



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

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...Connections...

"Nothing is ever too much to do for a child." Mary Virginia Merrick, Founder



**SPECIAL
EDITION**

2024
CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
united in service
2024
"LOVE LEADS TO ACTION"

Here are the highlights from the 2024 United in Service Report.

Impact of Love in Action: A Ripple of Change!

450+ MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED
1,400+ HOURS TO POSITIVELY
IMPACT **9,300+** CHILDREN
AND ADULTS IN 2024. ALONG
THE WAY, **16** NEW MEMBERS
JOINED OUR MISSION,
AND CHAPTERS RECEIVED
UNEXPECTED BOOSTS WITH
6,000 DIAPER DONATIONS
AND **\$13,955** IN CASH. EVERY
ACT OF SERVICE MADE A
POWERFUL DIFFERENCE!

Akron



With a GAR Foundation grant, the chapter helped make a local school's dream come true by installing Inchy, the Bookworm—a talking Book Vending Machine stocked with books. Students can earn coins to unlock their next read, and the ribbon cutting was celebrated with a mayor's office rep and excited Christ Child members!

Baltimore

Eleven members (which is 1/3 of the membership) visited the Maryland Book Bank, splitting into groups to collect books for children and adults. New members joined to build fellowship and learn the ropes. Together, they delivered 645 books to schools, a hospital, and non-profit agencies, leaving everyone with a great sense of accomplishment.



Cleveland

The chapter expanded its literacy program to encourage young children to read by distributing bags with books, stickers, erasers, and temporary tattoos. These bags were given to 168 preschool, kindergarten and first graders in the two schools where the chapter runs their library and to two head start programs.



Columbus

The Columbus Chapter fostered the gift of giving by hosting a Christmas gift shopping day with 35 children from the Run the Race School. The Chapter collected costume jewelry from their members and then set up a Christmas shopping day at the school. The children were able to experience the joy of picking out just the right gift for family! Members then lovingly wrapped the selected treasures for the children to take home as Christmas gifts for their loved ones. A substantial amount of jewelry was collected, leading to the decision to repeat this event next year. The idea came from members who recently lost their mother and sister and did not know what to do with their jewelry.



Dallas/Forth Worth

Members of Dallas/Fort Worth boosted self confidence in high school students with the You Belong Bag program and promoted literacy through projects like Read Across Central and a Book Fair with 1,200 free books distributed. They continued the spirit of giving at Christmas with nearly 900 tags for a Giving Tree. The donations helped fill inventory for chapter programs and met many needs in their community.



Denver

CCS of Denver partnered with Regis University in a Book Buddies Drive with all books going to their Book Buddies Program at Guardian Angels School (and any used books to their library). They collected PreK-8th grade new books.



Detroit

The Detroit chapter offered a school with attendance issues, the incentive of monthly after school parties, providing pizza, popcorn, and ice cream for classes with perfect attendance. School attendance dramatically improved going from 30 students the first month to 180 invited to December's party!

Door County

They expanded their Head Start Reading program to include the 2 & 3 year old class to get them interested in books and promote a love of reading at an early age. The impact they have is experienced when they are greeted with joy and excited hugs!



Fort Wayne

This chapter teamed up with a new agency, Young Mothers of America, to deliver 480 custom hygiene bags to moms and kids living in cars, shelters, or on the streets. With 200 bags specially packed for children—complete with a stuffed animal, coloring book, crayons, and hygiene essentials—and culturally tailored items for moms, every bag was crafted to fit perfectly in a car console. Taking on this project has opened their eyes as a chapter to really seek out the needs and fill them. They hope to make a real impact on more children in the future!



Milwaukee



Members organized a book drive with a day to read to students. They solicited donations from the local area and reached out to the NCCS Office to get advice on creating an Amazon New Book Wishlist with specific titles to support their chapter literacy programs. Additionally, they planned and took part in a Day of Reading with an under-resourced school. They found it very humbling to see how excited the kids were to receive a book of their own!

Monterey Bay

The chapter threw a fantastic birthday party in honor of Mary Virginia Merrick with a Shower of Love theme. Attendance was record-breaking and \$5,600 was raised with 1,200+ diapers and many other items given away. What a perfect way to pay tribute to MVM!



Oshkosh

Oshkosh delivered 120+ books to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry's Kids Corner in November! This vibrant space helps children ages 2-17 explore nutrition and make healthy food choices. With over 200 young visitors each month, kids now have even more reasons to smile—picking a book to take home and fuel their love for reading

Quad Cities

The CCS chapter provided two activities that children could participate in which benefited the Head Start Fall Family Festival. Both activities were geared around the book by Eric Carle *The Tiny Seed*. Children planted flower seeds in take-home containers and then crafted 3-D flowers. Each student then received a copy



of the book to take home. One child lit up with a big smile after receiving the book and recognized her flower looked like the one on the book!

South Bend

South Bend realized that no other area organization gives out art supplies to children. Members collected the items for children ages 3-14 and packed them in yellow nylon bags with a string closure. The bags were available at the chapter clothing center. A little girl was waiting to try on shoes and couldn't help but come over to the decorated table that held the bags. She was ecstatic to receive a paint by number book along with a pencil case as she proudly ran back to her family.



Stuart

A diaper drive was promoted in a parish bulletin BEFORE the chapter had decided on that project. However, they took the opportunity and made it happen. The parish priest even talked about the CCS mission at Mass. It drove the parishioners to become more aware of the needs for families. The response was tremendous and the spirit of MVM's mission proved that a mistake can be very, very successful in the end!

Summit

Members volunteered for a variety of programs: Terry's Angels-filling holiday gift bags that included donated gift cards; Blankets for Babies-cutting and pinning fleece for their baby blankets; Readers to Leaders-prepping crafts; Knitting Angels-knitting baby hats to be included in their layette packages. Over 200 children were served by these projects. Members learned that many of the families they helped are food insecure and the gift cards were a real blessing!



Toledo

The idea was to meet and make hats to keep children warm this winter but the results included many more benefits. Members were encouraged to invite a friend and attend chapter spirituality gatherings. Everyone would knit, crochet, or loom hats to be given with coats in the Clothe-A-Child program. The members were able to weave into their conversations the “CCS well told story” which gained new members. The gatherings were held at a local library which allowed the public to come and ask questions. Publishing the need for yarn in parish bulletins increased their identity and generated inquiries to the chapter website. 2000+ hats were made during this program!



Tucson

Members gathered for a Food Drive Collection, supported by members, their families and American Heritage Girls (some are junior CCS members). With 1,000 flyers distributed, they collected donations and coordinated driveway pickups. In the end, 100 families and 250 children were served, making this effort a celebration of community and love in action!



Western Reserve

The Western Reserve CCS donated \$1,500 to an elementary school to help with the school lunch debt. This provided students a nourishing lunch that helped promote learning in the classroom. They also provided 100 bags of sanitary napkins and wipes to a middle school to help improve school attendance and reduce absence due to period poverty. When children in need receive help from CCS their lives are improved!



United in Service: Love Leads to Action 2024 Report

This special edition provides you with a glimpse of what our impact has been on children and families across the U.S.

We **THANK YOU** for joining your fellow members across the country and continuing to improve children's lives!

Christ Child Society Brand Values:

**EMPOWERING
RESPECTING
SERVING
LOVING
ENGAGING**

2024-2026

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