



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## We are doing really great things!

To all our dedicated members and our generous supporters, I thank you for all that you have done for us! Your envelope stuffing, garden planting, book reading, gift wrapping, blanket knitting, mentoring, tutoring, event planning, fundraising, and financial contributing of \$5 to \$25,000 are all so wonderful. We are grateful for each one of you and these actions that have benefited the programs of the Christ Child Society.



Laura Keziah

I have loved this job as President of the CCS so much. It has really defined me and I have never worn a title so proudly. Anyone that knows me knows all about the CCS. I never stop talking about what we are doing and what our needs are. I might be the person to avoid at a cocktail party because if there is a dollar in your pocket, I'll happily tell you how we could use that dollar and the great things that we do with the money that is donated to our organization. We are doing really, really great things! We are currently doing a beautiful

renovation of the upstairs of the Christ Child House. It is almost done and the results thus far are amazing! The boys love the new look; new protective

*Continued on p. 2*

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF DETROIT  
*Night of Angels 2018*  
**FEATHER PARTY**  
*Emceed by Keren Dietz & Keren Drew*



NOVEMBER 3, 2018  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS COUNTRY CLUB  
350 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

6:00 PM COCKTAILS  
7:30 PM DINNER, BINGO & DANCING

\$175 PER PERSON  
COCKTAIL ATTIRE

RSVP ONLINE  
WWW.CCSDETROIT.ORG

## Pretty in Pink

By Valerie George, VP Communications



On Tuesday, August 21, 2018, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pink Party was held at the beautifully decorated home of Laura Karmanos. The Pink Party was actually a former tradition at Christ Child Society, but had not been held in years until its successful resurrection last year. Proceeds from this party help to offset some of the costs of our largest fundraiser of the year, the

Night of Angels, which will be held this year on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Bloomfield Hills Country Club. Tickets are available online.

The setting was stunningly beautiful with pink balloons surrounding and in the backyard pool.

In addition, there were five spectacular gardens within the one acre backyard. The organic vegetable garden, herb garden, and three separate shade gardens are all walkable through a gorgeous pink quartz path. It was picture perfect, just like a fairytale setting.

The party was attended by more than 50 Christ Child members and patrons. Delicious food and wine were provided by the Executive Board. A big thank you to Laura Karmanos for opening her beautiful home and to all who attended the Pink Party to support Christ Child.



Laura Keziah with Sarah DuBay and Laura Karmanos



Enjoying the Pink Party are Ann Jordan, Kim Greidanus, Paula Boehman, Pam Surhigh, Julie Wells, Laura Karmanos, Cristina Recchia and Julie Hamaty.

*President's Message, continued from front page.*

wall covering, paint, carpet, beds, dressers and fun Detroit sports-themed decor will finish off the renovations. It wasn't cheap, but we negotiated a great price and are thrilled with the results. That is one example of where the dollars are needed. Also needed is a new roof, new gate, security cameras, new basketball hoops, playground equipment, etc... The needs never stop, so the fundraising can't stop either.

Our members are our first line for spreading the word about what we need and our fundraisers are our second attempt to keep our budget on track. We are an all-volunteer organization with over 15,000 hours of service each year. We still need money to operate and it takes a lot to purchase over 2,000 layettes for assembly and delivery every year. Books for 120 kids for our literacy program in Pontiac and the snacks and craft supplies that go with it each month, all of that costs money.

Do we need to do all of these things? Do we need to raise \$360,000 or can we raise less and subsequently do less?

I guess it depends on who you ask. Will the kids in Pontiac learn to read without extra help in a fun environment? Yes, they probably will, eventually. Will the new impoverished mothers in Detroit even know if we don't give them a gift for their newborn, with enough clothes to get them through the first three months of life? Would the boys at the House be fine with old and torn carpet? They might not even notice after a while.

We don't have to do all of these things. Without money raised every year, we cannot do all of these things. That dollar that might still be in your pocket can buy you a doughnut at Tim Hortons or you can give it to us and we will buy a snack for a homeless child in the Pontiac School system. With your \$25 weekly coffee budget we can buy pink and blue sleeper packs and hooded towels for our newborn layettes. With your \$1,000 upgrade to a first-class airplane ticket, we can send two boys to camp for a week, an experience that they will never forget and that will be the highlight of their year. We do want your dollars — in small and large amounts, and at any and all times of the year!

