



# The Layette

February, 2015  
Volume 14, Issue 1

Christ Child Society of Texas, Capital Area, Inc.

A GOOD WAY TO SHARE THE NEWS OF CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY



In the words of Mary Virginia Merrick, "I strove to be the best I could....I resolved to do something every day for the Christ Child."

## The President's Corner by Barbara Forby

Happy New Year!!!! It is hard to believe it is 2015 and another year is behind us. I remember when I was a child and my teacher asked the question, "How old will you be in the year 2000?" I thought about it and when I came up with the number 43, I said, "Wow, that is old!" Funny, how your perspective is so different when you are a child.

I hope your holidays were filled with family, love and fun. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to think about the New Year. Since our last newsletter, CCS has had some changes:

- December 6, 2014, we moved into our new home in Pflugerville. Rose and Art Zavala are graciously allowing us to "live" in their rental house for minimal rent. What a blessing!!!! This is only temporary. Our goal is to find something by mid-2015. If you have any ideas or leads, please let me know.
- Christ Child Society had an article posted in the *Catholic Spirit*!! We are pursuing ways to obtain donations from individuals who are not aware of our organization.
- Sarah Brunet and her husband, Tom, are making a video that tells Christ Child Society's story. Parts of the video were taped during our last layette and show our small work area, in addition to telling about all our service projects. When it is finished, it will be posted on Social Media. Hopefully, this will generate donations from many more areas than we are currently able to reach by word of mouth alone. Will keep you posted.

Each year challenges are presented to us but they all seem to work out for the best. I want to thank each and every one of you for all the work you do and for your donations of time and money. This year our challenges are to:

- find a permanent, affordable home and to raise enough money to pay for it.
- find a new Treasurer before May. If anyone is interested, please let me know.
- find a place to hold our layette assemblies.

Our many volunteers have a lot of great ideas so keep them coming. We can achieve anything when we work Together.

Let's all remember why we volunteer in this organization. **"It's for the Children"**. With your help and prayers, The Christ Child will provide for the children's needs as well as a new home for us. Together, we can accomplish anything.

## The Action of Giving

by Sue Ridlehuber

I recently read a newspaper article by Mary Hunt in which she compared Gratitude, Generosity & Giving. The author said it is in Giving and Generosity that we express our Gratitude for the blessings in our own lives. She advises that the action of giving away some of what is most precious to us—our money—is “the ultimate thank-you note” for our own good-fortunes. We all have problems and troubles in that day-to-day reality, but gratitude and giving allow us to “take our eyes off our own situations to view the world through new eyes of compassion...It brings peace for today and a vision for tomorrow.”

When I read Ms. Hunt’s powerful article, I immediately thought about recent events in our own Christ Child Society of Texas. We have been so blessed in the past four years to have had a wonderful home funded by Georgetown Health Foundation. During that time we have provided literally thousands of layettes to disadvantaged mothers and hundreds of hygiene packets to needy children. Many thanks to our members for giving countless hours to sew blankets, burp cloths, caps, wash mitts and hooded towels, as well as offering in-kind donations of diapers, wipes, socks, onesies, sleepers, bibs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant and much, much more. Your continued gifts of time, talents and in-kind donations are always appreciated.



Now we need to find a new, permanent home so that we can continue to provide layettes, hygiene packs, caps & gloves and bereavement sets to disadvantaged children in our central Texas area. To do this, we are attempting to raise money through on-line donation-sites with a special video made by Sarah and Tom Brunet. But can we really ask strangers to provide for us, when we don’t provide for ourselves? Our own Rose Zavala has offered a temporary solution, in the form of her wonderful ‘cottage’ in Pflugerville, which she is renting to us for an incredibly low amount. However, we know we can’t take advantage of her generosity for long, so the ‘building’ committee is considering all options including renting a larger storehouse/meeting place, purchasing land to erect our own building or possibly moving into a pre-fabricated structure. All of these options would be extremely costly.

In the past few years we have been fortunate that the community has supported us through countless generous donations as well as continuing to support our biggest money-making enterprises, Evening for the Ladies and the annual Craft Sale(s). Now we need *your* help, more than ever. Please consider a monetary contribution that will go toward our dream of a permanent home of our own. If you haven’t been to Rose’s Cottage, please come and visit. We will soon run out of space, so it is important to begin our search for a permanent home that will accommodate our growing needs. Let’s all **‘DREAM BIG!’** as we plan for our future. Your help TODAY will help CCS fulfill its vision for TOMORROW!

