



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY.
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

The Correspondent

WINTER 2023

President's Welcome



Happy New Year Ladies!

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season with the ones you love!

The new year brings all sorts of new opportunities and at Christ Child Society it's no different.

This month, there is the opportunity to nominate new members to our organization. Please consider proposing friends and family members who share our commitment to helping children in need. New member proposal form was emailed to everyone. It is also on our website,

and in this newsletter issue, or contact Tess Crabtree, the VP of membership, to obtain one. Please submit your forms by February 15th.

Also, the annual Easter Shoes appeal letter was mailed. We raised an impressive amount for our Christmas Stockings appeal and I'm certain the Easter Shoes appeal will be just as successful. The generosity of our membership is always amazing!

Our auction and fundraiser patrons mailing, and auction obligation requests will also be sent out in February. The auction will be held May 11th in conjunction with our Annual Meeting and Luncheon, but the auction obligations will be due March 15. Some of you pre-paid the obligation last fall, those of you who did not, will need to do so at this time.

Our annual Ash Wednesday service will be held at St Bede the Venerable church in La Canada on February 22nd. Hope to see you all there.

Finally, if you are interested in helping out and getting more involved, please consider a board position. It's almost time again to propose new board members for the 2023-24 year. There are big and small positions, and the vast majority require very little time commitment, with almost everything possible via email. Everyone is busy, many of us work, many have family to take care of, but all of us can find a small amount of time to dedicate to ensuring Christ Child Society helps the many needy children of our community.

Please let me know if you are interested in a position and I would be happy to discuss all the options with you.

I thank you in again for your amazing generosity to Christ Child Society and to your continued commitment to our mission.

Many blessing to you and your loved ones.
Elsa Behney



Help Achieve Our Mission

Volunteers Needed

Calling all Christ Child Society of Pasadena Members!

We are looking for Christ Child Society of Pasadena members to volunteer to be part of our Board for the upcoming 2023-2024 year! It's a great way to give of your time, meet lots of fun members, share your talents and continue our mission to help those in our community.

Contact Angel Throop if you are interested or have any questions at angelthroop@mail.com or call 626-233-9993.

Are you interested in serving on any of the following:

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Position	Description	Time Commitment
VP Programs/president elect	Oversee Layettes, PALS, Treasures, Christmas Stockings and Easter Shoes, and Parish Ambassadors	
VP Fundraising	Oversee auction, Christmas Open House, Bunco, May Mass and Lunch, Connections and fall mass	
Treasurer	Responsible for all accounting	
VP Communications	Oversee website, social media, newsletter	
VP Membership	Oversee membership database, handbook, Provisional Chairs	
Recording Secretary	Take minutes at Executive & General Board meetings	

Help Achieve Our Mission continued

GENERAL BOARD:

Position	Description	Time Commitment
*Layettes Chair	Organize Layette assembly & delivery	Layettes-group effort, time varies
*PALS Chair	Oversee reading program in local parochial schools	1-2 hours every other month or less
*Treasures Chair	Oversee Manners and Etiquette Class	Time varies
*Helping Angels	Small jobs	Short-term commitment
*Service Projects Chair	Outreach to parochial schools for specific needs of schools and families. oversee Parish Ambassadors	3-4 hours Oct. & March (incl. meetings)
Christmas Stocking/Easter Shoes Chair	Nov. and March, send out letters & distribute gift cards	1-2 hours Oct. & March
Handbook Chair	Update member information and CCS handbook	Sept/Oct
Talent bank Chair	Keep list of people who would like to volunteer	Time varies
Provisionals Chair	Provisional orientation, oversee Provisionals as needed	A couple of days Sept, and before Thanksgiving
Ash Wednesday Chair	Organize Ash Wednesday service	Once per year
Fall Mass Chair	Organize fall mass	Once per year
Fall Bunco Chair	Organize event	Once per year
Spring Bunco Chair	Organize event	Once per year
Christmas Open House Chair/ Committee	Organize event	A couple of hours party planning & oversee event
Auction Chair/ Committee	Organize largest fundraising event	Spring, time varies
Aces and Faces Chair	Organize event	1 hour once a year
May Mass/Lunch Chair	Organize event	1-2 hours, oversee event
Connections Co-chairs	Organize rosary via zoom 2-3 coffee gatherings per year	Once a week rosary, and 2-3 coffee gatherings
Assistant Treasurer (events)	Track event payments	1-2 hours around event time
Assistant Treasurer (auction)	Track auction payment to event	2-5 hours around auction time
Assistant Treasurer (membership)	Track payment of annual dues	2-5 hours around dues mailing
Hospitality Chair	Provides refreshments at all General Board meetings and other events	3-4 times a year for 1 hour
Mailing Chair	Print USPS bulk mail labels as needed for mailings	1-2 hours a year, labels needed 5 times a year
Newsletter Editor	Create "The Correspondent" Newsletter	3 times per year
Corresponding Secretary	Create "The Happening" monthly events calendar, arrange memorial masses	Once per month
PR & social media	Update social media Photographs events and submits to local newspapers with descriptions	Weekly or biweekly
Website	Update CCS of Pasadena Website with all information	1-3 hours per year (flexible)
Historian	Track important organization documents	