We are coming up on our major fundraising season. Night of Angels and the Christmas Home Tour are our last two events of the year and the last big "ask" for us to get funds that will carry our budget in 2019.

I have reached out to many people and asked for money. It's not the easiest job, but I am finding great success from those who know the CCS and our dedication to the children in our area. I give you my word that we treat every donation with respect and our Board of Directors allocates your money with great judgement and care. We want to make the lives of these children better and we are dedicated to our cause.

Please, please, please consider attending Night of Angels and bidding high on our auction items! Be a part of our Christmas Walk and enjoy the best day of the season with your friends. Send in a check for no reason what-so-ever, but just because you are reading this and something in it compelled you to do so. Be a part of the love that we are spreading across Metro Detroit and feel proud of yourself for your contributions in making children's lives better.

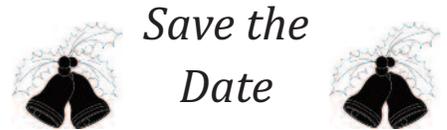
Thank you. I'm proud of us and I'm proud of you.

Sincerely,

*Laura Keyjah*



*Laura with Executive Director Maria Lessnau at the Pink Party on August 21.*



*FOR THE CCS*

## *CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR*

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

**Friday, November 30, 2018**

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

Event chairs:  
Amy Gooch, Babbie Thomas  
and Mary Taylor

*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 2018  
NOA EVENT SPONSORS  
as of 9/25/18

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## NOA Feather Party will revisit a bit of rich Detroit history

*By Sarah DuBay, Public Relations Chair*

The Feather Party has a rich history in the city of Detroit. In the 1920s, Detroit parishes were filled to capacity with newly settled immigrants. When the holiday season approached, it became apparent that many of these new neighbors would not be able to afford one of the true American traditions: The Thanksgiving Dinner.

Churches began hosting the first “Feather Parties” to raise funds through BINGO games. The proceeds were used to purchase live turkeys, which were then distributed to winners to be taken home that night. Imagine the streets of Detroit filled with people walking their Thanksgiving dinner home on a leash!

Fast forward to the 1980s in the Detroit suburbs: The Feather Party had a renaissance at local country clubs. This time, the stakes were high! With Black Tie BINGO, the finest wines, entire catered Thanksgiving dinners and much more were awarded to the victors.

This year the Christ Child Society is bringing back the Feather Party! On November 3<sup>rd</sup> enjoy a glamorous night of BINGO, dinner, live music and fabulous prizes, all to support the Society and the children we serve. Our Christ Child boys will “win” a trip to the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and many other important contributions will be made to the Christ Child Society and the House, thanks to your presence and generosity! Please support this wonderful event! We will all leave with much to be thankful for.

## KW Domain to Receive Mary Virginia Merrick Award

*By Chris Schwartz, President-elect*

Christ Child Society (CCS) of Detroit is thrilled to present our long-time supporters and friends at KW Domain with this year’s Mary Virginia Merrick (MVM) Award. The MVM Award honors an individual or entity that has exemplified the core values of our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, who believed, “Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.” Mary Virginia dedicated her life to serving children in need. KW Domain Birmingham, as a whole and individually, has been supportive of CCS financially as well as with many years of leadership, time, and talent.

With more than 160 agents in the Birmingham branch, the company has 11 partners, two of whom are Madelon Ward and Lanie Cosgrove. Thanks to their commitment, there is support for Christ Child from top to bottom. Past Christ Child Presidents Madelon Ward and Pamela Hildebrand, as well as past/present Board members Lanie Cosgrove, Debbie Crawford and Kim Fortin have served for over 100 years combined in many capacities. The tradition continues, with Carrie Clement wrapping up her Provisional year! The company continues to support us as a leading sponsor of our major fundraisers year after year.

With heartfelt thanks for all that you have done and continue to do, we are proud to present this year’s award to KW Domain. Congratulations!