Thank you.

## **Evening for the Ladies is coming May 13<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Hollywood Night with the Stars: Walking the Red Carpet***

Join your friends for an evening of fun!  
There are lots of ways to help (and earn some extra hours):

- Join a committee to help plan the fun
- Donate Hollywood items (posters, projectors, movie reels or film cans)
- Donate auction items, themed baskets or gift cards
- Buy and/or sell lots of tickets
- Help set-up and take-down on the Big Day



To volunteer or more information, call Wendy at 512-775-9744

### **CCS On-line 'Garage Sale'**

CCS Members are invited to donate items to be put on Craig's List for sale,  
with proceeds going to Christ Child Society of Texas, Capital Area.

- What kind of items?** Large items (like furniture) or specialty items of all kinds (no clothes or shoes)
- What do I do first?** Take several pictures of the item and write a brief description of the item  
(including dimensions of applicable)
- What do I do next?** Send the above information to Julie Schultz via email or text

### **Save These Dates**

#### **March Layette Assembly/General Meeting**

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9 am  
Community Rooms – Georgetown

#### **Schlotzsky's Social**

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5-8 pm  
La Frontera

*Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun and fellowship. CCS receives 20% of sales.*

#### **Evening for the Ladies (EFL)**

Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 6 pm  
St. William Parish Hall

## 2014 in Review – News Briefs

### **Want Ad: new CCS Treasurer**

To take office 30 days after election at March General Assembly.  
If interested, contact Barbara Forby [barbara.j.forby@usps.gov](mailto:barbara.j.forby@usps.gov)

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### **CCS Video**

Thank you, CCS members, for helping and supporting the Christ Child Society video. Tom Brunet is currently editing and adding more video footage. The board had a preview of the draft video at the January board meeting and it was well received. When finalized, we will be asking members to help promote the video to family and friends via e-mail, Facebook, etc.  
Sarah Brunet [sarah.l.brunet@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.l.brunet@gmail.com)

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### **CCS Membership Continues to Grow**

Christ Child Society (CCS) is truly blessed to have so many wonderful ladies who joined our chapter in 2014. Sixteen new members were inducted in June and one more person joined in August. Our total number of members reached 73 in 2014. Beginning in 2015, all members are Active and dues are \$45 each year. We will no longer have Contributing members.

We are always looking for new faces to come help us fulfill Miss Mary's mission. Members can join any time during the year so feel free to invite family and friends to join us at CCS events.

CCS members logged in 5,279 service hours in 2014. Keeping track of your hours helps CCS when we apply for grants. Hours can be emailed to Pam each quarter, turned in at any event or mailed to Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 5953, Round Rock, TX 78683.

Thank you for all that you do for Christ Child Society and His little children.  
Pam Finley [pfinley2CCS@gmail.com](mailto:pfinley2CCS@gmail.com)



*16 candles—one for each new member—at the June induction at St William's Pavilion*

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## Tremendous Support for 2014 Craft Shows

The 2014 Craft Shows received tremendous support and contributions from CCS members, raising more than \$2,700. Crafts were displayed and sold at the following seven events:

- August – Craft Workday at the Stitching Studio
- October - Layette Assembly and General Meeting
- Nov. 1 – St. William Catholic Church Craft Show in Round Rock - \$1,100
- Nov 8 – Margaret Mary Craft Show - \$365
- Nov. 15 – San Jose Catholic Church Craft Show in South Austin - \$229
- Dec. 9 – Christmas Social - \$270
- Miscellaneous sales directly from members

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who sewed, made items, experienced glue gun burns, searched for “new” craft ideas, paid for supplies to make the crafts and to the shoppers who supported this cause at the Christmas Social.

Lastly, the success of the 2014 Craft Committee would not have been possible without these core committee members: **Rachell Beltran, Ardeth Hadley, Liz Velasquez, Sue Riddlehuber, Janie Castillo, Rose Zavala and Becky Cook.** Thank you, Ladies!

Ofelia Melendez [ofelia.melendez@yahoo.com](mailto:ofelia.melendez@yahoo.com)

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### St. Margaret Mary Craft Sale

Sew Much More, our Lago Vista sewing group, manned a craft booth at St. Margaret Mary Church on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Partners in crime, Jan Broxterman and Linda Foerster, made a little bit of change and spread the word about Christ Child Society’s mission, our service projects, how to become a member and how non-members can help CCS.