*Chapter Program description is on the following page.

Our Chapter Programs

Christ Child Society of Pasadena has specific programs catering to the needs of our own community. As we begin our new 2022-2023 year, we are always looking for additional supporters, volunteers, and Helping Angels. If you are interested in participating, the following is a short description of our chapter programs and contact information. As always, we are very grateful to you for all your support and dedication to help us achieve our mission of helping children in need.

TREASURES

The **Treasures Program** is a Manners or Etiquette Class. The program is a seven-week course – two hours per class. Each class addresses a subject such as making introductions, dining manners and thank you notes. Our members work with fifth and sixth graders at local parochial schools. Our aim is to create a positive environment where, hopefully, the students will receive a boost to their self-esteem and self-confidence. **Maureen Dinius: mdinius@earthlink.net**



LAYETTES

The Layette volunteers assemble and provide new mothers with some basic needs for Infants. Volunteers meet at St. Andrew Pastoral Center to assemble the layettes. We are thankful to have devoted knitters in our CCS who make blankets, booties, and caps that are included in each layette. The layettes are distributed to many area parishes, hospitals, pregnancy help centers, children's services, and Catholic charity organizations. **Olga Castellanos: olga_cast@mac.com, Debi Lee: dalee225@yahoo.com, Sharon McTigue: sharonmctigue@me.com**

If you would like to be a **Helping Angel** for a small job or short-term commitment, contact **Sarah Nowak: esnowak@att.net**

PALS (Pairs and Learn Session)

As **PALS volunteers**, our members read aloud to the children in grades K-3 at St Andrew and Nativity Catholic schools. Our goal is to help children develop a love of reading, stimulate the imagination, and spark a desire to learn. Our CCS volunteers also offer tutoring in grades 1-3. Subjects include reading and basic math. Program on hiatus until 2023
Greta Andre: greta@andrefamily.com



Parish Ambassadors and Service Projects

Service Projects are administered through volunteer members who are **Parish Ambassadors** and act as liaisons to designated parish schools in the San Gabriel Valley. Communicating with the schools' principals throughout the year, our ambassadors identify the needs of the most underprivileged children at the schools and invite the principals to submit requests for funds to support those needs. As a result, our **Service Projects program (Christmas Stocking Fund & Easter Shoes)** pays for items such as uniforms, registration, sacramental fees, and lunch for the neediest children at the schools. For more information see page 6 of this issue.

Leah McCrary: mccraryl@mac.com, Julianne Coppersmith: copperfog@earthlink.net

From Our Spiritual Advisor



February 2023

Dear Members of the Christ Child Society
of Pasadena,

Greetings in Christ! I hope you all had a joyful Christmas and New Year and are healthy and staying strong.

I write this to you after just having returned from a week visiting family in Cuba. It is always a challenge to travel there because some of the things we typically take for granted (electricity, water, toilet paper!) are not always available.

