



Peter Max

Night of Angels Love-In

by Susan Hall, Co-chair

Join this year's NOA co-chairs Maureen Carey, Susan Hall, Katie Gantner, Laura Karmanos, and Molly Robinson and save the date for the Night of Angels Love-in!

Drop out of your Friday night routine and join us for the Christ

Child Society's Love-In on **Friday, November 11, 2016** at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market. This mind-expanding party promises to have the coolest vibe with psychedelic music, drinks, munchies and far-out silent and live auctions. Dress hippie chic and bring your grooviest friends.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer, so shoot an email to Patti Jessup at patjessup@aol.com and we will get you set up.

Be there or be square!

Christ Child House has a new Leader

by Pamela Hildebrand, President

Effective May 9, 2016, a new chapter emerged at the Christ Child House with the hiring of LaNeice Jones. LaNeice has taken the reins as the new President and CEO of the Christ Child House. After an extensive executive search by

members of the Christ Child House Advisory Board, former DHS officials and CCS past presidents, our choice was Ms. Jones.

She comes to the Christ Child House as a University of Michigan graduate with her Masters in Social Welfare Administration. She was the Vice



The new President and CEO of Christ Child House, LaNeice Jones.

President of Programs of the Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO) since 2007. Pre-

viously, she was the unit director and clinical director at the organization. She is a board member at a number of organizations including The National Association of Crisis Center Directors, The Michigan Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, The Detroit Urban and Research Center and the President of her Sorority Delta Sigma Theta.

She is a breath of fresh air and a determined professional who only wants the best for our boys and the staff. I welcome you to take a visit to the house and introduce yourself to Ms. LaNeice Jones. She will be at our September general membership meeting at the Birmingham Country Club on September 21, 2016. I encourage you all to attend.

Save the Date for the Christmas Home Tour

Continue the tradition and usher in the Holiday Season by attending the annual Christ Child Society Christmas Home Tour!

Friday, December 2, 2016

Tour five beautifully decorated homes, enjoy brunch and start your Christmas shopping with our unique vendors at the newly updated Birmingham Country Club.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event! Please contact event chairs Kim McNulty at kimmcnulty@comcast.net or Kelly Winkler at beachwink@aol.com to offer your help.

Sponsorships are available

Cocktails and Conversationp. 3

Another fabulous pour les enfants! p. 5

Farewell to John Yablonkyp. 11

From the President

As your President, this is my last Communiqué message. Over the last two years, we have accomplished a great deal of changes, challenges and successes. The current Board of Directors will continue their respective jobs through 2017. However, my Executive Board will be departing along with me. All of them are amazing, talented women and I am lucky to have the privilege to have worked beside them. Gone are Nancy Barnett, our Recording Secretary and keeper of all databases! This is such a vital job to the Society that she will be tough to replace. Sally Westerheide is the best Treasurer ever! Good luck finding a replacement!!! Babbie Thomas did a stellar job at Corresponding Secretary. Betsy Heid, as VP of Community Service has been a committed volunteer and we thank her editing and grammatical ability to deal with the layout of the communiqué! Elaina Ryder as our VP of Membership is relieved she no longer has to send out “pay your dues” letters and she has been an awesome asset and delight to our team. Nichola Hendry, our VP of Communications did a stand up job of helping revamp our website and editor of the communiqué and we will miss her Brit accent!! The VP of Fundraising always has a challenge to help make our events a success with the mantra of let’s try and raise “mo money” and Carol Roney has done an amazing job. Our NOA Oktoberfest, two *pour les enfants* Luncheons, two Home Tours, and our upcoming NOA Love-In on November 11, 2016 at the Royal Oak Farmer’s Market will be another fundraising success!!! Miss Chrissy as I call her, Chris Schwartz our VP of the Christ Child House has navigated the challenges of helping run a home for our boys and has been steady and fabulous. Last but not least, your new President in 2017, Laura Keziah, will do an awesome job. I ask that members support her and the new Executive Board that replaces us.



Pamela with John Yablonky and LaNeice Jones at John's farewell party.

