



# The Layette

A GOOD WAY TO SHARE THE NEWS OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TEXAS CAPITAL AREA INC.

## INSIDE

COTTAGE  
OPEN HOURS

FUNDRAISING  
UPDATE

DATES TO  
REMEMBER

HYGIENE  
PROJECT  
EXPANDS

HOMELESS  
STUDENTS

ONE CHILD  
AT A TIME

BEREAVEMENT  
PROJECT

LAYETTE  
ASSEMBLY

SEWING TIME  
CHANGE

BABY  
SHOWER!

EVENING  
FOR THE  
LADIES

FOUNDER'S  
DAY MASS



Dear CCS Members,

It's summer in central Texas! What can we do on these 100°+ days? Here is a top 10 list of wonderful things you can do to keep cool and keep Christ Child Society in your heart.

- 10** Spend Thursday mornings (10am-1pm) at Miss Mary's Cottage and enjoy free a/c and fellowship with CCS members while working for CCS.
- 9** Think about the CCS projects you would like to get involved with when school starts. Many of our projects revolve around the school year and need a fresh supply of volunteers. Don't forget to save the travel sized hygiene items from vacation travels for our hygiene program.
- 8** Go through your address book/email list/church directory and pick 5 friends you would like to invite to our Prospective New Member Gathering on September 27th.
- 7** Come to our first annual Summer Layette Assembly and General Meeting on August 6th at St. Helen's Frizell Hall.
- 6** Sell lots of Little Caesar's Pizza kits to your family and friends - a new CCS fundraiser plus it keeps you out of the kitchen.
- 5** Attend the Fall Craft Sale Kick-Off meeting at Ardeth's house on July 11th and get busy making crafts for us to sell in November.
- 4** Attend Wednesday Evening Sewing Group meetings at Janie Castillo's house.
- 3** Volunteer to pick up baby shower items from St. William's after a mass. We are hosting a shower every weekend in July at St. William's Church.
- 2** Consider helping with our 3rd Annual Evening for the Ladies. Planning meetings will start early and we need lots of fresh ideas.
- 1** Pray for the children in our area most in need.

These are just a few ideas of ways you can help Christ Child Society.

While sitting at your computer, look up the National Christ Child Society and see what other chapters are doing. We are always looking for new projects and ideas. Maybe you will find something we can try. One chapter in particular that has a fabulous website is the Atlanta chapter: [www.christchildatlanta.org](http://www.christchildatlanta.org)

Please keep Lois Feist and Joan Paduano in your prayers as they attend the NCCS Conference in Bethesda as our representatives in September. We are looking forward to hearing about your experience.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Wendy Biershenk and Sarah Brunet for co-chairing the 2nd Annual Evening for the Ladies. They (and their committee) did a fantastic job.

Mary Virginia Merrick, founder of Christ Child Society, is another step closer in the steps toward sainthood. In an April 25th decree, the archbishop of Washington announced that he is initiating the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God, Mary Virginia Merrick.

Here is a quote from her writings that seems apropos as we endure our summer days. "Patience. Each duty in its time; do not run one into another, all will be accomplished in time."

Many blessings to you all,

*Julie Schultz,*

President

## COTTAGE OPEN HOURS

*Miss Mary's Cottage*  
will be open every Thursday from  
10 AM – 1 PM

If you need supplies, need to drop off items or just want to volunteer for various projects at the cottage, please drop by during our open hours. In the future, we hope to expand our open hours to other days of the week. We still need volunteers to help keep the cottage open on Thursdays. If you are able to volunteer for one Thursday a month, please contact Becky Cook at [rebeccacook@austin.rr.com](mailto:rebeccacook@austin.rr.com).

Donate now with..

**PayPal**<sup>™</sup>

Christ Child Society now accepts PayPal!

This was inaugurated at the Evening for the Ladies and we will be incorporating this into fundraising, donations, etc. in the future.

## Fundraising Update >>>> FALL CRAFT **sale**



Christ Child Society will have a booth at St William's Craft Fair Saturday, November 5th. Last year we made \$1,400; our goal this year is to do even better. In order to do this, we need ideas of things to make and sell in our booth. If you're not a crafter, you can help by volunteering to work during the sale or help with setting up and/or taking down the booth.