Sometimes they are and sometimes they aren't. This year there was water, but electricity went out daily. It helps me a great deal to make this annual trip, however. It is wonderful to see my extended family and to bring them needed supplies as well as visit the parish there and bring things like candles and incense, but it also serves as a good reminder to me. So often we simply take so much that we have for granted. We live in this wonderful country of the United States, and it is easy to forget that we have been greatly blessed. Much of the world does not have what we have.

This is what the Christ Child Society is all about: helping the needy especially the littlest ones among us. Your work of charity makes a huge difference in the lives of so many families.

We are about to begin Lent once again. Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 22nd. I urge you to start thinking now about your upcoming Lenten resolutions. Most of us were brought up with the idea of "giving up" something for Lent. This is a very worthwhile practice as it is a means of penance and mortification as well as self-sacrifice. I strongly recommend it. But also, think about "doing" something special for Lent as well. This can be using the money we might save on chocolate, ice cream, liquor or whatever we give up, and give it to charity. In this case, I recommend the Christ Child Society as that charity so you can make a difference in the lives of others.

In addition, I strongly urge you to make some resolutions regarding your spiritual life. Lent is a time of renewal. So, resolve to pray more daily, to attend daily Mass, to go to Confession regularly, to pray the Stations of the Cross at your parish, to do more spiritual reading, to participate in the beautiful ceremonies and Masses of Holy Week, etc. In this way when Easter arrives, we, hopefully, are better persons to rejoice in the Lord's resurrection.

I wish you a Holy Lent and a joyful Easter!

May the love of the Holy Child Jesus always compel us to serve!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Marcos J. Gonzalez, Pastor

Please Join Us..... Ash Wednesday Mass



Layettes



Thank you for your continued support via donations and diapers. Please consider knitting or crocheting for the Layette Program.

The Jewel City Knitters have been so generous—last year **they donated over 400 items!** **This year our goal is 500**, so we need your help! Donations of yarn or fabric for quilts are gladly accepted.

Our toiletry kits are short on shampoo, lotion, body wash, and dental items.



NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

**Tuesday, May 9th,
5 to 7 pm**

**LAST ONE
Wednesday, May 10th,
9 to noon.**

Layettes continued



Olga served a delicious cornbread which everyone loved at the last Layette meeting. She is kindly sharing the recipe.

Yummy Cornbread (aka Trader Joe's cornbread!)

For each box of mix you will need:

- 1 egg**
- ½ cup oil**
- ¾ cup milk**
- ½ can of TJ's sweet corn (I make two boxes of mix and use 1 can.)**

Follow the directions on the box, adding the sweet corn to the egg, oil, and milk before adding the mix. Serve with honey if desired.



Layettes continued

It Takes a Village and Husbands, Daughters, Sons, and Friends!

By Olga McGee

The Layette program counts on the help of many members AND their partners, children, and friends! Recently, Sharon McTigue and daughter Taylor transported 24 layettes to one of our agencies; Sharon's husband Chris and son Sean, helped the day that a big truckload of supplies showed up; Debi Lee and daughter Olivia added items and moved around 100 bags in the storage room; and just a few days ago, Sue Fulps and husband Lou, transported 60 bags to another agency. That's quite a few flights of up and down the stairs to fill their car to the BRIM!

On the receiving end, Sue and Lou were helped by about 5 additional women who were VERY appreciative of the donation. And they offered to speak at one of our Christ Child functions and let us know where the layettes go—what a lovely idea. Another plus from Lou: "I don't need to go to the gym today after that workout! I'll be taking a nap!"

So, if you want to skip your workout, help us deliver layettes like Katie Bolton is doing! Thank you to ALL who have come to help assemble layettes and toiletry kits, who have donated handmade items and toiletries, and who have helped deliver these much needed and appreciated layette bags!

DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2023

New Member Proposal Forms

If there is a woman who is interested in joining our lovely group, please complete and submit a Membership Proposal Form

Check your email for the New Member Proposal form or scroll down to the next page. Contact: Tess Crabtree membership@christchildpasadena.org.



