



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY[®]

OF CLEVELAND

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

CHAPTER AND VERSE

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends/Members,

WOW! What a difference six weeks makes...

I was walking in the Metropark last week and met up with a very nice 'older' gentleman and his two dogs. A little chit chat about his dogs and the 'atmosphere'. We parted with him saying, 'I wish it was the 'olden days' again...you know, like three months ago!' Interesting view coming from a man in his 80's!

This month's letter brings news to you in the form of an update as to what our Society's and especially your Board and various committees have been working on to fulfill our Societies mission and our mission moving forward into next month, next year and so on.

You know about the immediate...service projects, layettes and 'My Stuff' bags packing rescheduled until next month, June; we are hoping to have the Provisionals formally installed at our Mass on the Day of Reflection, July 22 at St Barnabas. What a wonderful day of reflection that would be.

You have heard about our **NEW Mother's Day Layette Fund** drive to enhance our now limited fundraising abilities. Log onto our website for more details. We have created a **NEW "Immediate Needs"** project; **sewing masks** for the children we serve. This project has had a terrific jump start with our member Sharon Harwat creating more than 200 already pre-cut and assembled mask sewing kits for our members. Thank you Sharon Harwat!

Although we had to 'cancel' the Red Wagon Luncheon Fundraiser with Embassy Suites, we are jumping into the 'virtual' world and we are creating a **NEW Red Wagon - HOME EDITION**. On **May 27th** our new virtual luncheon will take place. Look for information via email and in the mail very soon. We hope you will consider sending the invitation to your family and friends who would have come to the event and tell them they can still join in the fun and support our organization. Our Spring Luncheon on June 24 at Acacia with our Annual Business Meeting, installation of new Officers and the Mary Virginia Merrick Award, we are anticipating to still be on schedule, although we may have to limit the attendee capacity. But, of course, I'll let everyone know asap.

Finally, your Board members and a few other committees are up to the following:

- Completed and ready for approval, by you, revisions to the **ByLaws - CCS of CLE**
- The creation of a **NEW Board Manual**, an everything you need to know when accepting a CCS Board or Director position, all at your fingertips.
- **Showcase Re-Opening** - the how and when have all been discussed and are in place to open safely for our member volunteers and our customers. A temperature reader, 100's of wipes and masks will be on hand.
- At this time we have tabled a revision of our CCS of CLE Strategic Plan and the recently completed Community Needs Assessment touches on many aspects of the Strategic Plan. We have started on a new plan for our organization called a **Business Continuity Plan**. We are setting up plans and protocol for just such situations as the current pandemic, if a catastrophe occurred at the Christ Child Office, Showcase or any other obstacles that would prevent us from continuing our mission for a period of time.

Please look for any further updates from my emails or our website.

All of you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers daily.

Missing all of you!

Fondly,
Cathy

CCS CLE NEWS!

News You Need To Know **NOW!**

May 27, 2020 Red Wagon Luncheon - **HOME EDITION details coming soon!**



June 24, 2020 Spring Business Meeting/Installation of New Officers/Mary Virginia Merrick Award at Acacia Reservation. Details in June/July Newsletter

July 22, 2020 Day of Recollection at St Barnabas Mass and Installation of Members of the Class of 2019, Speaker, followed by a Luncheon. Watch for updates.

August 12, 2020 Provisional Bus Tour- Details to follow

CCS OFFICE BUILDING SAFETY

For everyone's information...our building has a very safe set of standards in place. Every patient entering has a mask in place and their temperature taken. That is for the Manor in the front of the building as well as Matt Talbot patients and dialysis patients who use the rear entrance. There have been no virus cases at the Manor. Only one person was admitted to Matt Talbot after they recovered at Metro Hospital. The building houses Diocesan offices, which are of utmost importance, so extra safety is in place. Any distribution of LAYETTES, "My Stuff" Bags and cribs is done by Cathy Caruso only and everything is carried downstairs and loaded into the vehicles. This takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays when there is no one else in our building for treatments. We will adjust this process as is needed in the coming weeks and months ahead.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN AND TAKE NOTE OF EMAILS SENT REGARDING CHANGES.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

May 2020

Layette Packing

First Monday, 10:00-12:30

Updates will be noted in our June/July Newsletter

Contact: **Jean Boldt**

Euclid -St. John of the Cross Sewing Group

Fourth Thursday, 9:00-12:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Andrea Dean**

Grandmothers' Program Merrick House

Note: Volunteers must wear socks.

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Stephanie West**

Shaker Heights-St. Dominic Sewing Group

Third Tuesday, 10:00-12:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Irene Chalko**

Independence Sewing Group

Second Wed. & Thurs., 10:00-2:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Laura Cengic**

Merrick House Pre-School Reading Enrichment

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays 9:30-11:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Stephanie West**

"My Stuff" Packing

Third Monday, 10:00-12:00

Updates will be noted in our June/July Newsletter

Contact: **Kathy Moehring**

Parkview HeadStart Reading Program

First and Third Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Marsha Gleine** or **Sharon Skotko**

St. Francis Library

During the school year Tue: 9:30-2:00 / Wed: 9:30-2:30

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Anne Mooney**

St. Rocco Library

During the school year Mon: 8:30-12:00

No activities until Fall

Contact: **Paula Conrad**

Showcase

Shifts available on Tuesday-Saturday:

11:00-2:00 / 11:00-4:00 / 12:00-4:00

Updates will be sent via email

Contact: **Marge Ansel**

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

Remembrance/Endowment Report

February 20 - April 17, 2020

Memory

Marie Briedenbach (2)
Bede McGuinness
Patricia Negrelli
Barbara O'Neil
Nacy Panzica
Marc Pavlik (2)
Kay Prusha
Anne Ryan
Mark Sharnas (4)

Honor

Rose Dziak, Congratulations! 30 year Anniversary as a member of Christ Child Society
Linda Sheehan, Congratulations! 55 year Anniversary as member of Christ Child Society
Diane Zawadski-Prayers for Grandson

In Our Thoughts

The family of Mary Doyle, Past Chapter President
The family of member, Pauline Murray
Meg Kearns, death of mother in law, Barbara O'Neil
The family of member, Anne Ryan

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 February 7 - April 17	\$565.00
TOTAL FOR FISCAL YEAR	\$10,468.00

Online Remembrance Giving available on our website at christchildsocietycleveland.org

UPDATE ON FINANCES

Dear Members,

We are truly living in uncertain times. It is challenging to plan for next week, let alone next month or next year. This year, our Chapter has had to make difficult decisions regarding our fundraising events and social gatherings. Although we hate to cancel any opportunity to get together to support our wonderful organization, the health and safety of our members is paramount. We will continue to put you, our members, first. At the same time, we must also do our best to ensure that The Christ Child Society of Cleveland is well-positioned to answer the needs of the children in our community.

Thanks to the efforts of Kate Toma, Cathy Caruso, and the Starlight Soiree Committee, our main fundraising event exceeded expectations and has given us a small cushion to get through this crisis. As of March 31, 2020, the Chapter is still in a fairly good financial position. Fluctuations in the stock market will affect our endowment and the temporary closing of Showcase will effect our bottom line.

We are fortunate to have a strong President and Board of Directors. They continue to "think outside the box" and with their imagination, innovation, resourcefulness and the prayers of all of our members, we will remain a strong and nimble group of dedicated women who serve children in need.

Meg Kearns

Financial Secretary



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)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Renewal July 1 – August 15, 2020

Ladies, the annual membership renewal is just around the corner. During the April 2020 board meeting, it was decided to **eliminate the 50 volunteer hour requirement** for active members due to the Coronavirus stay at home order. This is **for the 2019-2020 Fiscal year only**. What this means to you is that the \$25.00 Difference Fee is waived if you did not meet the 50 volunteer hour requirement.

All that being said, we're asking that when you renew, you report your volunteer hours regardless of how many hours you have. Please, take the time now to tally up your volunteer hours. It'll make renewing a snap. The volunteer hours you report are often used when we apply for grants to support our projects.

The Membership Renewal form will be in the June/July 2020 Chapter and Verse newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE COMPLETES ITS WORK

The work of the Community Needs Assessment Committee has been completed. With surveys and the gathering of agency representatives, the Christ Child Society learned a great deal about its projects, its members, and the needs of the children it serves. The Committee's inquiries, investigations, and discussions – and our membership's input along the way – have resulted in a final Report to our President and Board of Directors.

The Report includes details of the process as well as the recommendations of the Committee. It is now up to the Board of Directors to assess and evaluate the recommendations and make the decisions they deem to be appropriate.

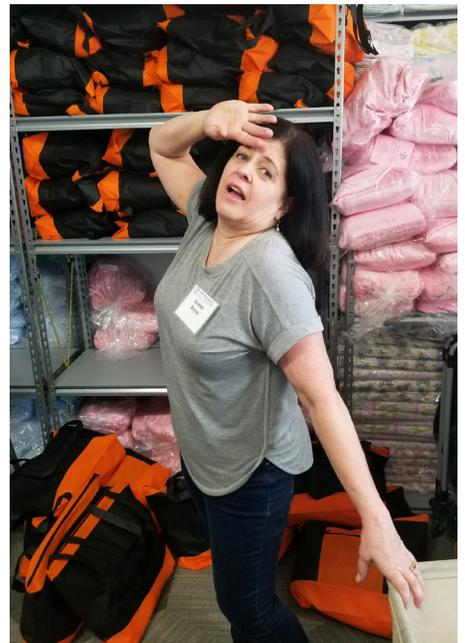
We would like to thank the members of the Christ Child Society for your interest, your willingness to help, and your input throughout the process. Your support was invaluable. We would also like to thank everyone who helped with the agency gathering in March of 2019. Because of you, we were able to create meaningful community and connection. And we would like to thank the members of our Committee who shared their wisdom and worked tirelessly and diligently on behalf of the children we serve.

Without you, this project could never have become a reality.

To each and every one of you - your shining hearts and working hands are inspirational, and it is a privilege to be in your company. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Susan Ferraro Smith and **Meg Kearns**
Co-Chairs of the Community Needs Assessment Committee

Do you remember When???





Christ Child Society of Cleveland

7901 Detroit Avenue, Suite 300
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

www.christchildsocietycleveland.org

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DATED MATERIAL: Please deliver by May 7th.

Articles for the newsletter

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

Articles for the June issue will be due by Wednesday, May 20th.

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