Mission Statement
The South Bend Chapter of the Christ Child Society is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child.

Executive Board
President: Judy Kuzmich
President Elect: Peg Riggs
Vice President (Fundraising): Judy Burmeister
Vice President (Membership): Anne Choinacky
Vice President (Clothing): Sue Walsh
Recording Secretary: Jean Fuehrmeyer
Corresponding Secretary: Marie Burt
Treasurer: Pat Hillebrand

Six Named to Next Year’s CC Board
The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce six new Board members for the 2014-2015 Board of Directors. They are: Holly Hosinski, Donna Kyle, Marti Moriconi, Mary Lou Mullen, Jane Reed and Joanne VanAve-maete.

A vote was taken by the current Board members and another at the Spring Luncheon/Meeting to accept these women for the 2014-2015 Board. They are very diverse and wonderful group of women that will bring a great deal of wisdom in helping Christ Child to continue in its good works to help families in need.

“I would also like to thank the Nominating Committee members Kristy Botich, Marge Hosinski, Cindy Krupp and Kathleen Welsh for their help in securing the commitments from such high caliber individuals,” said Kathy Seidl, Nominating Committee Chairperson. “Thank you to everyone.”

Bring a Friend to New Member Coffee
Mark your calendars to attend the New Member Coffee on Wednesday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the Bethany Room of the Center. We will be welcoming ladies who have become new members during the last six months as well as others who may be interested in learning more about the Christ Child Society.

There will be a tour of the Center, presentations regarding the many ways a new member could get involved with the Society and an opportunity to meet many of our current members. Coffee and pastries will complement the event.

Please consider asking friends or anyone who you feel might be interested in learning more about the Christ Child Society. Contact Kristy Botich at 291-7523 or wbotich@sbcglobal.net with names so an invitation can be sent to each.

On March 7, 12 administrators, teachers and staff of St Joseph High School volunteered for two hours at the Center, counting and organizing boys' and girls' underwear. Part of the St Joe staff retreat day, each staff member worked service hours at an organization of their choosing. These brave teachers chose an organization that worked with children. Would they come back? Each volunteer said yes definitely.
From the President . . . . Judy Kuzmich

To Handle Yourself, Use Your Head
To Handle Others, Use Your Heart . . . . Eleanor Roosevelt

February and March continued to give us very cold and snowy weather but we were warm and cozy at our Day of Reflection at Moreau Seminary. It was a great way to be together to take time to strengthen our faith and give thanks for all the wonderful blessings we have in our lives. Thanks to Pat Corcoran and Sheila Emge for their work and planning to make this a day to share our faith and Christ Child friendships. Father Paul Doyle was the retreat master and delivered his message with his usual charm, warmth and sincerity. Most everyone who attended felt it was a day well spent.

As I write this letter we are looking forward to celebrating Mass with Bishop Rhoades and sharing lunch with us for our spring meeting. It is always an honor to have Bishop Rhoades come and share his time with our Christ Child members. I hope you were able to join us for this event as we received a check for $1,000 from Old National Bancorp to continue our work clothing children of our community. A big thank you to Old National for caring about the work of The Christ Child Society.

Thank you to our nominating committee and our six new board members who will be starting a three year term in July. Welcome aboard, Holly Hosinski, Donna Kyle, Marti Moriconi, Mary Lou Mullen, Jane Reed, and Joanne Van Avermaete. We look forward to working with them and know that each of you will contribute greatly to the work of the Christ Child board. They were voted on and approved unanimously by the members at the spring luncheon/meeting on March 26th.

We are looking forward to the Derby Day luncheon on May 1st at Knollwood Country Club. Tricia Shafer has a great afternoon planned with a wonderful lunch, style show and a raffle. Also the New Member Coffee will be held on May 14th at the Center. Please ask friends and acquaintances to join us as Christ Child Society is a great way to make new friendships and help the children of the community. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events. If there is someone you would like to invite to the coffee, please send their name and address to Kristy Botich at wbotich@sbcglobal.net and she will send them a written invitation to the event. You may also give her a call at 574-291-7523.

I can’t believe how quickly this year has gone by and I am always amazed with the members that give so much of their time, talent and love for The Christ Child Society. You are all true “jewels” and our South Bend Chapter would not be as successful as we are without you. Thank you all for your generosity and support.