Linda Foerster [lindafoerster1947@gmail.com](mailto:lindafoerster1947@gmail.com)



**St William set-up crew, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
•Ofelia, Sarah, Janie, Joan, Mary Q, Linda•



**San Jose set-up crew, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
•Liz, Teresa, Ofelia, Rachell•

## 2014 in Review – Our Service Projects

### Layette Committee

**CCS celebrated a milestone in 2014. We assembled our 5,000<sup>th</sup> Layette. Congratulations!!!**

There are many small tasks that make the whole Layette Project a success. If you would like to help with some of the smaller tasks, please contact Julie or Chonita. Join us at our Layette Committee meetings - Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Julie's house and Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Chonita's house. Mark your calendar for the March Layette Assembly and General Meeting – tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9am at the Community Rooms in Georgetown. Final plans will be sent via email/evite/signup genius/or maybe even carrier pigeon. Please watch your email.

Because of many reasons (illness, rehab-ing family members, work, travel), our Thursday Bag Lady members have shrunk in numbers. We still have lots of work but fewer members who are able to make Thursday mornings. So ... we will be having additional meeting times at Rose's Cottage to help keep everything organized, counted and sorted. The address is 103 3rd Street and is located next to the Chamber of Commerce in Pflugerville. We are going to try the first Monday evening and the third Saturday morning for the next three months. Check the calendar for the exact dates and times.

Remember the Christ Child Society Motto –*Laborare est Orare* – “to work is to pray”.

Julie Schultz [amrschultz@yahoo.com](mailto:amrschultz@yahoo.com)

Chonita Olivas [chonita.olivas@gmail.com](mailto:chonita.olivas@gmail.com)

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### Hygiene Project

In 2014, we distributed **633 Elementary School Hygiene Bags** to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Voigt and Berkman Elementary Schools, **60 hygiene bags** to Ronald McDonald House, and **300 Middle School/High School Hygiene Backpacks** to homeless Round Rock students. So..... (drum roll please) CCS members have distributed **3,536 small bags** and **774 backpacks full of toiletries** since our first hygiene kit was assembled in 2007. A big thank you goes to everyone who sewed bags, threaded ribbon ties, donated travel toiletries, purchased toothpaste, shampoo, etc. and walked in circles filling the bags.

**Ongoing Needs** – Please continue to save your travel toiletries and please consider an in-kind donation of full-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash or toothpaste. Products from the dollar stores are just fine. If you know a group that would be willing to hold a collection drive, please contact us and we will take it from there.

The Queens of Hygiene- Mary Q. Smith, Beth Watkins & Joan Watkins [jwatk@aol.com](mailto:jwatk@aol.com)

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### Bereavement Committee

In 2014, 8 large sets and 20 small sets were provided to grieving families, which brings our total to 322 since this project began in 2004. The bereavement sets and supplies are currently being stored at Lois' and Mary Beth's homes. Presently, we have enough blankets and caps for current needs. We will let the crocheters know when to resume making the blankets and caps.

Mary Beth Dennehy [mbdennehy@gmail.com](mailto:mbdennehy@gmail.com)

Lois Feist [lpfeist@gmail.com](mailto:lpfeist@gmail.com)

## Christmas Social

by Sue Ridlehuber

The CCS Christmas Social for 2014 was a huge success! Thirty-two ladies enjoyed a delightful evening filled with lots of fun, good food and great fellowship. Through 'final' purchases from the craft sale as well as a small Ticket Toss, our members contributed over \$500 for the continued work of Christ Child Society. Our generous members also donated more than \$1000 that will go toward the building fund. And, in addition, members brought gifts of toothpaste tubes for the hygiene project. Incidentally, Joan Watkins reports that big boxes filled with toothpaste are extremely HEAVY...but she's very thankful for the in-kind donations!

As usual, the food was delicious and naturally, there was plenty of it. We ate well and even came away with a few new recipes! Each guest also received a recipe book from a donor and a gift from the craft committee. The winners of the traditional right/left game took home the centerpieces that decorated each table, as well. Then our members showed off their acting skills with a game of Christmas Charades in which each table acted out the titles of an assortment of holiday songs. The winners got a quick response from the audience when they performed, "I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" while it took a little while longer to field the reply of, "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas!"

The most coveted prizes for the Ticket Toss were—no surprise—items to eat. Ardeth's homemade peanut brittle and frosted pecans, as well as Sarah's Mom's famous Rum-cake were the biggest money-makers, followed closely by an original ceramic snowflake dish made by Ardeth's talented granddaughter, Jessica. (Maybe next year we will have a bake-sale instead!)

