



**CATCH UP WITH YOUR CCS FRIENDS
AND FULFILL A MEETING REQUIREMENT!
GREAT TIME TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!
THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 2017
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**

President's Message

What a wild and wonderful summer! It has already been an August full of meetings for our upcoming fundraiser, Night of Angels, and the work never stops for our volunteers! We are tasked with raising over \$110,000 at this event each year in order to make our budget and keep all of our projects running. It is a wonderful night to celebrate all that we do and share that with our friends and family. Please mark your calendar, September 29th at the DAC.



Laura Keziah

I am fortunate enough to spend a lot of time at our Christ Child House and I have witnessed the great volunteer work of so many CCS members! I am so proud of the work that they do and want to brag about them a little! We have members that faithfully volunteer and tutor at the Christ Child House. With their efforts and those of our fabulous Miss Tomiko Walton, Education Specialist at CCH, we have boys making 3.2, 3.6, 3.8 and even 4.0 GPAs this past school year! The world has not been friendly to these children, but with the guidance and attention that they are getting from Miss Tomiko, our staff and volunteers, they are showing tremendous improvement and success!

We have a CCS member, Christina Recchia, who has planted a garden and tends it weekly with the boys. They all help harvest their plants and are eating the bountiful results! Christina also has a trained therapy dog, Quinn, who has been visiting the boys in the garden. Quinn's visits are the highlight of the week for some of our sweet animal lovers! At the request of the boys, Christina recently planted two apple trees on our front lawn.

Continued on p. 2



Enjoying the June 27th Heartwarmer's picnic at the House are, standing left to right, Gretchen Klotz, Cathy Mazur, Kellie Joyce, Christine Ramaekers, Carol Roney and Tara Nittis. Seated: Kelly Eberlein and Sarah Kepic, Heartwarmers co-chairs. See more photos on p. 4.

2017 Night of Angels is Sept. 29thp. 3

Another fabulous pour les enfants! p. 5

Pancakes for Everyonep. 11

President's Message, continued from front page.

We recently held a Staff Appreciation Pancake Breakfast, where the children served pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit and coffee to the staff. You have never seen such proud and excited workers as these children! They each wanted to serve each staff member, so the staff ate and ate, and drank coffee and juice until they could burst! The kids relished their role as servers and the staff members just rolled away at the end of the breakfast! It was a delightful morning, and Junior Christ Child Members showed up to serve the kids pancakes afterwards. There are not enough words to describe how sweet and heartfelt this day was!

This is my 13th year as a CCS member. I have not always had the luxury of spending time at the CCH. Early on, my children were too young and needed me at home. At that time, I did all of my volunteering with the Provisionals, Fundraising, and Community Service for CCS. Now that my kids are older, I have the flexibility to spend more volunteer hours at the House. It has been so special to make a connection with the boys and watch them grow, learn, struggle, accomplish, overcome obstacles and eventually graduate from our program. The truth is, I don't want them to go! I want to lock the door and keep them all with us, where I know they are safe, getting therapy, tutoring, exercise, love, hot meals, cool shoes (they love their cool shoes!) and all the outings that the Society provides for them. I want to protect them from the cruel world that they came from. But the reality is, they want to go. They want a forever family and they are excited and nervous to go on to the next chapter in their lives.



Laura with Barb Heilala at the Evening of Reflection at Holy Name.

We have many success stories — and one of them works at the CCH today! Having grown up for five years at the CCH, our current Weekend Cook and all around handy guy, Arius Hogan, is a treasure to our boys and our staff, and he is a success story that they can witness every day. He also is a master of the charcoal grill, and everyone is eating well! During the holidays, we get many phone calls and visits from adults that spent some of their formative years with us. They recall the CCH as a safe haven, and when it's time to reach out to family, the CCH staff is the family that comes to mind and they consider the Christ Child House their former home.

It's a joy for me — and I hope for you — to feel that the work that we are contributing to is changing lives of these beautiful children. We don't serve the masses; currently we hold 21 little hearts and minds while we are tasked to help them through this rough patch of their lives. We have an incredible staff that shows such love and dedication to the boys, and I promise you, they don't do it for the money. Their hearts are in it all the way!