## Rock 'n Rollin' for new shoes

By Pam Surhigh, Treasurer

On Thursday evening, June 7, over 100 Christ Child supporters gathered at Dick O'Dow's in Birmingham to raise funds to purchase new tennis shoes for the boys of Christ Child House and to hear the Patio Heroes, a Detroit-based cover band. The five member band kindly donated their talent and time to the cause. With Clay Phillips and Gary Pryka providing the vocals and on guitar, Steve Surhigh (Christ Child House Advisory Board Member) twinkling the keyboards, Bob Puskas on drums, and Jim Rainbolt playing bass, the band thoroughly entertained the crowd with a wide variety of music. Women and men, young and old, socialized while listening to great music. Due to the generosity of our supporters the event raised \$3,500.



The big shopping day took place in late August, just in time for the new school year. CCS members Laura Keziah, Gretchen Klotz, Cristina Recchia and Pam Surhigh, along with several House staffers, took all 22 of the boys to the Nike Community store in downtown Detroit. The boys had their feet measured and were able to pick out their own tennis shoes and t-shirt. The majority of the boys did a great job matching their shoes to their new t-shirts. Amid the tremendous excitement of receiving new Nikes, one of the boys put his old shoes into the new shoe box and put it back on the shelf. This gesture brought on a round of laughter as it took a bit of time to find that particular box with his old shoes among the thousands of new shoe boxes!

After a fun day of shopping, there was one more treat in store for our beloved Christ Child House boys. A trip to American Coney Island was on the agenda, where the boys were treated to Coney dogs and fries. With new shoes in hand, all the boys looked forward to starting the school year in style. And we look forward to making this an annual event!

*Ed Note: This fun and very worthwhile event was the terrific idea of our very own Pam Surhigh, currently treasurer of Christ Child Society of Detroit. Pam secured her husband's band and the venue and helped get the word out. Thank you to all who attended for their support of this event, thank you to Dick O'Dow's for hosting our event, and thank you to the Patio Heroes who donated their time and talent.*

## Heartwarmers serve up love at annual picnic

By Sarah Kopic, Heartwarmers Co-Chair

The 2017-2018 CCS Heartwarmers program wrapped up with our annual picnic on Friday June 22nd. It took place on the grounds of the Christ Child House. Our Society volunteers, the Christ Child House staff and the boys all had a ball! Thankfully, the weather cooperated and we enjoyed a beautiful weather day as well.



*Co-chairs Sarah Kopic and Kelly Eberlein.*



*Elaine Szot and Betsy Heid with House staffers Olethia Craighead and Kristi Livengood.*

There was a game truck with video games that the boys enjoyed as every boy would. Several boys could play each other at a time, while sitting in comfort on a big couch. The boys enjoyed playing basketball outdoors as well.

Along with burgers and hot dogs the famous taco salad was served, made with love by Tara Nittis and enjoyed by all. After lunch everyone enjoyed a cool treat when the ice cream truck rolled into the parking lot! It was a great wrap-up of the year and kick-off for summer.

This is one of our favorite events because we get to see how much the boys have grown during the year. Our monthly trips for Bingo and crafts provide an amazing opportunity for us to connect with the boys as well as the staff. Seeing smiles on their faces and knowing they feel loved is what warms our hearts! We encourage everyone to sign up for the Heartwarmers program this year, even if you can only come once or twice. It really is a nice hour spent with some amazing boys!

# We enjoyed Breakfast at Tiffany's, *pour les enfants*

by Katie Gantner, VP Fundraising



Nancy Barnett accepts her award as Woman of the Year.

The *pour les enfants* 2018 Breakfast at Tiffany's Luncheon was amazing! Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> was a beautiful spring day at Pine Lake Country Club. The club looked stunning, decked out in Tiffany blue.

Returning chairs Patti Chinonis, Paula Garrity and Connie Quarrier created a fantastic event to raise money for the Society. It was no surprise to CCS members and friends that they knocked it out of the park once again.