The first planning meeting will be Monday, July 11th at 6:30pm. We will form committees and get ideas of things to make and sell. If you can attend the meeting, or if you are interested in helping but you cannot attend the meeting, call Ardeth Hadley (733-0936) or Wendy Bierschenk (775-9744).





# DATES TO REMEMBER:

**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

Sewing Group, Janie Castillo's Home

**THURSDAYS, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Miss Mary's Cottage Open Office

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011 9:00 AM**

Layette Meeting, Becky Cook's Home

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2011 9 AM**

Layette Distribution and Layette Workday St. Helen's

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011**

Saint William's Cilliam's Craft Fair



*Please prayfully  
consider  
volunteering ...*



*there are many projects  
that we are currently  
looking for assistance with.*

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY  
OF TEXAS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.**

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## HYGIENE PROGRAM **Expands**

Through the generosity of Christ Child Society (CCS) members, the hygiene program reached more students during the 2010-2011 school year. The program expanded to include homeless Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) students in middle and high schools and one more elementary school received hygiene bags.

### HOMELESS MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

RRISD coordinators of the Families in Transition, a program to assist homeless students picked up at Miss Mary's Cottage 260 hygiene backpacks. The black drawstring backpacks contained full-sized bottles/containers of hygiene products, which included shampoo, conditioners, bars of soap, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, and wipes.

The grant funding RRISD previously received to support the hygiene backpacks for middle and high school students ended. The coordinators did not know how they were going to continue with this project until CCS offered to help. This was the first year CCS adopted this project. Rose Zavala chaired this committee.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

The hygiene program previously delivered handmade drawstring bags with hygiene travel-sized products to only Berkman Elementary School students in RRISD. This school year the hygiene program expanded to include George Carver Elementary School in Georgetown Independent School District (GISD).

This was the third year CCS provided elementary school students hygiene bags. The cloth drawstring bags sewn by another organization collaborates with CCS on this project. Louise Valero chaired this committee.

### HYGIENE PRODUCTS NEEDED

The summer is here...that means vacations for a number of people. CCS is most appreciative for travel-sized donations of hygiene products such as shampoos, conditioners, and lotions. Please ask your family and friends to save these products for our hygiene bags.

If you see any full sized hygiene products on sale, would you buy a few extra items for our project benefiting the homeless students?

Volunteers are needed to help with these projects.

If your heart is touched to help the children and would like more information on how you can help, please contact Ofelia Melendez, President-Elect at 512-786-4705 or send an email to [ofelia\\_melendez@yahoo.com](mailto:ofelia_melendez@yahoo.com).

# Helping Children...One Child at a Time

"I taught my four children to say the alphabet, sing songs, color with crayons, use scissors, and how to hold a pencil before they started school. Working with the children in the Berkman ESL Evening Book Program was like that. It was heart-warming to see we were making a difference in the lives of children whose parents may not have time to help their son or daughter with these basic skills. Most of us take it for granted that all parents teach these activities to their children," said one of the volunteers.

Volunteering in the book program requires only four hours of your time during the school year, not four hours per week, clarified Ofelia Melendez. The book program meets on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Each volunteer is assigned one month during the school year.

New volunteers partner with a Christ Child Society member who has previously volunteered in the book program. Dee Lilly, a new CCS member and a new volunteer in the 2010-2011 school year said, "I really enjoyed working with the students." Dee brought puzzles for the children - an extra activity if a child finished the group project.

Planning for the 2011-2012 school year will begin soon. If you would like to teach children basic skills they will need when they enter school or you would like more information on the Berkman ESL Evening Book Program, contact Ofelia Melendez at (512) 786-4705 or email her at [ofelia\\_melendez@yahoo.com](mailto:ofelia_melendez@yahoo.com).



Christ Child Society has given out 13 little Angel Gown sets in 2011 to family, friends, Brackenridge Hospital, and the John Paul Center. The mothers who receive these for their babies who have died are so grateful for this gift of love. We are honored to be able to give them this last gift for their child, and are blessed for doing so.