We can't do any of this without funding, and we are dedicated to raising a lot of money so that we can keep going, working, loving, and supporting the boys at the Christ Child House, the Pontiac Literacy children and the almost 2,000 babies and new mothers with our sweet Layette Program. Please attend Night of Angels or consider sending in a donation or contribution of any kind! We need you and we are grateful for your support!

I know your heart is in it, too. Thank you for your continued volunteerism, your donations and your prayers. We love what we are doing and we know we can't do it alone.

Most sincerely,

Laura Keziah
President, Christ Child Society of Detroit



The Society board sponsored an appreciation breakfast for the staff on June 23rd. See more photos on page 8. The boys did all the serving, and they loved every minute of it!



*Save the
Date*



FOR THE CCS

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR

Continue the tradition and usher in the Holiday Season by attending our annual Christmas Home Tour!

Friday, December 1, 2017

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

Please contact event chairs

Kim McNulty at

kimcnulty@comcast.net

or Kelly Winkler at

beachwink@aol.com

to volunteer as a docent and see all your friends as they come through these beautiful homes!

***Event Sponsorships
are available as well.***

MANY THANKS
TO OUR 2017
NOA EVENT SPONSORS

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The Galencher Nagy Foundation to Receive Mary Virginia Merrick Award

By Cindi Mosher and Valerie George

Congratulations to this year's Christ Child Society Mary Virginia Merrick Award winner, the Galencher Nagy Foundation! The Mary Virginia Merrick Award honors an individual or entity that has exemplified the virtue of our foundress, who believed "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." Her life's work went to providing for children in need. Similarly, the Galencher Nagy Foundation is a family-run non-profit foundation dedicated to serving children in need and is run by its President, Val Ellis.

Since 2014, the Galencher Nagy Foundation has donated \$26,000 to the development and ongoing support of the art enrichment program at the Christ Child House. This funding enabled the start-up of the program, purchase of all art materials, furnishings for the classroom, and payment of the art teacher/therapist's salary. Since its inception, approximately 60 art classes have been provided for the boys. They are exposed to all types of media and forms of expression. The curriculum includes lessons in clay, pastels, paint, paper, collage, found objects, and 3-D sculpture. These classes provide a safe and therapeutic environment while providing growth and healing through self-expression and creativity. Val and her daughter are frequent volunteers at the classes (her daughter, Lauren, comes every week) and have immersed themselves in the art projects with the boys. They know the kids by name and contribute to the consistent, fun, and therapeutic environment that has made the program so successful and popular among the boys.

The Christ Child Society is fortunate and very grateful for the philanthropic support of the Galencher Nagy Foundation. The very valuable and therapeutic art enrichment program that this foundation provides support to, without a doubt enhances the lives of the children we serve. The award will be presented at our Night of Angels event, "A Starry Night," on Friday, September 29th at The Detroit Athletic Club.

Heartwarmers

By Sarah Kepic, Heartwarmers co-Chair



Junior CC members at the Heartwarmers' Picnic.

We had our annual End of the Year Celebration on June 27th. The event was a huge success and we had a beautiful day for it! The boys were so happy to play in the large inflatables, partake in the candy walk, listen to music, swing and climb on the play structure, decorate cupcakes, and so much more! There was even a visit by an ice cream truck for the boys to enjoy some cold dessert in the heat of the summer. We had a wonderful host committee and our Junior Christ Child members were awesome under the direction of

Gretchen Klotz. Tara Nittis delivered 100 percent on the famous taco salad that has been a tradition for over a decade! The boys, staff and volunteers are still raving about it. The highlight of the day is when Armando returned to the house for the party! The boys ran into his arms for a big group hug—it was so special and something we will all remember. Kelly and I had a wonderful time chairing Heartwarmers this year and look forward to next year!