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

Bell & White organized a beautiful fashion show. Ten lovely Christ Child members modeled clothes from Anne Fontaine, Halston Heritage, Sara Campbell, Christiane Larue and Sundance Shoes. The CSS audience thoroughly enjoyed watching their fellow members model the latest trends! A delicious luncheon and boutique shopping before and after with various amazing vendors tied the bow on a perfectly presented day!

The highlight of the day was honoring Nancy Barnett, 2018 Christ Child Society Woman of the Year. Nancy has held several executive board positions as well as serving as a tower of strength in behind-the-scenes event management for many years. Her dedication to the Christ Child Society has been a huge asset.



Molly Markley, Amy Gooch, Carolyn Fascetti and Mary Bergmann



Karen Kearns, front, followed by Shannon Anderson and Kelly Winkler Patterson

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



Laura Karmanos



Provisionals Cathy Cain, Nancy Timlin and Pam Ferguson.

## Layette News

By Pam Hildebrand, Past President

Layette assembly is winding down for 2018. A new streamlined assembly process makes putting together a bundle for a newborn an easy process. We have coffee and snacks for the AM shift (Mondays 9:00-11am) and cocktails and appetizers for the PM shift (alternate Mondays 7:00-9pm.) We are a fun and vibrant group so please join us! We now supply more agencies and we receive bigger requests for layette packages. In the words of Mary Virginia Merrick, if there is a need, fill it, and we do it at the Layette House. We also want to say thank you to the knitting groups at Beautiful Savior, Holy Name and St. Hugo for the many knitted hats, booties, and blankets they continue to provide. Come join us!!!! Questions? Contact Kim Cameron Schafer at kim.cameron@comcast.net.



Layette helpers Julie Hamaty, Linda Simonelli and Caroline Johnson

# The boys enjoy lots of summertime fun

by Lizzy Hardy, Child Enrichment Chair

Summer was a busy one for the boys of the Christ Child House. We kicked it off with a bike ride along the Detroit Riverfront and headed up through the Dequindre Cut Greenway. It was a scorcher outside, but they were troopers and peddled through!

The following month Chris Schwartz, Elaina Ryder and Lizzy Hardy took the boys to an eventful hibachi dinner at Kyoto's in Royal Oak. The chefs entertained the kids with flaming onions and flying shrimp tails, to name just a few of the tricks the chef masters had up their sleeves. The boys were able to get a delicious taste of Japan along with a side of French fries, per their request. Afterwards, they had plenty of time to play at Royal Oak's Memorial Park and eat ice cream treats.

Next, they visited the Livonia Recreation Center where the boys shot hoops and swam in the pool all day long. It was a great way to beat the heat! Finally, they topped off the summer with a visit to C.J. Barrymore's, which was packed full of action including go-carts, rollercoasters, bumper boats, bumper cars and an arcade.



On Thursday, August 9th the boys put on a wonderful Talent Show for friends and family. The rainy weather made for a few challenges but the boys persevered and sang their hearts out. Once again thanks to Music Therapist Mr. Rick Cross for his work in preparing the boys for their stage debut.



Junior Christ Child, led by Jen Simpson, hosted a dance/pizza party at the Christ Child House on August 30th. DJ Patrick Burns donated his time to bring the tunes and more than 20 high school students came to join in on the fun with the boys.

Child Enrichment is always looking for new ideas for fun activities for our beloved boys of the CCH. If you have any ideas, or would be interested in underwriting the cost of a future activity, please contact Lizabeth Hardy at [lizzyhardy1974@gmail.com](mailto:lizzyhardy1974@gmail.com).

## Gone to Camp!

Through funds from Christ Child Society and the Christ Child House, and with thanks to the staff who coordinated all of the activities and meals, our boys were able to enjoy a three-day summer camp in Monroe, Michigan in August.

Camp included a visit from the Creature Man of Wildlife Safari. His van was filled with an assortment of wildlife including a snake, possum, alligator, turtle, scorpion, and a few other wildlife creatures. The boys were able to pet, hold, and feed the animals and displayed such bravery in doing so!

They were also able to visit a water park, swim, and bike ride. No camp visit would be complete without a barbeque or the making and eating of s'mores. The boys and staff were able to enjoy both at this great getaway. Fun was had by all in the three action-packed days. At the end of their stay, the boys were asked what they would change about camp, and every single boy said, "... Stay longer"!!