This Board has raised awesome amounts of money, put in place a new website, streamlined procedures, cleaned up the Layette House, will have a new sign gracing the building on Crooks Road before the end of the year, settled the Union contract thru 2019 and, most importantly, named a new President and CEO of the House, Ms. LaNeice Jones. She is a dynamo and has a new “set of eyes” in managing the House. Nicole McAdoo and Tonia Hayes are awesome women at the House in charge of administration and residential treatment. As a matter of fact, the entire staff has a new skip in their step with new personnel and exciting changes.

In addressing the name change for the House, we are still in discussions with private funding agencies and federal funding requirements. It is a process, the process will continue and come to a resolution at some point. It is essential that the House stay afloat and if our new CEO needs to change it or not to ensure our financial stability, the members of the Society will need to listen to her recommendation.

I would like to thank the membership for their kind words, support, friendship and dedication to serve children in need. The wheel of my work has come full circle and please remember, “Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.” Love and blessings to all.

President
Christ Child Society Detroit Chapter

Art Enrichment Fun!

by Susan D'Orazio, Art Program Coordinator

The Art Enrichment Program was able to provide the Christ Child House art projects for the second year in a row, because of donations and grant funding.

In July, the boys painted three tree canvases, learning about horizontal layers. There is a ground, background and a sky in an outdoor picture. In August, the boys completed tie-dye T-shirts and made totem poles that were placed in the gardens of the Christ Child House. The boys take great pride in their projects, because they have created something of their own. The opportunity to participate in "hands on" art activities provides for creative and self-expression.



The bimonthly Art Program will continue for the 2016 - 2017 school year. A tremendous "Thank you" to each and every volunteer that has participated in the Art Enrichment Program. You have given the boys the special caring and attention that supports and encourages their creativity.

If you would like to be a part of the Art Enrichment Program and to have the opportunity to interact directly with the boys at the Christ Child House, make sure you come to the Christ Child Volunteer Fair on September 21 and sign up for art activities.



Please contact susandorazio@comcast.net for more information.



**CATCH UP WITH YOUR CCS FRIENDS
AND FULFILL A MEETING REQUIREMENT!**

**GREAT TIME TO SIGN UP FOR
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 2016
7:00 PM**

**Birmingham Country Club
1750 Saxon Drive
Birmingham, Michigan**

Yummy Appetizers • Cash Bar

**RSVP by September 16 to Karen Kearns at
karenkearns@mac.com or call 248.613.5771**

REMINDER

All active members are asked to donate at least 30 hours annually to one of our programs or fundraisers.

**JOIN US
September 21st**

**at the Birmingham
Country Club
and pick your activity!**

SARA CAMPBELL

146 W. Maple Street, Birmingham

Come meet the new girl in town! Join us as we host the official grand opening of our Birmingham location on Thursday, September 22nd.

Celebrating all day; Sips and Savories with Sara from 4-8pm.

Enjoy our "new-friend" gift to you of 10% off your apparel purchase. Shop local, shop Sara and she will proudly donate 10% of all sales from the event to the **Christ Child Society**.

Junior Christ Child Society News



Helping out at the Heartwarmers' Picnic.

by Amy Gooch, Junior Christ Child Chair

Junior Christ Child had a busy spring attending many of the Child Enrichment activities with the boys. They also made dozens and dozens of blankets for the Layette Program.

The Junior Christ Child members also hosted a wonderful summer BBQ along with the Heartwarmers Program, which was held at the Christ Child House in late June. The day was filled with laughter and fun. The boys jumped in a big bounce



Zoe Ryder and Olivia Gooch

house, played basketball, blew bubbles, and drew pictures with sidewalk chalk and road bikes around the parking lot. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon and taco salad while the boys shared stories of the things happening in their lives. The taco salad was a hot commodity, sending volunteers back to the kitchen to make more bowls over and over again! The day ended with a special visit from the ice cream truck. The boys had big decisions to make choosing which treat they wanted!

A very big thank you to all of the volunteers and to those who generously donated to make the day a very special one for the Christ Child boys.

Fall will bring a lot of fun with Halloween activities and various outings with the boys. In December the Junior Christ Child members will host their annual Santa's Workshop at the House.

We would love to have new members join. If you know a high school student interested in volunteering, please send their name, school, grade, email and parent email to Amy Gooch at akgooch@gmail.com.