If you are looking for a way to interact directly with the boys of the House, this is a great way to spend quality time with them. Once a month we play bingo with the boys, make a treat with them to eat after dinner, and get to hear about how their week is going. We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the bingo and treat making as well as to interact with these precious boys. If you are unable to volunteer your time, we are always looking for donations. Prizes for the bingo winners are needed and popular items include candy, small lego kits, games, etc. Items found in the dollar bins at Target or at Five Below are usually great items. Other donation items include treats that can be decorated, such as cookies with frosting, cupcakes, brownies, and sprinkles to top the frosting. We will start up again in the fall after school gets back in session. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, please contact Kelly Eberlein (kelly_eberlein@hotmail.com), or Sarah Kepic (sarahkepic@gmail.com).



Spiderman came too!

These Stars Shine Brightly

By Valerie George, VP Communications

While all of the boys at the Christ Child House are stars in our eyes, two particular stars shone exceptionally bright this spring.



Josh and Benny both received perfect report cards with straight A's this last marking period at their schools! To celebrate, Ms. Tomiko and Mr. Vince from the House took these two boys to Cold Stone Creamery and Five Below to celebrate this wonderful achievement and reward the boys for their hard work.



Congratulations Josh and Benny, keep up the great work! Thank you to Ms. Tomiko and all of the tutors in helping these boys with their achievement.



Everyone loves the Ice Cream Truck!



Kristi Livengood with Arius Hogan



Olethia Craighead, Arius Hogan, Melody Tate, Cedric McGee and Kristi Livengood

We celebrated Literacy at *pour les enfants*

by Katie Gantner, VP Fundraising



Event co-Chairs Paula Garrity, Connie Quarrier and Patti Chinonis.

Congratulations Christ Child Society Members, we did it again! We held a wonderfully successful event on May 4th 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 2017 *pour les enfants* Luncheon for Literacy was a day for celebrating mothers, daughters, granddaughters and all women, and a day for celebrating literacy.

It was a pleasure to work with the event co-chairs Patti Chinonis, Paula Garrity and Connie Quarrier. This is the first year of their full membership in the Christ Child Society and they stepped up to the plate and planned an absolutely amazing sold-out event.

A huge thank you to our special guest speaker, local children's author Rhonda Gowler Greene. Rhonda's speech was riveting; her words helped us raise donations that will provide thousands of books to be used over the next year to help steer many children into a better literacy life.

Lanie Cosgrove gave a moving (and amusing) tribute to her childhood friend Elaina Ryder, our 2017 Woman of the Year. Lanie's words painted a picture of a selfless, dedicated and a 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."



Nichola Hendry and Pam Surhigh

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 guest speaker, children's author Rhonda Gowler Greene.



Cindi Mosher, Jo Lincoln and Kathy McIntosh



Pamela Budde and Marie Maskin



Katie Gantner, Chris Schwartz and Mari Mackenzie



Loretta Nagle Ryan and Debbie Crawford



Our 2017 Woman of the Year, Elaina Ryder.



Nancy Barnett, Julie Sosa and Meredith Lovell

Our Superheroes are so talented!

by Carol Roney, VP House Chair and Laura Keziah, CCS President

The annual Talent Show on August 2nd showcased some amazing SuperHero Talent!

The theme this year was “We Believe Every Child Has a SUPERHERO Inside Them Waiting To Be Discovered.” Batman, Superman, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Scooby Doo, Cruella De Vil all showed up singing, dancing, performing magic tricks (I’m still not sure how they did some of those tricks !?!) and entertaining us with funny jokes. Their talents were endless.

Rick Cross, our music therapist, has been producing this show for 12 years. This year he began working with the boys in May. He gets to know the children to determine where their individual talents lie and then develops the magic within each one. Mr. Cross has been a music therapist since 1987 and is incredibly passionate about working with our kids where he finds great cooperation and enthusiasm within our boys at the Christ Child House. In his book, Celebrate Sound, he even sites his work at The House. The results he achieves radiates the love he has for his job. Thank you Mr. Cross!

Miss Tomiko and Mr. Rodney acted as the co-hosts of the show. They did an amazing job of introducing each act while keeping the crowd excited and displaying a deep and true love for the boys. Thanks also goes out to Mr. Myron who helped organize the day.