The boys were fascinated by the Creature Man.

## Msgr. Zenz offers thoughts on being "with Mary in the Holy Spirit"

By Chris Schwartz, President-elect

On Tuesday, May 1, 2018, the Christ Child Society hosted an Evening of Reflection at Holy Name Chapel. The evening was well attended by 27 Christ Child Society members. Monsignor Zenz celebrated a beautiful mass in the chapel; this was followed by a lovely supper served in St. Anne's Hall. A reflection led by Msgr. Zenz (fresh off of his trip to the Holy Land) centered around the theme "With Mary in the Holy Spirit."

Our group was lead through five meditations focusing on Mary and her meaning in our lives. Thank you to Msgr. Zenz and to our spiritual coordinator Kathy McIntosh for organizing this inspirational evening.



## Introducing the New Executive Director of Christ Child House

By Laura Keziah, President

I am so happy to have this opportunity to introduce you to Maria Lessnau, the new Executive Director of Christ Child House. Maria has been with us since the beginning of May and has already made her mark.

Maria comes with excellent experience. Her career began in 1995 at Vista Maria, a residential treatment facility for girls. She then transitioned to Girlstown Foundation-Guiding Harbor, in Belleville, Michigan. She had a twenty-three year career at Guiding Harbor, a residential facility for young women, where she served in many capacities, the last being Chief Executive Officer. Her life's mission is to serve those in need.

Maria earned both her undergraduate degree in Psychology and her Master's in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University. She and husband Mike have a daughter in college and a son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Family means the world to Maria.

With fresh eyes on issues and policies at the House, Maria is making changes and seeing progress in many areas. Staffing, improvements to the physical house and working with Lansing on behalf of the House and our boys have all received Maria's attention.

In 2017, Maria was presented with the Michigan Federation of Child and Family Services Ambassador of the Year award, for positively promoting the work of the Federation among her colleagues and within the field of child welfare and beyond.

I feel very lucky to have Maria on our team and am so happy with the new ideas she is bringing to our Mission. She is looking forward to meeting as many of you as she can. Please join me in welcoming Maria to the Christ Child family.

## House Happenings

by Maria Lessnau, Executive Director, Christ Child House



Maria Lessnau

I am excited to take on this leadership role at Christ Child House as the Executive Director. My personal and professional values are in alignment with the mission and goals of the agency, and I am honored and privileged to take on this new role. Thank you for this opportunity!

Currently, I am working on implementing policies and procedures across the agency to assure that we are in compliance with Contract and Licensing rules. Numerous policies and forms agency-wide have been developed and executed.

Erica Stuchell, Residential Director, was hired on April 30, 2018. Erica has been able to improve staff morale and consistent scheduling, as well as hire some additional full-time staff with the approval of the Board. Erica comes to us with more than fifteen years of residential experience.

Our financial audit was completed recently and the results were positive. The Michigan Department of Education school lunch Administrative Review was also successfully completed. The agency is improving in all areas. With new staff on board, along with our current staff, we are looking to improve overall agency operations.

Our child census remains fairly consistent, with between 18-22 boys. Our referral base has also been consistent, with intakes of more specialized youth in the 5 to 12 year-old age range, along with fewer teenagers than we had received in the past. We are focusing on becoming a Trauma Focused Treatment Agency.

Despite a change in multiple key positions, our staffing seems to be stabilizing. We have added more HR and administrative responsibilities to Olethia Craighead's position. Cedric McGee has also taken on some additional responsibilities in coordi-

nating the medical requirements for our youth. We have also hired Colleen Reidy, an additional Trauma Therapist, on June 25, 2018.

Our activities schedule is robust and extensive. With continued assistance and funding from the Society's Enrichment program, our boys are able to participate in educational, fun and enriching events. Over the past six months the children have been to recreational outings at Paradise Park, Sportsway, Lincoln Park Skating Center, Detroit Tigers games, miniature golf, movies, camp, Mt. Elliot Waterpark, Belle Isle and the Livonia Recreation Center and Park. They have had numerous activities with the Church of Livonia. Our on-going Art therapy, Music therapy, Bible Study, and Brother Rice events continue as well. Coming from and experiencing other programs, I can vehemently state that we have one of the most comprehensive recreational programs of any agency in the state!

