



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



President's Letter

The spirit that drives our members' work in each chapter is amazing. Your dedication to your community brings exciting energy to all that you do.

In March, we conducted our annual in-person board meeting in Plymouth, Michigan. For two days, we collaborated and discussed our overall strategic plan for NCCS. One of the many items we discussed was our social media platforms. We recently launched our new Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please find the links to all of our accounts above.

The national board is excited about the work we have accomplished this past year and looks forward to sharing it with you at the conference. This year, the conference will take place September 12th and 13th at the Pooks Hill Marriott in Bethesda, Maryland.

Together, we are planting seeds of change that will blossom meaningfully throughout the year.

Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Your generosity, time, and devotion to Mary Virginia Merrick's vision inspire us daily.

Katie Cantner



Director's Letter

I've always admired the resilience of our Christ Child chapters, especially during times of hardship.

I was reminded of this when I attended the Pasadena chapter's annual auction and luncheon in March.

The wildfires that devastated their community in January were still fresh. Many members had lost their homes, and others couldn't return.

Over 90% of the families supported by the chapter's partner schools were homeless, with many facing unemployment.

Despite these challenges, there was a powerful sense of hope and determination. The Pasadena chapter held its March fashion show fundraiser, raising essential funds for fire relief and ongoing programs. This event was a shining example of the chapter's strength and optimism.

Christ Child chapters and members nationwide generously donated substantial amounts to the fire relief efforts. As we all know, recovery is a marathon, not a sprint, and the Pasadena chapter is carefully planning for the long road ahead.

As NCCS Executive Director, I'm incredibly proud to be part of such a compassionate and resilient community. The dedication of Christ Child chapters is a true inspiration.

Mona Lynch



Exciting News: A New Chapter Begins!

We welcome the **Christ Child Society of South Central Michigan!**

We are thrilled to introduce the Christ Child Society of South Central Michigan — a vibrant new chapter with a mission to spread love and support to families in need across the region!

The story of this new chapter begins with an unexpected gift. Cathy Sykes' daughter, a social worker in Northern Michigan, brought her a beautiful layette from the Christ Child Society of Northern Michigan chapter. After seeing the joy and impact these bundles of love brought to families, Cathy knew that her community of Jackson, Michigan would benefit from a Christ Child Society chapter.



Inspired, Cathy reached out to Diane Creamer of the Northern Michigan chapter and Randi Monaghan, the president of the Toledo chapter. The incredible warmth and encouragement from these CCS leaders and support from the National Christ Child Society office fueled Cathy's passion to start a chapter in South Central Michigan.

Starting a new CCS chapter requires time, patience, and careful planning. Cathy began by talking to close friends, then approached her local parish priest, who was immediately enthusiastic and pledged a generous \$10,000 startup fund.



With a solid financial foundation and a clear mission, Cathy and her team expanded their efforts. Enter Dr. Rose Johnson, the Chief Medical Director of the Center for Family Health, who became an invaluable ally. In another wonderful twist, the local bank executives, impressed by the chapter's mission, have also expressed interest in contributing!

The Christ Child Society of South Central Michigan officially launched on April 1st, and we're excited to see how this chapter will grow and impact families in the community.

The CCS of South Central Michigan will carry forward the Christ Child mission of bringing hope, support, and essential care to those who need it.

Stay tuned for more updates as we watch this new chapter blossom!





Toledo

The Christ Child Society of Toledo marked its **35th anniversary** in April. In 1989, Lynne Deal, who later became the first CCS Toledo chapter President, and over 40 women attended an informational coffee where they discussed starting the Toledo chapter. The Christ Child Society of Toledo began as a provisional chapter in 1990 and became chartered in 1992. Members initially conducted meetings in members' homes, but as the membership grew, they moved to the Lourdes University campus, where they still hold their meetings today.



During the 35th anniversary meeting, members reflected on the chapter's history while enjoying refreshments and reminiscing. Original members told stories, and new memories were created at this year's event. As of 2025, 17 members from the first decade are still active members of the 206 member roster. The chapter currently has numerous Community Outreach programs and projects ranging from Angel Layettes, Layettes, and Clothe-A-Child to HUGS, Literacy, Tutoring and Theatre Vision.