Special thanks to Lizzie Hardy who worked with the House staff, secured the tent with a delicious dinner catered by Cathy Wetherford’s Sweetest Gourmet and all the details that go into hosting up to 100 people. A big thank you to Leslie Hardy for designing the colorful invitation for the event as well. The show ended with a sing a-long to God Bless America and You’re a Grand Old Flag. The guests were each given flags and waved them high and proudly! The boys then performed an encore to a song Mr. Vance taught them, We’re so Glad we had this Time Together. It truly was a special time we had with the boys...one of the best days of the whole year and to be remembered for years!



Reflecting on the Sistine Chapel

by Barb Heilala, Spiritual Coordinator

Our annual Mass and Evening of Reflection was held this year on April 25, 2017. We gathered in the comforting embrace of Holy Name Chapel where Msgr. John Zenz celebrated Mass and lovingly proclaimed the gospel message. Thanks to Pat Watanabe for leading us in song and sharing her very special musical gifts.

We proceeded to the St. Francis Room to enjoy light refreshments, kindly provided by Christ Child members, and served by four of our outstanding new provisionals. Thanks to Shannon Anderson, Natalie Betts, Nancy Hess and Susan Potoczak for all your help.

Monsignor then began his reflection on “The Theology and Spirituality of the Sistine Chapel and insights for our shared ministry.” Each of us received an amazing handout containing nineteen pages of colored photos of Michelangelo’s frescoes and a detailed outline for us to follow along. Monsignor reviewed the history of the Sistine Chapel, the theology and spirituality of the ceiling art painted from 1508-1512, and the meaning behind some of the 391 figures found in the Last Judgment fresco painted on the sanctuary wall by Michelangelo 24 years later.



Msgr. Zenz gave a fascinating talk on Michelangelo’s frescoes on the walls of the Sistine Chapel.

“The Sistine Chapel is a salvation history: the journey from God and back to God... creation to judgment.”

We each returned home with a new appreciation for the wonderful frescoes and the messages they convey. Everyone present felt truly blessed to have been part of such a wonderful reflection. Huge thanks to you, Monsignor, for all your insights. You are our True Treasure!

House Happenings

by LaNeice Jones, President and CEO, Christ Child House

There is a quote I heard once, the author is unknown, and it says, "One hundred years from now, it won't matter what kind of car you drove, what kind of house you lived in, how much money you had in your bank account, nor what your clothes looked like, but the world may be a little better because you were important in the life of a child." On behalf of the staff and the boys at Christ Child House (CCH), thank you to the Christ Child Society, the Advisory Council, donors and supporters for all you do to help fulfill the mission of CCH. We truly appreciate your generosity and support of our mission and challenging work. Thank you for helping us continue this legacy of love and hope that makes a difference in and changes the lives of the boys we serve. Without you, there is no us. May you be rewarded and richly blessed for remembering these boys.

As we navigate into the second half of 2017, there still continues to be uncertainty about the future of human and social service programs including mental health, healthcare and public education. CCH also experienced internal challenges with key

positions being vacant and difficult to fill. However, in spite of these challenges, CCH continued to meet the ever-changing needs of the boys we serve.

Join me in welcoming to the team, Mr. James Jones, Director of Residential Services, Mr. Sean Seal, the Afternoon Shift Supervisor and Ms. Kayla Mishler, Trauma Informed Clinical Therapist. Mr. Jones is already working on new programming for the fall and Ms. Mishler has already begun to meet with the boys for individual therapy for focus on helping them cope with the trauma they have experienced.

Christ Child House currently has 20 boys, with six of them being new to the House since January 2017. Since the beginning of the year, one boy has moved to a Supervised Independent Living Situation, one boy was reunited with his family and one boy is in the process of being adopted. We are happy about these placements.