Our final report cards for the school year reflected that 40% of our youth had a 3.0 or higher for over two marking periods. We have seen a major decrease in school suspensions. We offered an elaborate summer program with tutoring and summer school both in and out of the house, and many upcoming educational activities are scheduled. Our youth are also participating in bi-weekly educational groups in the House. Music and Art therapy continue providing our youth a positive impact.

### A Special Message regarding Staff

The success of Christ Child House is not only dependent upon the historical relationships, great volunteerism and terrific support we receive from the Christ Child Society, but is also due to our committed staff members, who help make this house a home. Thank you for helping to make the Christ Child House such a wonderful place for children in need. Our mission is to provide professional and comprehensive treatment programs for children and families at risk through therapeutic services focused on individualized treatment; thank you for assisting us in meeting our goals.

## Literacy Program begins again in October

by Amy Pilzner, Literacy Chair

We wrapped up last school year reading *Dot & Jabber and the Big Bug Mystery* with the 1<sup>st</sup> graders at Walt Whitman Elementary. As a part of our craft activity, the students created their own bug jars to take home with them to enjoy during their summer vacation.

In October, the Christ Child volunteers will pick up where we left off with the now 2<sup>nd</sup> graders for a semester of fresh stories, enthusiastic movement activities, creative projects and a copy of the book we read each month for their very own. This year the we will visit Walt Whitman on the second Thursday morning of each month... all Christ Child Society members are welcome to join us and help share the love of reading with a group of energetic, eager learners. Thank you to the Christ Child volunteers who continue to make this vital program a success! Contact Amy Pilzner for more information (amy@present-image.com)



The students made cow plates after reading "Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type."

### A Literacy birthday gift for the Christ Child Boys

Throughout 2018 the Literacy program has also been involved with a new project with the boys at the Christ Child House. As each boy celebrates a birthday, he receives a special book, selected just for him, from "Miss Laura and the Christ Child Ladies." He also receives a birthday card — in the mail — containing a crisp \$5 bill! Who doesn't like to get that kind of mail? The boys have been thrilled.



A Walt Whitman student proudly shows off his bug jar.

## Our boys learned to sew this summer

By Karen Kearns, Art Enrichment Chair

Art Camp was a big hit this August! Many inspiring projects allowed the boys to feel empowered with their own unique art expressions. Every time we ended a session one of the boys would ask, "When are you coming back?"



One project that was exceptionally special involved the boys learning to work with sewing machines. They put designs and fabrics together to create a unique pillow that they kept for their own beds. This project will continue through the fall until every boy has his own pillow.

The boys will be happy to know we are working to expand our current bimonthly program to a weekly one! Currently, funding is coming from the Galencher Nagy Foundation. Recently, a grant by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) doubled our program funding. Much gratitude is owed to Molly Dianna for obtaining this generous donation. She is our nationally registered and board-certified therapist who has done outstanding work. Thank you, Molly!

The Art Enrichment Program is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for all Christ Child members. The boys love the attention and accolades they receive for their individual projects. No artistic talent is needed, just positive and willing volunteers. The program takes place every Tuesday night with a few exceptions; please look to Monday Matters or CCSdetroit.org for opportunities to join in!

Ed. Note: We never publish photos of the Christ Child boys, to protect their privacy.



Chris Schwartz and Molly Dianna, art therapy instructor, at the Art Show held at Jenny Turner's home on May 2nd to benefit the art program at the House. Thank you Jenny, for opening up your lovely new home, and thanks to the artists, who donated 10% of their proceeds to Christ Child.