Kit Brown, Mia Dickow, Zoe Ryder, Olivia Gooch, Kaley Gooch, Tatum Hamaty and Keely Faris.



Richard Cross and John Yablonky enjoyed the special taco salad which Mary Lou Drewniak was serving up.

Christ Child Society of Detroit would like to thank our 2016 *pour les enfants* event sponsors!

Ms. Lisa Anton
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Beauregard
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Betrus
Mr. Matthew Burkhart
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chisholm
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Duerr
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Gantner
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan George
Ms. Judith Graves

Mr. & Mrs. William Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hardy
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Hildebrand
Ms. Ellen Holt
Mr. & Mrs. John Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. Rand Jessup
Ms. Kellie MacAloon
Ms. Carolyn Mergel
Dr. Brett Milford
Dr. & Mrs. Creagh Milford

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Paradiso
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pulte
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Roney
Mr. & Mrs. William Royce
Mr. & Mrs. Wally Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Thomas
Ms. Sally Westerheide
Ms. Kelly Winkler
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Yatsko

Another fabulous *pour les enfants* luncheon!



Event Co-chairs Kim Cameron, Kathy Milford and Bess Paradiso.

by Carol Roney, VP Fundraising

Well Christ Child Society members, we did it again! We held a wonderfully successful event on May 6th at Pine Lake Country Club. We could not have had such an amazing result without your support along with the support of your family and friends. Thank you so very much! The 2016 *pour les enfants* was a beautiful event celebrating mothers, daughters, granddaughters and all women. And we were proud to honor the love and legacy of the late Judy Slivinski, our 2016 Woman of The Year.

It was an absolute joy to work with the event co-chairs Kim Cameron, Kathy Milford and Bess Paradiso. This is the first year of their full membership in the Christ Child Society and

they stepped up and planned a terrific event with their fun committee comprised of Allyson Bakewell, Nancy Barnett, Marlen Borio, Claudia Duerr, Megan Jones, Michelle Kelly, Mari MacKenzie, Kathleen McInerney, Cathy Mazur, Susan Mazur, Tara Nittis, Molly Robinson, Carol Roney, Annette Royce, Noelle Schiffer and Kelly Winkler. During the planning of the luncheon, the committee members strengthened their commitment to CCS and forged new friendships.

Bess Paradiso created an exciting raffle, which raised more money than ever before! And one extremely lucky member, Karen Seitz, went home with three fabulous items that day... hope she played the lotto too!

We are so grateful to Kathleen McInerney for the donation of her gorgeous original oil painting. Her brightly colored tulip practically jumped off the canvas and helped the committee set the stage for the event's invitation and the day's decorations. Susan Mazur was lucky enough to have the winning bid and that beautiful painting is now hanging in her home.

We had a great fashion show with clothing showcased from Sara Campbell, Harps, Lilly Pulitzer, Tennis & Golf Company and W by Worth. And our own "Amy Pohler and Tina Fey" -- aka Kelly Winkler and Kim Cameron -- guided us through the fashions as our beautiful members and their daughters, granddaughters, and two handsome guys, Jack Winkler and Casey Cullen, had fun strut-



Kathleen McInerney with the beautiful original oil painting she created and donated for auction at the day's event.



Kelly Winkler's son Jack was a willing model for his mom, who MC'd the fashion show.



CCS models Nancy Barnett and Claudia Duerr with their shy granddaughters.



ting their stuff! We even had special hair and make-up sessions for our lovely models, provided by Sue Fontanesi and her staff at Bombshell and Russ Simon and his staff at Russ Simon Beauty.

Susan Hall gave a moving tribute to her dear friend Judy Slivinski, our 2016 Woman of The Year. Judy's mother, sister and niece also shared beautiful words with us, painting a picture of a selfless, dedicated and very devoted woman to our cause and to the vision Mary Virginia Merrick started so many years ago, "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and the support of our members and your families and friends. Without you the luncheon would not have been the amazing success it was.

Our Christ Child boys have so much talent!

by Chris Schwartz, House Council Chair

The **2016 Christ Child Talent Show** was a summer highlight for all who attended and participated! Shannon Murphy of Mojo in the Morning enthusiastically introduced each act. “Prince”, “Elvis”, “Stevie Wonder”, and “Taylor Swift” all performed under the BIG tent to a full house. We were entertained by the “Dab” and some amazing knock-knock jokes!