PROVISIONAL MEMBER PROPOSAL FORM

Candidate's Name _____

Spouse's Name (If Applicable) _____

Parish: _____ Birthday(day, month): _____

Mailing Address _____
street address

_____ city, state, zip

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Provisional member obligations

- Remit \$75.00 annual dues by June 1st of each year
 - Annually donate \$100 or an item with a minimum value of \$100, to the Annual Auction
 - Complete eight (8) hours of service during the Provisional year
 - Attendance at one Layette meeting (2hrs)
 - Work at Annual Auction and Luncheon (4hrs)
 - Additional 2 service hours (Working with a parish school highly recommended)
- **It is encouraged that once active, Provisional volunteer for a board position in their first year as an active member

Sponsorship obligations

- Be an Active member in good standing
- Personally know the Provisional
- Sponsor only one Provisional and/or co-sponsor only one Provisional per year
- Please try to accompany provisional to at least one Christ Child Society event

Sponsor _____

Co-Sponsor _____

Telephone (____) _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email _____

Email _____

Please submit this completed form to the membership VP at membership@christchildpasadena.org

No phone calls or faxes will be accepted. Provisional candidates will be approved by the board in March and letters to candidates mailed shortly thereafter.

Save the Date

**SPRING BUNCO
NIGHT**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

6:30 to 9:00 PM

at

The Clubhouse

Evite to follow



Memorial Mass, Luncheon, and Annual Auction

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Lunch and Annual Auction, our most important fundraiser of the year, will follow mass at Annandale Golf Club

Invitation to follow

Grant Funding Update

The Givers of All Gifts

18 schools, 22 Parish Ambassadors, over 300 Christ Child Society Members, and most importantly, countless students with endless smiles and happy hearts.



This past Christmas Season, the incredible generosity of our Society allowed our Parish Ambassadors to bring **over \$45,000** to the students of our Parishes.

This amount represents 60% of the total donated, leaving the allocation committee 40% to allocate for the Spring requests. Thank you to each of you, for making it possible for our Society to do what Mary Virginia Merrick so lovingly called us to be, the true givers of all gifts,

A FEW OF THE MANY WE SUPPORT:

- A family of 11 children in a single home dwelling
- A single working mom raising 3 children
- A parish which doubled its enrollment in 6 months

Gifts ranged from books, shoes, and school supplies to fees for registration, sacraments, field trips and graduation.



The gift of a Catholic education is what we strive to provide. We continue to gift these parishes, to fulfill the needs of every child, to live the mission, that Mary Virginia Merrick so passionately created and still inspires and guides us to accomplish.

This mission is carried out with great success and love due to the time, effort, and hearts for our Parish Ambassadors. **THANK YOU to all our Parish Ambassadors** for the gifts they give to make this mission possible. They are patient, flexible and diligent in communicating with the school principals to ensure we know how we can best help each school. The Parish Ambassadors allow us to effectively allocate your generosity to be the most impactful for each of our Parish schools.

Please consider joining this invaluable team and giving yourself an opportunity to connect with a Parish school on a level that allows you to gain insight about this special part of our CCS mission.

National Day of Service Project Update

READ

IMAGINE

SUCCEED

- EMBRACE THE POSSIBILITIES

Thanks to all who donated money and books to the National Day of Service "Read, Imagine, Succeed-Embrace the Possibilities" **we were able to donate \$615 and several books** to six of the neediest schools in the San Gabriel Valley, Epiphany, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Louis of France, St. Thomas More, Immaculate Conception, and Nativity.

The teachers and children are so thankful for our gifts that will help enhance their reading programs and libraries.

God bless all of you for your kindness and generosity that continues to help those around us!



"Christ Child books have been as rays of sunshine to little hearts that were clouded with sorrow. I believe it would have been hard to find a happier crowd of [children] in this city than these were the day the new books you sent [received]."

Mary Virginia Merrick
1911 Annual Report
Christ Child Society of DC Facebook,
October 2022

Christmas Stocking Fund Drive Update

"The giving spirit was present this Christmas..."



From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your extraordinary generosity during the Christmas Stocking Fund drive. **We raised \$19,940**, which provided **199 Target gift cards for 76 families.**

17 of the 18 parish school families were supported this year with a **75.00 gift card for each child.** The giving spirit was present this Christmas—you are all Christ Child Angels!

Easter Shoes Appeal Letter has been sent.