# 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.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

## Memorials

For: Daniel Springer  
From: Mary Filippis

For: William C. Roney  
From: Mr. and Mrs. Verbiest  
Carol and Brian Roney  
Maureen Carey

For: Bill Harahan, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
From: Maureen Carey

For: Rose Arthmire, Agnes Supanich,  
Antonia Ozanich  
From: Joanne Garrett Cherney

For: Geraldine Granfield  
From: Judy Rembacki

For: H. Richard Verbiest  
From: Josh Hetler  
Sally Westerheide  
Laura and Peter Karmanos  
Ann and Ken Calvert  
Jeff Kieven  
Nora and Schuyler Hamill  
Carol and Brian Roney  
Kathleen and Ernest McGregor  
Deb and Tom Kleven

Julie Bennett  
Sue Westerheide  
Julie and John Hamaty  
Kitty and Wayne Hohenberger

For: Donna Carey  
From: Lynda Peters  
Mari Peters  
Carol Roney  
Pamela Hildebrand  
Laura Keziah  
The Martin Ambrose Family  
Molly and David Robinson

For: Geraldine Marchetti  
From: Martha White  
Pat and Bob Sayers

For: Millicent Worrell  
From: Mary Jo Mason  
Carolyn Mergel  
Molly and David Robinson  
Heidi and Greg Gromek

For: Janet Reynolds  
From: Marie Jelonek  
Karen Kardionok  
David Barrett  
Germaine Canar  
Thomas Ernest  
Nadire Widiarski  
Jane Canar  
Ed Jelonek and Mary Hammerr  
Marie Heshezuk  
Adele and Edward Jelonek Sr.  
Denise and Mark Gunderson  
Denise Pareyt  
Deb and Mark Habel  
Curtis Lovelace  
Angela and Thaddeus Winiarski

For: Michael Mead  
From: Jeanine and Charles Wolford

## Tributes

For: Madelon Ward  
and Maureen Wesley  
From: Jean and John Wickett

For: Cori Mullany  
From: Constance Quarrier

For: Patti Jessup  
From: Marie Kadlec

For: Laura and Lance Keziah  
From: Lee Hurwitz

For: Vicki and Mike Arnold  
From: P. Thad Seely

## Memorial Masses from the Society

William J. Pulte  
*Father-in-Law of member Mary Clare Pulte*

Mary Connelly  
*Mother-in-Law of members Julie Connelly and Lynn Connelly*

Lynne Eichinger  
*Member*

Dorne Dibbles  
*Father of member Lori Anderson*

H. Richard Verbiest  
*Father of member Carol Roney*

Melanie Ressa Zombek  
*Mother of member Meredith Lovell*

Donna Carey  
*Mother of member Maureen Carey*

Geraldine Marchetti  
*Member*

Millicent Worrell  
*Member*

Mary Anne Harahan  
*Supporter of Christ Child*

Marilyn Patton  
*Sister of member Anita McCabe*

Bill Royce Sr.  
*Father-in-Law of member Annette Royce*

## Donor Contributions to support the children we serve

Anna Maria Stinson  
Lanie Cosgrove

## Provisionals work hard to support our events

by Kelly Winkler Patterson, Provisional Chair

The provisional class of 2018 was extremely busy last spring. This class is not short on energy! From incredible Easter basket gathering and assembling for the boys, to invitation stuffing for *pour les enfants*, to reading at Walt Whitman Elementary, to planting spring flowers at the house. The participation at each of these events was always close to 100%. During our meetings we had visits from Literacy, Heartwarmers, Night of Angel Chairs, House Chair, Layettes and Home Tour chairs.

We took off July and August to recharge and kicked off the fall season with a picnic and happy hour at Wing Lake Beach. It was wonderful to see a special bond grow as everyone reconnected after the summer.



Nini Dauer, Katy Dudley, Carrie Clement, Kathy Reason

We have a lot on our schedule for the remainder of the year. The girls are looking forward to a bevy of upcoming activities and ways to help. It starts with volunteer sign-ups at the general meeting, to decorating the house for Halloween, to helping and attending Night of Angels, the Mass of Remembrance luncheon, to decorating the house for Christmas to planning gifts for the boys and staff, to volunteering and attending the Home Tour, as well as planning Twelfth Night. We will be busy!!!



Kelly Winkler Patterson, Nancy Timlin, Missy Hess, Pam Ferguson, Caroline Johnson and Sara Marshall help with spring clean up at the House.