Mr. Cross, our Music Therapist, found just the right act for each boy, and the staff even participated in some singing and a “Rap” back-up!

This “Hardy Party” (hosted and organized by the always generous and spirited Hardy ladies, Pat, Lanie, Leslie and last, but not least, Lizzie) was full of fun, and truly highlighted why we are all committed to supporting the mission of the Christ Child House. Their amazing coordination of the CCH Talent Show makes such a special evening for the boys when they get in front of an audience and display their talents!!

A big thank you also goes to the Junior Christ Child members for helping make this special event so successful.



Reflecting on Mercy

by Barb Heilala, Spiritual Coordinator

Our Annual Mass and Evening of Reflection was held this year on April 12, 2016. We began in the Holy Name Chapel, where Msgr. Zenz celebrated Mass. It is always special when we can gather in the quiet Chapel to connect with the gospel message, participate in prayer and song, receive the Eucharist and feel the caress of God and each other. Very special thanks go to **Pat Watanabe** for leading us with her lovely voice and music in the selected songs that allowed us to “*sing joyfully to God*”.

We proceeded to the St. Francis Room to enjoy light refreshments that were kindly provided by fellow Christ Child Members. Monsignor then led us in a reflection on **Pope Francis’ Encyclical on the Environment and the Year of Mercy: “Conversion to the Earth and to each other.”** Msgr. Zenz gave each of us a wonderfully prepared handout that allowed us to follow along with his thoughts and return home to continue to contemplate Pope Francis’ message of Mercy, respect for Our Common Home, principles of the Joy of the Gospel and Living the Parables of Mercy.

*“Mercy is not just choosing to overlook a fault,
but an all-encompassing attitude,
a compassionate presence that leads
to acts of mercy.”*

Many, many thanks to Msgr. Zenz for all the preparation, insight and “pearls of wisdom” that he shared. Thanks also to a larger than normal gathering of women that felt truly blessed to have been a part of such a wonderful evening. We would love to have you join us next year!

Mark your Calendar!

**Mass of
Remembrance
and
Luncheon
will be held**

**Thursday,
November 17th**

**at the
Christ Child House**



House Happenings

by LaNeice Jones, President and CEO, Christ Child House

Let me first begin by saying that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the new President and CEO of Christ Child House. It has been a little over 90 days and I am still excited. (LOL).

Christ Child House currently has 20 boys, with six of them being new to the House since June 2016. We have had a busy time with discharges and new intakes, and the staff is excited about the four adoptive placements that have taken place over the summer.

We have had a fun-filled and comprehensive summer where a number of educational and recreational program activities have been implemented. There were 8 boys who attended summer school. The other boys were scheduled in the mornings to participate in educational enrichment activities developed by the Academic Coordinator. These activities consisted of tutoring in language arts, reading comprehension, math and science. In the afternoon, all of the boys participated in music therapy with Mr. Richard Cross. Mr. Cross is a music teacher whose contract over the summer was made possible by a grant received for music therapy.

Staff did a fantastic job meeting program goals with educational, recreational, social and cultural enrichment activities. The weekly summer schedule included 9:00am fitness walks and exercises.

9:30am-12pm academic/educational activities and 12:30pm-3:00pm music therapy and preparation for the Annual Talent Show. Evenings, Fridays and weekends were reserved for social activities and field trips. Those activities and outings included trips to the Science Center, Henry Ford Museum, Victory Ranch for horseback riding, Birmingham Seaholm High School to see a production of Cinderella, Marvelous Marvin's Magic Museum, Michigan Outdoor Adventure, the Toledo Zoo, Greystone Golf Course, Beverly Hills Athletic Club with the Building Bridges Program, Camping at KOA in Monroe, skating, bike riding, trips to the Dairy Queen, the movie theater, a farm and water parks.

Additionally, there were picnics sponsored by Heartwarmers, Motor City Casino,

Ford Motor Co., St. Michael's Lodge and Ypsilanti Family Pharmacy. The UAW took the boys shopping for new clothing, shoes, toiletries, a bike or an electronic



item of their choice. After the shopping trip, the UAW treated both the staff and boys to lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings. And, of course, on August 4 was the CCH Production of the Annual Talent Show, which is always a favorite!