Thanks to everyone who helped plan and set up for the party, as well as those who helped clean and load up afterward. It was a most enjoyable evening and the perfect end to a most successful year for Christ Child Society of Texas. Here's hoping that 2015 is even better. Happy New Year to All!



*Teresa & Janie perform during Charades*



*Janie, Olga, Lucy & Teresa earn a reward for their performance in Christmas Charades*

## CCS Moves to Rose's Cottage– Our New Home

by Barbara Forby

Rose and Art Zavala have generously donated the use of their rental house, in Pflugerville, to our chapter. What a blessing from Rose and her husband!!! However, this is only a temporary; we must find a permanent solution in the near future.

The Building Committee met the last week in November and set the moving date for December 6<sup>th</sup>. The move was well organized, with volunteers at both locations. First, tables, bookcases and large items were loaded into the trucks and taken to Pflugerville. Then the trailer was loaded with boxes and bins. When it arrived, there was a place to put the smaller things. We were all amazed that the entire move was completed in only 2½ hours. A big thank you to all who helped with the move!!!!

The building committee has decided to call our new home “Rose’s Cottage” in honor of the Zavala family’s generosity. In addition, Art has volunteered to cut the grass for us – that’s one less thing we have to worry about.

As I said above, this is only a temporary home; we need to continue to look for an affordable facility, preferably in a central location. We have a huge challenge ahead of us with lots of hard work to raise the necessary funds for a permanent home. If you have any suggestions for increasing our building fund, let me know. We are willing to try almost anything.

We do not want to take advantage of Rose and Art’s generosity because we are paying less than previous tenants. Our rent is a bargain - \$300 per month, plus utilities! When thinking about your 2015 charitable donations, consider donating to CCS to help with our rent or utilities.

Please keep your eyes and ears open to any leads that may be helpful. If you hear of anything promising, let me know via email [barbara.j.forby@usps.gov](mailto:barbara.j.forby@usps.gov) or phone 512-773-8749.



## Thank You Donors, for Your Support

Christ Child Society, Capital Area Chapter, receives many In-Kind and monetary donations throughout the year. In addition, members donate 30 service hours each year – a “precious gift of time and love.” Without any one of these generous donations, our chapter would not be able to serve as many of God’s children as we do. **Thank you, everyone! May God richly bless you all!**

### Christ Child Society 2014 Donors

#### Monetary Donations:

- **Community Support** – Dell ‘Your Cause’ Matching, Our Lady of the Rosary; ECDC @ St William
- **Non-members** – Anne Bierschenk, Kevin Beirschenk, Lin Brinkman, Jeanne Brunet, Chris & Terry Comman, Chris Cook, Glenn Hadley, Suzie Hebert, Debbie Juhlke, CJ Kellerman, Cheryl Koopman, Kristopher Morris, Lillian Naizer, JO Robinson
- **CCS Members** – Lois Feist, Linda Foerster, Barbara Forby, Ardeth Hadley, Trudy Jenkins, Cheryl Lattner, Sandra Leal, Susan Longley, Lutmilla Noel, Sue Ridlehuber, Lorraine Schuckman, Mary Urbanowski, Rose Zavala

#### Memorial Donations:

- Jan Huelskamp in Memory of Kathy Wolterman
- Ofelia Melendez in Memory of Charlie Russell
- Kay Overholser in Memory of Bob Huelskamp
- Paul Urbanowski in Memory of Helen Kaminski

#### Honorarium Donations:

- Linda Allen in Honor of grandson, Luke
- Lucille Milton in Honor of the Schultz family
- Paul Urbanowski in Honor of Mary Urbanowski