This class of exceptional women has tons of energy and is always looking for opportunities to help, if you have any needs, please don't hesitate to ask!!! Also, if you know of anyone interested for next year's provisional class, please have them email me at [Beachwink3@gmail.com](mailto:Beachwink3@gmail.com).

## Boys serve up pancakes and appreciation

By Valerie George, VP Communications

How best to thank our CC House staff for all that they do? This year we once again hosted a Pancake Breakfast, held at the House on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, where our CC boys were eager to serve breakfast to the House staff and show their appreciation for those who work so hard at keeping the house running smoothly, helping the boys with their day-to-day trials and tribulations, homework, and so much more.

For a second year in a row, the breakfast was sponsored by the Board of Directors of Christ Child Society to celebrate the staff and recognize their dedication and hard work. Pancakes were purchased from King Pancake Company of Belleville, Michigan. Owner Jeff King and his wife generously donated their time and labor that morning to make all the pancakes for the staff and the boys; board members provided the rest. Stomachs were filled with warm pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and juice. One of the boys even managed three helpings of pancakes in one sitting!



Some of the staff enjoying their pancake breakfast.

Once again, gift cards were raffled off to each staff member. We are so thankful and grateful for our hardworking and dedicated staff at the Christ Child House.

**Members, are you receiving our weekly "Monday Matters" email?  
If not, please notify Betsy Heid at [elizwheid@gmail.com](mailto:elizwheid@gmail.com)**

# Brother Rice families take the boys swimming, donate backpacks for back-to-school success



*By Chris Schwartz, President-elect*

Through the benevolence of three generous Brother Rice High School families, our Christ Child House boys enjoyed a day filled with swimming at Birmingham Country Club along with lunch. The Serra, Oesterie, and Brooks families kindly hosted this event. Last year, the Serra family hosted the inaugural event.

Donations from numerous Br. Rice families culminated in a brand-new backpack full of school supplies for each of the 22 Christ Child House boys, so each boy could start the new school year out right, equipped with needed supplies. Br. Rice Principal Ed Okuniewski (Eddie O.) also paid a visit to the CCH boys.

We send out a huge thank you for to the Serra, Oesterie and Brooks families and to many other Brother Rice families and Eddie O. for a fun day in the sun and for equipping the boys with the supplies they need for a brand new school year.



*Michael Roberge, Joe Serra, Br. Rice Principal Eddie Okuniewski, Aidan Brooks, Jacob Hannawa and Zach Oesterie.*

## *Mark your Calendar!*

### **Mass of Remembrance and Salad Luncheon**

***Thursday,  
November 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am***

**at the  
Christ Child House**



### **How to access the CCS Directory online**

Visit [www.ccsdetroit.org](http://www.ccsdetroit.org). Click on "Members Only" tab at top. You will be directed to enter your email and password.

If you cannot remember your password, click the blue "RESET PASSWORD" and follow the directions. If you don't think you've previously registered, click the blue "RESET PASSWORD" and follow directions.

If the system still doesn't allow you access, your email may not be registered within the database. Please email [lpkarmanos@comcast.net](mailto:lpkarmanos@comcast.net) with your name and email address. You will receive an email verifying your access once your information has been added to the database.

Once on the "Members Only" page, you will see the CCS MEMBER DIRECTORY title at the very top. Click on the "Download File" button and the directory should open.

### **Communiqué Contributors**

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*Ed. Note: We never publish photos of the Christ Child boys, to protect their privacy.*

**Proofreaders:** Valerie George, Amy Pilzner

**Layout:** Betsy Heid



*House staffers Olethia Craighead, Mary Barr, Nicole McAdoo, Tamiko Walton and Maria Lessnau enjoyed attending the pour les enfants luncheon in May.*



*Chris Schwartz and Jenny Turner help serve up taco salad at the Heartwarmers' picnic in June.*



*Lisa Halsted, Kelly Eberlein, Gretchen Klotz, Jalenne Timmis and Sara Young at the Pink Party in August.  
(Photo courtesy of Sally Gerak/Downtown Magazine)*

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For many more great photos, check out the color photo gallery on our website at [ccsdetroit.org](http://ccsdetroit.org).