The educational, recreational, social and cultural enrichment program goals con-

tinue to be met. The boys were in ten Detroit Public Schools in order to meet their educational needs. Tutoring and educational programming in the evenings proved to be successful as the school year ended with two boys with a 4.0 grade point average and six with a 3.0 GPA. Educational programming, music therapy and speech therapy all continue as part of the summer activities. The summer

is also filled with great recreational, social and cultural activities and outings. Some included trips to the Red Oaks Water Park, Whirly Ball, Michigan Adventure, the Detroit Zoo, Michigan Science Center, Laser Quest, Air Time, Bounce It Up, Dave and Busters; and trips to the movie theater, shopping, bible class, bike riding and picnics.

CCH continues to facilitate the hopes and dreams of the boys and strives to make a positive impact to help them reach their full potential. Thank you for all you do to continue the legacy of transforming the lives of the boys who reside at Christ Child House.



The boys enjoyed lots of summertime fun!

by Lanie Hardy Cosgrove, Child Enrichment Chair



The Child Enrichment program continues to add so much happiness to our boys' lives! We had a full summer of events that were enjoyed by all. We took a boat ride down the Detroit River and munched on snacks provided by the incredible Keziah Family. The boys had a ball traveling from one level to another on the Diamond Jack boat and a few were even lulled to sleep by the gentle

waves. We also had a return visit to Wheelhouse Detroit for a bike ride along the Dequindre Cut and Mr. Rodney showed us his impressive biking skills! A day at Michigan Adventure in Muskegon will not be soon forgot! The boys delighted in the luxury bus ride to the park where they were able to ride the rides and cool off at the water park. It has definitely been a full summer of adventure and I am so honored to be able to "mastermind" these events. Never hesitate to call me at 248-703-1105 to suggest events you think the boys would enjoy. Thank you for your continued support!



Literacy Program thriving at Walt Whitman Elementary

by Jody Jennings, Literacy co-Chair

As we learned from Rhonda Gowler Greene, the amazing speaker at our spring luncheon, reading is the key that opens so many doors for children. Our Literacy Program brings the gift of books and reading to disadvantaged and at-risk children at Walt Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac. In addition to each child receiving a book to keep, we hope to convey an interest in reading by combining the gift of a book with a fun project, a movement activity and a snack.

We visit the school each month during the school year, spending half the year with the first grade and the other half with the second grade. We wrap up the school year in June with help from the provision-

als and visit both grades. Our book this June was "Dot & Jabber, and the Big Bug Mystery." We marched to the song of "The Ants Go Marching One by One..."; the children decorated their own bug jar and filled the jars with foam insects. It was hard to tell if the volunteers or the children had more fun!

Join us! Come every month (the third Thursday in the morning) or just when you can. We have an amazing team of volunteers and it is a wonderful way to get to know other Christ Child members. If you are interested in joining us, please contact co-chair Jody Jennings (jodyj55@gmail.com).



The ants go marching!



Provisional Sherie Eschels helps to make lady bugs.

For the Love of Our Christ Child House Staff

By Valerie George, VP Communications

In recognition of how appreciative we are for our hard working and caring staff at the Christ Child House, the Society's Board of Directors sponsored a pancake breakfast in honor of the staff on Friday, June 23rd. The boys lovingly and proudly helped to serve the food provided. Pancakes were purchased from King Pancake Company of Belleville, Michigan. The owner and his wife generously donated their time and labor that morning to make all the pancakes for the staff and boys, everyone eating to their hearts' content. Members of the board brought in sausages, bacon, fruit and beverages. Various gift cards to local retail establishments were donated and raffled off to each of the staff

members. Fun was had by all in attendance.

Special thanks to Laura Keziah and Chris Schwartz for the idea and for organizing this well-deserved event for the staff as well as to the boys who happily served. We are so grateful to all those who help and take care of the boys and keep the House running. Thank you!



Denise Williams (in front), Cedric McGee, Melody Tate and Alexis Cobb.



Tony Cox and Devin Mack with LaNeice Jones. Julie Hamaty is in background.

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 gift. The deceased or honoree will also be remembered in a special Mass said by the Society's Spiritual Director, Monsignor John Zenz.

