canestraro-Happy Birthday  
Shirley Chambers-Happy 90th Birthday!  
Mary Ann Kannenberg-Happy Birthday  
Sophia Josephine Ramos (2)  
Eileen Rini-Congratulations!  
Sheila Tarantino

## In Our Thoughts

Marylou Bongorno and family, upon the passing of her brother, Dennis Barrett.  
The family of Rita Buckon, upon her passing.  
Margo Cengic and family, upon the passing of her husband, John.  
The family of Eileen G. Gaertner, upon her passing.  
Colleen O'Shaughnessy and family, upon the passing of her mother Kathleen Raleigh.  
The family of Barbara Ann Soucek Stanton, upon her passing.  
Grace Starinsky and family, upon the passing of her husband, Michael.  
Terry Tomon and family, upon the passing of her mother, Virginia Chock.

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

Friday, September 24th at noon  
Monday, October 25th at noon  
Wednesday, November 24th at noon  
Monday, December 27th at noon

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

Donations July 1, 2021 - September 6, 2021 . . . . . \$2,635.25

**TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR . . . . . \$2,635.25**

**Online Remembrance Giving available on our website at [christchildsocietycleveland.org](http://christchildsocietycleveland.org)**



## THE 2021 ANNUAL ANGEL APPEAL... COMING IN THE SEASON OF GIVING!

Thank you for your generosity every year to Christ Child's Annual Angel Appeal. We invite you to be an "Angel" in this year's Appeal coming during the season of thanksgiving and gift-giving. Your giving supports our mission and enables us to serve more children living in poverty. Please consider a generous donation to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child announced by an angel to the shepherds. We will continue the Annual Appeal through the feast of the Three Kings, who brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. Please stay tuned for exciting updates in our next newsletter.



## Christ Child Society of Cleveland

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

[www.christchildsocietycleveland.org](http://www.christchildsocietycleveland.org)

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**DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### Articles for the Newsletter

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

**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