Book Club

Life Lessons
by Bob Dolan
April 16
Mary Jane Chase (233-7977)

Deadline for next newsletter
March 21
Ann Korb (277-6443) ack339@aol.com
The beautiful Gold Christ Child Remembrance Card is a convenient way to send donations in any amount to the Christ Child Society, as an In Memoriam or in recognition of a special occasion or accomplishment. A donation can be made in memory of deceased friend or relatives who will also be remembered in a perpetual monthly Mass. The card also makes it possible to celebrate happy occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries in the same way. When requesting a Remembrance Card, members are asked to print legibly since the names will be printed in each newsletter with the donor’s name in parentheses. Extra cards are available in the office or from Joan Hardig (277-7787)

In Memoriam:
Esther Borowski (Loretta Chillag)
Mary Krause Carrigan (Carol/Jim Holt)
James Ernst (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp, Bill Killiliea, Kari/Greg Wuszcze)
Zachary Flowers (Janet H. Crull)
George Fobe (Marjorie/John Bycraft)
Jerry Gibbney (Winifred VandenBossche)
Maureen Grubert (Jim/Pat Short)
Pat Guentert (Mary Tice)
Craig Hambidge (Mary Tice)
Ro Hickey (Thomas R. Brix)
John Hudnall (Mr./Mrs. James Keultjes)
Charlotte Lahey (Fred/Jane Kanouse)
Robert Leonard (Merrill/Janet Crull)
Margaret Mell (Winifred VandenBossche)
William Munich (Janice Goossens)
James Patterson (Ginger/Frank O’Hara)

Mr. Porterfield (Marcia/Tom Blum)
Pam Redfearo’s Dad (Marcia/Tom Blum)
Josephine J. Remenih (Winnie VandenBossche)
Conrad Reuscher & Dick Reuscher’s brother-in-law (Marcia/Tom Blum)
Margaret (Peg) Ripple (John/Suzy Halloran)
Stephen Rodick (Esther Cyr)
Helen Rudolph (Kathryn Screes)
Nancy Sabbe (Janice Goossens, Kathleen Welsh, Carol/Jim Holt)
John F. Schmanski (Loretta Chillag)
James Schrems (Bill/Marian Bickel)
Fran Shearer (Patti/Lowell Paschke, Jill Ross, Kathryn Screes, Trudy Strantz, Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp, Tom/Pat Murray, Greg/Jean Mee, Marlene/Otto Martinec, Jerry/Judy Kearns, Margaret Hosinski, Jane Horning, Edward/Joan Hardig, Sheila Emge, Janet Crull, Mary Ellen Brennan, Bill/Marian Bickel, Nedra J. Kennelly, Jacky/David Huber)

John Stephenson (Kay Houser)
Amy Thurman (M/M Jacob D. Mady)
Peter Veldman (Ed/Joan Hardig, Pat/ Bette O’Malley, Debra/Michael Low)
Carl Weinzel (Joan Biltz)
John Paul Wilder (Winifred VandenBossche)

Special Occasion:
Katherine Artnak - Health (Pat/Joe Corcoran)
Jack Balint - Complete Recovery (Dr. John/ Marilyn Toepp)
Beth Mackin Baxter - Complete Recovery (Dr. John/Marilyn Toepp)
Matthew Halstead - Get Well (Bette/ Pat O’Malley)
Marietta Squibb (Carol Bauer)

Barb Skubiszewski and Marge Hosinski work on Layettes of Hope. Christ Child partners with Women’s Care Center to distribute them to pregnant moms.
Clothe-A-Child Donors as of 3/15/14

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**Total Donations**

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Mr. and Mrs. James Holt in honor of Pat and Bette O'Malley (50th Wedding Anniversary)
Mrs. Melissa Jaffar in honor of Melissa Jaffar
Mr. Tom Buczynski in honor of Mr and Mrs Tom Buczynski
Mrs. Barbara Mangione in honor of Nimbilasha Cushing
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Malley in honor of Rev. Kenneth Grabner CSC
Miss Mary Anne Retseck in honor of Julie Considine
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Riel in honor of Vicki and Dick Riel
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rosenfeld in honor of Fran Shearer
Mr. and Mrs. James Sharpe in honor of James W. Sharpe
Mr. and Mrs. David Shevitz in honor of Mary Ann Randall
Join Me in a Day at the Center

I know some of you do not always get to the Center, so I thought I would share one of our Wednesdays with you. To begin the morning we always get together and pray for our members or their family who may be ill. We close with the Christ Child prayer “blessing the little children of the whole world.”

John Bycraft has been ill for a very long time. He and Marjorie are seeing some progress at a rehabilitation facility in Chicago and they are very hopeful. Please continue to include them in your thoughts and prayers. Kathy Lanphere from used clothing is back. A few months ago she had a very serious auto accident, and after being trapped in her car for an hour, was rescued by emergency personnel with the jaws of life.

Coats

Today I worked on coats with Cathy Waszak and Mary Ann Butts. Andrea Incropera and Cathy work really hard getting a variety of coats in different styles and colors so that “our kids” fit in. Some of these coats started out costing over $100.00 but Andrea and Cathy get them for $25.00 or less. Head purchaser for all the clothing is Andrea’s huge undertaking.