Feb 21st through July 18th, 2017

Memorials

For: Patricia Martin
(Mother of Past President
Pamela Hildebrand)

From: Marilyn and Ed Secath
Emily Wendt
Diane Malik

Mary and Carl Meyers

Carol and Brian Roney

Katie Parks

Colleen McGough

Nancy Varbedian

Keith Milliken

Helen Montgomery

Kenneth Bark

Louis Preonas

Colleen Palmer

Sharon Fleming

Randi Dolik

Laura Lehman

Gerald Norris

Nancy Hockey

Amy Gooch

Tom Stacy

Joanne Ranville

Molly and Dave Robinson

Rose Mary Brown

For: Dorothy Russeau

From: Molly and Tom Saeli

For: William Harahan IV

From: Maureen Carey

Diane Roelant

For: Francis Reynolds

From: Marie Jelonek

Lou and Larry Vickery

Nadine Winiarski

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jelonek Sr.

Patricia Alba

Judy and Will Kortryk

Crittenton Hospital Quality Department

Marie Heshczuk

William Rose

Mary Therese Hammer

Curt Lovelace

Germaine Canar

Angela and Ted Winiarski

Denise Pareyt

For: Dorothy Ashley

From: Brenda and Dwight McNally

Maryann and Carl Fontana

Helen and Lyle Davis

Mary La Port

Douglas Johnston

Laura George

Dorothy Burrows

Jane and Denis Ray

Camille Gude

Mary Jo and Chip Dawson

For: Virginia B. Kroha

From: Elizabeth Kroha

For: Patrick Joseph Callahan

From: Molly and Dave Robinson

Mathew Cullun

Pamela Hildebrand

For: Stan Gooch

From: Pamela Hildebrand

Tributes

For: Elaina Ryder

From: Anne Toal

For: Joyce and Mike McKale

"Happy 50th Anniversary"

From: Mary and Mike Schloff

For: George Howe

From: Katie Parks

For: In Honor of John Kroha

From: Elizabeth Kroha

Daniel Kroha

Memorial Masses from the Society

Patricia Hildebrand

Mother-in-law of Past President Pamela Hildebrand

Patricia Martin

Mother of Past President Pamela Hildebrand

Edward Miller

Father of Member Mary Taylor

Mary Sweeney Oldani

Member

Stephen Lalka Sr.

Father in Law of Member Carol Lalka

William Harrahan IV

Son of Maryann Harrahan, Husband of Rebecca Harrahan, Friends of Christ Child

Carol Kelley Peck

Mother of Joanne Roney

Francis Reynolds

Friend of Christ Child

Nancy Dawson Millis

Mother in Law of

Member Mary Jo Dawson

William Nelson

Son of Member Marianne McBrearty

Alice Ryder

Mother-in-Law of Member Elaina Ryder

Craig Moncher

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Patrick Joseph Callahan

Father of Member Katie Gantner

Stan Gooch

Father-in-law of Member Amy Gooch

Provisional News

by Julie Hamaty, Provisional Chair

This spring and summer the provisionals have been very busy! In April, we assembled and delivered 22 Easter baskets to the boys of the Christ Child House, and two to the deserving staff as well.

In May we had nearly 100% participation for *pour les enfants* with our provisionals helping to set up, sell raffle tickets, distribute donation cards during lunch, and clean up. It was truly a group effort! On a rainy day in early June the provisionals did spring planting at the CCH. The front of the house looked so colorful and beautiful! Later that month, several enthusiastic provisionals



Natalie Betts delivers Easter Baskets to the Christ Child House.

braved the heat and humidity to volunteer at the monthly Literacy event at Walt Whitman Elementary School. They read, helped the students make a bug jar, and shared a snack. July and August provided a well deserved break in our provisional calendar; time with family and friends while recharging our batteries for Fall and end of the year activities. We are looking forward to assisting with the general meeting, Night of Angels, Mass of Remembrance, Christmas Home Tour, Christmas gifts for the boys and staff, and bringing back Twelfth Night!

We will begin a new provisional year in February 2018, so if you know anyone who's interested in joining, please refer them to our membership tab on the Christ Child Society website.