A PowerPoint presentation illustrated the chapter's story of service and their belief that "nothing is ever too much to do for a child."



Chapter Anniversaries

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY



15 YEARS
STARTED IN 2010

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TOLEDO, OHIO



35 YEARS
STARTED IN 1990

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PHOENIX, ARIZONA



40 YEARS
STARTED IN 1985

Learning From Each Other

Learning about other chapters and how they operate is a wonderful way to network, develop innovative ideas, and support each other. After meeting up at the 2024 annual convention in Omaha, NE, the Fort Wayne chapter decided to take a trip to visit the South Bend chapter to explore their clothing center and other programs.

On March 24th, members prayed a spirit-filled scriptural rosary on the bus ride to South Bend. Members were excited to go on a guided tour of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Notre Dame. They were presented with an opportunity to go to the sacrament of reconciliation after which they joined the Notre Dame students and parishioners for the noon mass. Everyone received a Jubilee Indulgence for the Jubilee 2025, to renew themselves as “Pilgrims of Hope” per Pope Francis’ intention.

After mass, members made the final stop of the day at the South Bend chapter office and clothing center. The exuberance on the bus was palpable when the store and its HUGE blue “Christ Child Society” sign came into view. The sign is a clear statement of the CCS South Bend chapter’s presence in the community.

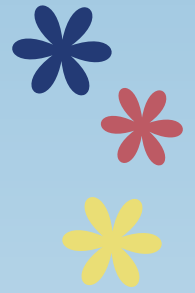
South Bend co-presidents, Melissa Baltz and Vickie Sleeve met the Fort Wayne members and gave them a tour of the different zones within the store. It was inspirational how much they do and how organized the store is. The South Bend leaders explained how the zones work and serve the children in the community.

The Fort Wayne president and members were amazed by the total number of children that CCS South Bend serves each calendar year. “Seeing the facility inspired us,” said Fort Wayne chapter Past President Geri Boyden, “We gleaned new ideas from the tour.”

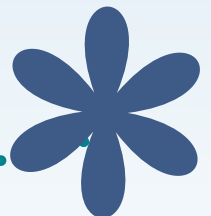
This is another great example of how chapters can learn and get ideas from each other.



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY ONLINE CLOTHING STORE COMING IN JUNE.



New items will be included to expand your wardrobe.





Dallas-Fort Worth

Just like the backpack says...

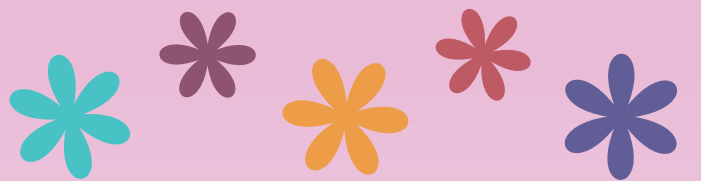
Christ Child Dallas-Fort Worth made a magical day for the first through third graders — and their families — at a local elementary school.

The students and their siblings visited fun activity stations and everyone enjoyed a pizza dinner, organized by the Christ Child members, with help from school coordinators.

Thanks to Christ Child, each student took home books and a spring activity bag. The chapter has decided to organize four of these Family Engagement Nights per year. Each one has a theme. This one was “Books in Bloom.”



A fun fact about the books that were given away: the Christ Child Dallas-Fort Worth members didn't pay for them. They helped out another charity called “Book Drive for Kids.” In return, they received books they can use for the Family Engagement Nights.



Mark your calendar! 2025 NCCS Conference



September 12-13, 2025
Bethesda Marriott
Great Speakers, Workshops, Networking, Prizes!

Go to www.nationalchristchild.org/event to learn more!

NCCS spreads the word at

Legatus Summit 2025!

The National Christ Child Society board and office are actively seeking ways to get the Christ Child Society name and mission out to communities with like-minded organizations.

In February, we were exhibitors at the Legatus Annual Summit. Legatus is a Catholic organization with over 80 chapters nationwide. Over 600 Legatus members attended this event!

Partnering with organizations like Legatus is a great way to increase awareness of our mission and attract potential volunteers, members, and donors.

If you are a member of Legatus or a similar organization or know of an organization in your area that would be a good partner for us, please contact the national office at (301) 881-2490.

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