Mandy Skwarcan, Kay Houser and Ann Choinacky put together 22 layettes for the hospitals: Memorial and St. Joseph. Each layette includes gowns, T-shirts, body suits, socks, bottles, receiving blankets, towels, a stuffed animal, an outfit, and a hand knitted sweater from Marilyn Toepp and other members. The items are lovingly wrapped up in a blanket (a lot of those are knitted or handmade). The boys are put in a blue bag, the girls in pink and on the outside is our Christ Child logo. Each time the mom uses it she can remember the love we sent her way. Sue Cierznak and Jeanine Wideman then go through all the bins looking for used clothing to put in bags and include with each layette. This department does about 500 layettes a year.

In March we work on the Layette of Hope project. Barb Skubis-zewski, her husband Skuby (Yes, we have men helping us), Marge Hosinski, Esther Cyr and Beverly Bruneel had tons done before I walked in to help. There is something so powerful about that little body suit with the tiny socks tucked inside. The presentation is really nice too, they are put in a little bag with a gold Christ Child sticker on the outside and inside is a prayer. The best thing though is the hope it might give to the mother to keep her baby.

Books

Mary Beth McGrath was working on the books that we get in for “our kids.” The book program has really taken off. Isn’t it neat how an idea can blossom like a flower and just spread and spread? Thank goodness for the planter! Mary Beth started a few years ago by asking people to bring in children books that they did not want anymore. She even has a program with World Books if we take in adult books they give us credit to pick out children books. Ann Korb told me when the Center was a school it was a school the nuns actually lived in the area where we store the books. Bonnie Grimsli, a new member, commented on how surprised she was by all the rooms at the Center, and all the activity in each room.

Tricia Shafer had a crew helping her do the envelopes for the Kentucky Derby fundraiser. Peg Riggs, Joan Hardig, Judy Kuzmich, Marcia Auger, Linda Brammer and after that I have no idea who else showed up. But they were busy. Tricia asked if we would take some tickets to sell for the drawing. They look spectacular with the face and hat design; I loved it. It would be great if we could ask our friends or neighbors to purchase one, only $10.00 each. You might contact Tricia if you could help out at fireball763@sbcglobal.net. Rosie Shafer from used clothing she got drafted to stuff envelopes too. I call her one of our miracle children since she survived her illness and came back to us. “They told me I was not going to make it but I showed em” she said. I think it was God, that red hair and her Irishness that saved the day. Anne Eme was another one of our miracle children. She had been very ill and is now back at the Center too.

Shoes

Sue Walsh had her girls putting away a huge order of shoes. Every time I walked by they were opening boxes, stacking boxes, counting boxes putting boxes away. It was just a box day at the center. There are so many fun ladies in the shoe room and they are always cracking up over the antics of Kathleen Welsh.

Sharon James, Cathie Taelman and the rest of the new clothing team were putting away merchandise. Each child gets new underwear, socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, long sleeve shirt, jeans, or a school uniform. Lucky toddlers receive a darling outfit and a blanket sleeper, plus underwear and socks. See where all that money that we raise goes.

I talked to Jane Horning who said to tell all hello and to let you know how much she misses seeing everyone at the Center. If any of you haven’t been to the Center for a while, stop by - we miss you.

We all keep hoping that spring is coming. Lola Pataluch said that snowdrops (flower) is the first sign for her that winter may be ending.

Beverly Brunnel and Esther Cyr help put together the Layette of Hope packets.

Layettes of Hope Needs Help!

March 19 a small but mighty group of members started work on assembling the 3000 Layettes of Hope Christ Child provides for the Women’s Care Center.

Back in February 2005, then president Teddi Murray was approached by the Women’s Care Centers. They extended an invitation to partner with them in providing service and protection for perhaps the most needy and innocent of infants, those yet to be born. At that time Christ Child set aside $4000 to create a small packet of items to give to a woman with a positive pregnancy test. Ideas for items included prenatal vitamins, skin lotion, literature of interest to pregnant women, infant clothing, socks and a pacifier. Today with a budget of $5500, we are able to make 3000 Layettes of Hope. From those original suggestions, a pair of socks, a small onesie, and a note from the Christ Child Society are lovingly assembled and placed in a baggie with a Christ Child seal.

Ellen Sommer from Women’s Care Center says, “These are so wonderful to give to our pregnant moms!” As soon as they run low, Ellen is quick to contact the Center.

We aren’t finished bagging these wonderful Layettes yet and we could really use your help on April 2 and April 16 to finish and get them off to the Women’s Care Center. Please help out in the client waiting room.
Happy Mother’s Day

Do you want a special way to honor your mother or a special woman in your life, living or deceased? A donation to The Christ Child Society of South Bend would help provide a layette for a newborn baby or help clothe a young child. A note will be sent to the recipient acknowledging your gift.*

(Her) Name ________________________________ In Memory of____
Address ___________________________________ In Honor of _____
City/State/Zip ______________________________
Given by: __________________________________

Please send your check in any amount to:
Happy Mother’s Day
Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624

*Check here if you want the special person notified of your gift.___________