Provisionals Haley Lockwood, Andrea Bartl O'Donnell (with her son and daughter), Elisa Roovers, Nancy Marsden and Kellie Joyce (with her little ones) helped with spring planting and clean up at the Christ Child House.

Welcome to the 2017 Provisional Class

Kathy Abrash
Shannon Anderson
Natalie Betts
Keri Boyd
Linda Crosby
Natalie Deledda
Sherie Eschels
Amy Fitzpatrick
Carol Fix (*)
Kate Flinn (*)
Liz Gellatly
Keri Guevara
Nancy Haddad
Nancy Hess (*)
Kellie Joyce
Karen Liddle
Haley Lockwood (*)
Nancy Marsden
Katie Marinelli (*)
Carley Nummer
Susan Potoczak
Elisa Roovers
Martha Wilker

(*) awaiting application

Layette News

by Kathryn Simonelli, Layettes Chair

Good News! This year, the dedicated volunteers at the Layette House have assembled and distributed almost 1,300 layettes to agencies within Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties. We have now reached an all-time high! The need to support new mothers and their babies continues to grow, as we have increased the number of agencies served to more than twenty-five. As the various agency representatives pick up the layettes, they express over and over again their gratefulness and appreciation for all we do in helping new moms and their babies get off to a good start.

Each layette bundle includes a sleep sack, receiving blankets, hooded towel with washcloths, bodysuits, sleepers, gowns, burp cloths, along with cap and socks. This year we are also including a nursery board book, along with a *Read to Me* card, encouraging parents to read, talk and sing to their babies. Many lovely handmade blankets, booties and hats have been generously donated by individuals and groups from the metro area as well as across the United States, making the layettes even more special.

Did you know that you can accrue Christ Child volunteer hours by knitting or sewing items for our layettes? We even have patterns for you! 'The Holy Name Knitters' always welcome new members and you are also able to join our CCS group on www.ravelry.com.

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! We meet on the first Monday of each month at 9am and on the third Monday of the month at 7pm to assemble layettes. Look forward to seeing you! For more information, please contact Kathryn Simonelli at 586-774-4647 or kathrynsimonelli@gmail.com.

Art Enrichment

by Cindi Mosher, Art Program co-Chair

The Christ Child House art program concluded for the school year on May 26th. This year's program theme was "Inclusion." So, at the end of each class, the boys were asked to describe their creation. The goal was to invite the other boys into their world through their art project. As the year went on, this became easier for most, and needless to say, very interesting.

One of this spring's projects included creating their dream home out of clay. Some of the homes were very architectural with tall walls and steep roofs. Others had several amenities such as hot tubs, large screen TV's, and basketball hoops. Another interesting project involved drawing a silhouette of each boy's head. The boys then filled their "heads" with what might



Art Therapist
Molly Murphy

be found if someone took a look inside. The discussion at the end of class was fascinating.

There will be four summer classes in August. They will include individual canvas paintings (including spray paints which the boys love!) and outdoor bird house creations. The regular school year schedule of classes begins in September. The theme for 2017-2018 is "Boundaries." The curriculum will be reflective of this theme.

Classes are held twice a month on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. They are taught by our outstanding and dedicated art teacher/therapist, Molly Murphy. Sign-up opportunities to help out at class will be available at the Christ Child Society General Meeting on Thursday, September 21st, or contact Cindi Mosher at doymo@comcast.net to volunteer. It's a great way to work directly with the boys!



Mark your Calendar!

Mass of Remembrance and Luncheon

Thursday,
November 16th
10:30am

at the
Christ Child House



MEMBERS, HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Please take a moment to check your records!

At our Christ Child House there are 21 beautiful reasons to pay your dues.

Questions or concerns?

Please contact Mary Bergmann, VP of Membership,
at 248.310.3918 or marybrose522@comcast.net

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Photos from pour les enfants 2017



*Lisa Kuchman, Kelly Badhwar,
Amy Louwers and Lisa Halstead*



*Babbie Thomas and her table enjoyed
Lanie's acceptance speech.*



*Shanna Gorga, Carrie Becharas
and Sarah Kepic*

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