As summer is winding down, we are preparing the boys for back to school. Schools are being identified to meet the needs of the boys. Some school supplies and new uniforms will be provided by Christ the Redeemer Church. Christ Child House continues to receive support and donations from kind and generous individual and agency donors. We truly appreciate them and their donations. More importantly, we appreciate all of the support from CCS for without you, there is no us. Thank you for all you do to make CCH successful in making a difference in the lives of the boys we serve.

Spiritual Book Club



Our monthly book club will begin again, September 6th at 7pm. We have selected a book that is perfect for these long hot summer days, "*Plain and Simple*" by Sue

Bender. Remember, this is an open, drop-in club. Anyone can join at any time, or just show up when we are reading something of interest to you. Watch for updates in the *Monday Matters* email.

For more information, contact Linda Simonelli at 248-644-2570 or lindaasimonelli@gmail.com.

Please visit our all-new website at
ccsdetroit.org

Also, remember to "like" and "share" us
on Facebook

www.facebook.com/christchildsociety

and Twitter @Christchildprez

Send photos for posting to
Janet Baccanari at

jkbaccanari@west.com

Literacy Program begins its seventh year

by Jody Jennings and Lori Anderson, Literacy Program Co Chairs

CCS members, join us! The Literacy Program in Pontiac is a wonderful way to get involved with the Christ Child Society and, have an incredibly positive impact on a group of 'at risk' children.

In the past, we have gone to the Whitmer Center in Pontiac however, we will be at a new location in the fall. We spend a morning once a month with the first and second graders. Our "guest reader" often dressed as a character from the story reads our selected book, to the class as a group. We then have a movement activity, a project and a snack. The program is an exciting way to open up the idea of reading as a FUN thing to do! The children will each receive a copy of the book to keep.

Earlier this year we explored the world of rainbows with the book titled "A rainbow of My Own" by Don Freeman. Each child made his or her own paper plate rainbow with streamers. Molly Saeli and Joan Page were our guest readers.



Provisional Suzanne Mattingly visits with a student.

We celebrated spring with "The Runaway Bunny" by Margaret Brown. Our snack was bunny peeps and the children made their own marshmallow pop up bunnies. Great fun was had by all!

In May we learned about measuring with "Inch By Inch" by Leo Lionni. Each child received their own ruler and we made bookmarks. Karen Brown and Molly Saeli were our guest readers.

June is most special because the Provisional class joined us and we went to both the first and second graders. The book "Hungry, Hungry Sharks", a non-fiction, was a huge hit. We had shark lollipops and made shark drawings. Lori Anderson and Provisional Amy Pilzner were our guest readers.



Provisional Amy Pilzner reads to the class.

THANK YOU to our regular volunteers! Please look for more information about the fall program in Monday Matters, and contact me if you would like more information: jodyj55@gmail.com

Layette Program

by Kathryn Simonelli, Layette Program Chair

Thanks to our devoted volunteers, this year we have been able to provide almost two thousand layettes to more than twenty agencies, for distribution within Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

Earlier this year, we were fortunate to have many extra hands when the Provisional Class visited the Layette House to assemble layettes and stock shelves. The Junior Christ Child members created fleece blankets, in a variety of patterns and colors, to include with the layettes. How special for new mothers and their babies!

The CCS Layette Program received Holy Name Parish support on one Sunday in the spring through their Life Ministry Support program. We were also able to speak with parishioners, explain our program and showcase the layettes. What a great day!

The generous donation of handmade caps, booties, blankets and sweaters by individuals living within and outside the metro area, as well as local church groups, enables us to meet the continuing need for these items. You are able to support our Layette Program and accumulate Christ Child volunteer hours by knitting, sewing, crocheting and quilting. The 'Holy Name Knitters' always welcome newcomers; they meet Thursday mornings in the St. Francis room.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and kind donors who help the Layette Program make a difference in the life of a child. Please join us on the first Monday of the month at 9am or on the third Monday of the month at 7pm. Looking forward to seeing you!

For more information contact Kathryn Simonelli at kathrynsimonelli@gmail.com



Many handmade quilts and blankets are donated for our layettes.