Parish Appeal Letter will be sent out soon.

Let our light shine and share God's love with those less fortunate than us!!

Please be generous and help the needy families that we serve in our parish schools with their children's needs for Easter and the school year!!

Christmas Open House and Brunch



Celebrating the Season

On December 8, 2022, Elita Balfour welcomed Christ Child members to her lovely home for our annual Christmas Open House and Brunch.



Christmas Open House and Brunch continued



At the Christmas Open House members enjoyed a wonderful brunch while sharing stories, laughing, and smiling with friends. We are so grateful to all who generously gave to the Layette program. We collected \$4000.00 in donations, and a number of diapers, and toiletry items. A heartfelt thank you to all those who volunteered their time to make this event happen and to Elita Balfour for organizing and hosting this very special day.



Reminders

PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES BY JUNE 1st,2023

Our Chapter is charged by National for each member listed on our roster. This means that if a member has not paid their dues, unless they officially resign, our chapter is still responsible for paying National their portion of the dues.

When you receive the Membership Dues notice via email and USPS (with return envelope), PLEASE submit payment either in the enclosed return envelope or via **Zelle** (treasurer@christchildpasadena.org) by the **DUE date of JUNE 1st**.

If a member wishes to resign, please send a handwritten note or an electronic email to the VP of Membership (membership@christchildpasadena.org) and/or our current President of Christ Child of Pasadena.

Fundraising

AUCTION OBLIGATION

Dues are due

March 15,2023

Details to follow

Maximize your Donation by Shopping at Amazon Smile



If you shop at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), the Amazon Smile Foundation donates a percentage of each purchase to Christ Child Society of Pasadena.

Simply shop at this link:
smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4613607 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022-2023

2022

August 29th (Monday)-Layette meeting 5-7PM

August 30th (Tuesday)- Layette meeting 9-11AM

September 7- Executive Board meeting

September 14th – General Board meeting – New provisional orientation

September 16th -18th- National Christ Child Conference (Tucson)

October 2nd – Fall Mass

October 13th - Layette meeting 5-7PM

October 14th -Layette meeting 9-11 AM

October 20th – Fall Bunco

November 4th – Correspondent articles due

November 7th – Aces and Faces

December 8th – Christmas Open House

2023

January 12th (Thursday)- Layette meeting 5-7PM

January 13th – Executive Board meeting

January 13th (Friday)- Layette meeting 9-11AM

January 18th- General Board meeting

February 10th – Correspondent articles due

February 11th (Saturday) – Layette meeting 9-11AM

February 15th – New member proposals due

February 22nd – Ash Wednesday Mass

March 8th- Executive Board meeting

March 15th – 2022-23 AUCTION OBLIGATION DUE (\$100)

March 15th -General Board meeting

March 15th - Past Presidents' luncheon

April 18th – Spring Bunco

May 9th (Tuesday)- Layette meeting 5-7PM

May 10th (Wednesday) – Layette meeting 9-11 AM

May 11th -Auction and Memorial Mass, Annual Meeting and Luncheon

May 12th - Correspondent articles due

May TBD (before Labor Day) – General Board meeting. Old board/New board

June 15th – 2023-24 ANNUAL DUES DUE – **late fee of \$20 assessed after 8/1**

Looking forward to seeing you at our next event!



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF PASADENA
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

PO BOX 50914
PASADENA, CA 91115

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Pasadena, Calif.
Permit No. 140

Visit our website at
www.christchildpasadena.org

THE CORRESPONDENT

2021-2022 Executive Board

President: Elsa Behney
VP Fundraising/Events: Julieta Bennett
VP Programs: Cheryl Newell
VP Membership: Tess Crabtree
VP Finance/Treasurer: Mary Guzman
Recording Secretary: Sarah Towne- di Cicco
Past President/Nominating: Angel Throop

Guest(s) of Board

Advisor: Becky Sarni

The Correspondent

Editor: Maria Sarry
Public Relations/Social Media: Jennifer Hemming



Christ Child Society of Pasadena is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

National Christ Child Society: 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 504, Rockville, MD 20852
<http://nationalchristchildsoc.org> email: office@nationalchristchildsoc.org