#### In-Kind Donations:

- **Community Support** – American Heritage Girls Troop 6201, Central Texas Knitting Guild, KJZT, Lago Vista Baby Shower, Linus Connection, National Christ Child Society, Renaissance Knitting Group, Sertoma Zoi (RRHS), St William Baby Shower, Threads of Love
- **Non-members** – Christine Alcantar, Dawn Amato, Jenifer Babyak, Terry Barnett, Bonnie Carr, Ruby Cruse, Dr. Sara Emery, Dr. Darin Evans, Gloria Gomez, Michelle Grinnell, Emily Hewitt, Mary Ellen Hobbs, Melissa Kirking, Mary Martin, Carolyn Mass, Dena McCabe, Caroline McCreight, Misty Meier, Pat Miller, Shirley Miller, Frank & Lucille Milton, Ellen Monroe, Jackie Mayer, Dee Nafarrate, Margaret Roy, Patti Stapleton, Susan Tindall, Ginny Tomasek, Christina Torres, Catherine Walsh, Diane Warsiak, Jill Willis, Rosie Woods
- **CCS Members** – Meg Beasley, Rachell Beltran, Marsha Benda, Jan Broxterman, Sarah Brunet, Janie Castillo, Berniece Donnellan, Lois Feist, Maxene Felux, Pam Finley, Vicki Flegal, Linda Foerster, Ardeth Hadley, Carol Jones, Mary Jones, Sandra Leal, Lisa McGraw, Ofelia Melendez, Chonita Olivas, Dawn Ortega, Joan Paduano, Virginia Pargmann, Mary Lou Reinhardt, Sharon Reininger, Sue Ridlehuber, Julie Schultz, Mary Q Smith, Mae Sukup, Maggie Sullivan, Zoe Torres, Mary Urbanowski, Louise Valero, Liz Velasquez, Beth Watkins, Joan Watkins, Rose Zavala

This issue recognizes all our 2014 donors. If you made a donation that was not listed, we apologize for the omission. Please send an email to **Ardeth Hadley** at [lahad38@gmail.com](mailto:lahad38@gmail.com) so your donation can be included in the subsequent issue. We want to recognize *every* donor.

## 2015 Christ Child Society Calendar

<b>February</b>	2 – Mon	Bag Ladies Too	6:30 pm	Rose's Cottage
	3 – Tue	<b>Prospective Member Gathering</b>	6:30 pm	Community Rooms
	4 – Wed	Layette committee meeting	6:30 pm	Julie's house
	9 – Mon	EFL committee meeting	7:00 pm	Wendy's house
	16 – Mon	Layette committee meeting	6:30 pm	Chonita's house
	21 - Sat	Bag Ladies Too	8:30 am	Rose's Cottage
<b>March</b>	2 – Mon	Bag Ladies Too	6:30 pm	Rose's Cottage
	7 – Sat	<b>Layette Assembly/General Mtg</b>	9:00 am	Community Rooms
	21 – Sat	Bag Ladies Too	8:30 am	Rose's Cottage
	23 - Mon	EFL committee meeting	7:00 pm	Wendy's house
<b>April</b>	2 – Tue	<b>Schlotsky's Social</b>	5 – 8 pm	La Frontera
	6 – Mon	Bag Ladies Too	6:30 pm	Rose's Cottage
	TBD - Sat	<b>Founder's day mass &amp; New member induction</b>	TBD	TBD
	18 - Sat	Bag Ladies Too	8:30 am	Rose's Cottage
	21 – 	<b>Hygiene Bag Assembly</b>	6:00 pm	Rose's Cottage
	26 – Sun	<b>Hygiene Bag Assembly</b>	2:00 pm	Rose's Cottage
	27 - Mon	EFL committee meeting	7:00 pm	Wendy's house
<b>May</b>	4 - Mon	EFL committee meeting	7:00 pm	Wendy's house
	13 – Wed	<b>Evening for the Ladies</b>	6:00 pm	St William Parish Hall
	30 - Sat	Craft workday	9:00 am	Community Rooms
<b>July</b>	1 - 31	Baby Shower	---	St William
<b>August</b>	8 – Sat	<b>Layette Assembly/General Mtg</b>	9:00 am	Community Rooms
	29 – Sat	Craft workday	9:00 am	Community Rooms
<b>October</b>	24 – Sat	<b>Layette Assembly/General Mtg</b>	9:00 am	Community Rooms
<b>December</b>	TBD	<b>Christmas Social</b>	6:30 pm	Seton Hospital

Note: 'Community Rooms' are located on Williams Drive in Georgetown

BOD meetings – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	6:30 pm	TBD
Baby Stitches – Wednesday Sewing Group	9 – 11 am	Janie Castillo's house
Bag Ladies – Thursday Cottage Group	10 am – noon	Rose's Cottage
Bag Ladies Too	<i>-see above for dates and times-</i>	
Yarnaholics – Friday Knitting group	<i>-meetings have not yet resumed-</i>	
Sew Much Fun – 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday, Lago Vista Group	9:30 – 1 pm	St. Mary's, Lago Vista