Memorials and Tributes

by Molly Gibbons Robinson, Memorials and Contributions Coordinator

Memorial and Tribute contributions to the Christ Child Society honor your loved ones, friends and associates and help to support the Society's programs for needy children. The family of the deceased or honoree will receive an acknowledgement of your gifts. The deceased or honoree will also be remembered in a special Mass said by the Society's Spiritual Director, Monsignor John Zenz.

Memorials

For: Helen Allen
From: Suzanne Huberty
John Novak

For: Betty Farley
From: Mr. and Mrs. R. Della Mord
Mr. and Mrs. John Cullen &
Family
Kay and Davis Morrison
Suzanne and Mark Stevens

For: Paula Zenz Deardurff
From: Carolyn Mergel

For: Don Reid
From: Connie Landgraff

For: Dick Westerheide
From: Jean and John Wicket

For: Emma Hawkins
From: Lorraine McLaughlin

For: Patricia Johnston Wirthlin
From: Mitzi McMahon

For: Sue and Ferd Feig
From: Laurel Celorian

For: Glenn Leivery
From: Dorothy and Tom Stuart

For: Trudy Schomaker
From: Yvonne Moylan

For: Judy Slivinski
From: Laura and Tim Carruthers
Val and Mike Bass
Betty and Mike Gusho
Liz and Rusty Gowland

Darlene Pape
Julie and Brian Smith & Family
Sheila and Shaun Rodrigus
Cynthia Geoffery
Pat Shay
Katherine and Aaron Cloutier
Anne Pynnonen

Tributes

For: Jane Juett
From: Edwina Anthony

For: 2016 *pour les enfants*
Committee
From: Bess Paradiso

For: The Children We Serve
From: Helen Smith

For: In Honor of Connie Ross'
95th Birthday
From: Michela and Jim Treharne

For: In Honor of Rosemary
Czubinski's 90th Birthday
From: Elaine Miller

Memorial Masses from the Society for:

Paula Zenz Deardurff, Sister of
Monsignor Zenz

Anne Marie Lopez, Angels Place
founder and longtime
supporter

Rose Ann Arthmire, Mother of
Member Joanne Cherney



Past President Carolyn Mergel accepts flowers from the Society at the pour les enfants luncheon, in recognition of her 50 years of outstanding service to the Christ Child Society of Detroit. Merci Carolyn!

Child Enrichment has been busy!

by Lanie Hardy Cosgrove,
Child Enrichment Chair

Over the summer the Christ Child boys have enjoyed a picnic, a trip to The Ford Rouge Plant, and a day of "fishing" (magnet style) at Michigan Outdoor Adventure, run by the Department of Natural Resources. They will be rounding out the summer by attending a production of *Cinderella* presented by Project Day Dream and graciously hosted by Katie Parks. Also, a trip is planned to the Michigan Adventure Amusement Park in Muskegon, and there will be a summer celebration at the Beverly Hills Athletic Club.

The fall will also be filled with adventure as we are planning to do another bike ride through Detroit and a trip to CJ Barrymore's. The Christ Child boys are always tons of fun to be around and really appreciate the events that we arrange for them. The Christ Child boys also love to interact with the Junior Christ Child members, which just adds to the excitement.

Please contact Lanie Hardy Cosgrove at lcsgrove@hallandhunter.com at if you would like to get involved in our monthly activities with the boys of Christ Child House.

Provisional News

by Julie Hamaty, Provisional Chair



Jody Jennings, Suzanne Mattingly, Gail Callaghan, Barb Axelson, Germaine Bielkie, Amy Pizner and Lori Anderson.

Several members of the 2016 Provisional Class attended this year's *pour les enfants* luncheon and helped out in many ways, including selling raffle tickets. For many, this was their first exposure to the Christ Child Society's fundraising events and all are very much looking forward to the Night Of Angels event in November and all of the opportunities to volunteer!

During the past few months we have had several Christ Child board members attend our monthly meetings to present their areas of influence. We were pleased and honored to host Betsy Heid - Community Service, Susan D'Orazio - Art Enrichment, Jody Jennings and Lori Anderson - Literacy Program and Amy Gooch - Junior Christ Child. The information that was shared will go far in helping our provisionals get connected.



At the start of the summer, the provisionals were busy pulling weeds, planting flowers and mulching the flowerbeds at the Christ Child House. Also, several of our provisionals joined Jody and Lori at the Pontiac Whitmer Resource Center to assist with the Literacy Program. They read *Hungry Hungry Shark*, worked on an art project, sang and danced, and provided a shark snack to the sweet first and second graders. This worthwhile program inspired all who attended and they look forward to being more involved in the fall when Literacy kicks back into high gear. As June drew to a close, President Elect Laura Keziah welcomed us to her beautiful back yard for a Meet & Greet with members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. The weather, wine, cheese, and company were perfect! Thank you, Laura!!

We are looking ahead with plans to decorate the house for Halloween, Night of Angels, Christmas Home Tour, planning our annual gift to the Christ Child boys, Twelfth Night and the Induction Ceremony in January. A busy fall and winter indeed!!

MEMBERS, HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CHECK YOUR RECORDS.

THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO
GET INVOLVED IN CHRIST CHILD
AND SO MANY REASONS TO PAY YOUR DUES!

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

PLEASE CONTACT ELAINA RYDER – VP MEMBERSHIP
248.346.8993/ELAINARYDER@GMAIL.COM

Welcome to the 2016 Christ Child Society Provisional Class

Barb Axelson
Germaine Bielkie
Gail Callaghan
Paula Carnovale
Patti Chinonis
Becki Cochran
Teresa DeGrazia
Marie Dowler
Paula Garrity
Kim Greidanu
Pamela Harris
Laura Karmanos
Meredith Lovell
Suzanne Mattingly
Tinney Newman
Amy Pizner
Connie Quarrier
Bess Quick
Muffie Jennings Quick
Cristina Recchia
Jennifer Schoener
Julie Soderwall
Mary Thut

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Christ Child says thank you and farewell to John Yablonky

by Laura Keziah, President Elect

With mixed emotions we hosted John and Mary Jean Yablonky at Cork Wine Pub in Pleasant Ridge on Tuesday, May 31st at 6:30pm. The staff at the CCH, the Executive Committee, the Board and the House Council along with past members and staff all toasted John's amazing career spanning over 20 years of serving children at the Christ Child House. It was such a great event and we filled the entire restaurant to celebrate John! It was a beautiful evening, spent enjoying each other's company and talking about how much John has done during his time as Director of the Christ Child House.



John and Mary Jean Yablonky.

John has had quite an impressive career. There have been hundreds of children that have looked to him for stability and security in their tumultuous young lives. He has been a lighthouse in the dark for so many, and with his calm demeanor and guidance, he has helped them start the recovery process from abuse and neglect. Instrumental in growing our program to 31 boys, and getting many of them adopted into their forever homes, John has worked tirelessly over the last 20+ years for the Christ Child House.

We measure success in so many ways, and John has achieved many levels throughout his tenure at CCH. The best measure of success, we believe, is the never-ending sound of laughter that comes from the playground in the afternoons and the smiles on the faces of the boys that look to him for the father figure they seek. We are so grateful for John's leadership at the helm of the CCH for so long, doing God's work, and allowing us to help as many children as we have. He has given us a strong foundation to build our program for the next generation.



John with Past President Elaine Szot.

We are sad to see John retire, but it is with excitement that we send him off on a new chapter in his life! More travel and surely more skiing for John and Mary Jean, they won't be sitting still for long! We are extremely grateful that Ms. LaNeice Jones has taken the reins at the CCH and is our new Director. She is extremely competent and established in her own right, and we expect great things from her and the new management team at the CCH. Our future is bright!

Happy Retirement John! You have more than earned it.



Laura Keziah and Pam Hildebrand.

Many of John's staff members came out to wish him a fond farewell.



John with Past Presidents Jill Barker and Madelon Ward.



John with Maureen Wesley, who was CCSD President and on the search team which hired John as Director of Christ Child House in 1996. John replaced Fran Geiger, who was with the House for 18 years.



CCS models showing off their great outfits at *pour les enfants* 2016!



Julie Hamaty



Kathy Milford



Carolyn Price



Babbie Thomas

For many more great photos, check out the color photo gallery on our new website at www.ccsdetroit.org.

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