I would like to invite more of you to join our group of caring and fun ladies. What we do is such a small thing, but it means so very much to these families. Because our bylaws limit the time one can hold office, I am also looking for an assistant chair for this committee, so there is a continuity in what we do.

Have a wonderful, safe and blessed summer with your family. And, keep on doing all your beautiful sewing and needlework.

Lois Feist,  
Bereavement Chair

FOR THE NEXT  
LAYETTE  
ASSEMBLIES  
WE NEED :

Bundles of diapers  
(1 dozen each)  
Travel Size Packages of  
Wipes  
Bibs  
Sleepers  
Caps  
Burp Cloths  
Hooded Towels  
Box Tops  
Large Diaper Bags

# Layette Annoucement

## Mark your calendar!

Well ladies, we tried out having mini-layette assemblies, and we have received some feedback from members that have made us reconsider what we thought was a “good idea”. We will continue to have layettes available at the cottage for our recipients to pick up, but will not hold monthly mini-layette assemblies.

Mark your calendar! Our next layette and general assembly meeting will be held at St. Helen's on Saturday, August 6 at 9 AM.

If you need additional information about the layette assemblies, please contact Becky Cook at [rebeccacook@austin.rr.com](mailto:rebeccacook@austin.rr.com).

## *Time Change* Sewing Group Announcement

If you would like to help make items for the layette, please attend our weekly sewing group. We need volunteers to sew, cut fabric, snip blankets and iron.

**Day:** Wednesday

**Time:** 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**Place:** Janie Castillo's home, 1209 Cushing Drive, Round Rock

Bring Sewing Machines, Rotary Cutting Tools, Scissors, Snips, Etc. Fabric and patterns will be supplied. Feel free to bring snacks to share too! For directions or questions, please contact *Janie Castillo* at 255-3911.

Thank you for making the layette a successful service project!



# Baby Shower Announcement

St. Williams' will be hosting a baby shower to collect layette items for the August 6 Layette Assembly. We need volunteers to help collect the baby items after each Mass.

If you are able to volunteer, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/baby87> to sign up.



## SECOND ANNUAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY

# Evening for the Ladies

This year's Evening for the Ladies was a huge success!! The evening began with music, drinks, and appetizers, although the dessert looked so fabulous people dug in before dinner was served. A huge silent auction display built almost entirely of donations and a beautiful handmade quilt sewn by Janie Castillo for the raffle drew all the guests in like bees to honey. Knights of Columbus TABC trained bartenders tended to the long line of thirsty guests.

Once people took their seats Diana Pier introduced herself and Sister Lilian blessed the food. The meal, cooked by Mike Goertz, was served seated by fellow Knights of Columbus volunteers working side by side friends and family of CCS members. Dinner consisted of pork tenderloin, green bean almandine, twice baked potatoes, and a green salad. It was even tastier than it looked!

Once the meal was underway Diana Pier introduced Ofelia Melendez who did her presentation on Christ Child Society. It was very informative especially to those who are not familiar with Christ Child Society's many service projects. Her speech touched ladies in the crowd emotionally since many in attendance work with recipients of the layettes, hygiene bags and bereavement sets made by the Christ Child Society.

Once Ofelia was finished Mike Squillace was introduced and the "fun music" began. Complete with an impromptu sing-along by a guest, Mike had the crowd of women in the palm of his hand. New York, New York was a favorite at one of the front tables and the ladies were singing and swaying along to the music. The rivalry between ATM and UT was brought to life in music with a battle of the fight songs, egged on with cash donations.

By the end of the evening, the dessert bar was polished off, the silent auction bids were sky high bringing in **\$2029.58**, the raffle brought in **\$384** and the crowd was pleased. Diana Pier announced the raffle winners and followed up with the winning bids from the silent auction as if calling out trophy winners at a competition as the winners lined up to claim their prizes.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it a great night! We sold 177 tickets and raised a total of **\$5,178**. Everyone who helped with the set up, those who worked the night of the event, Mike Goertz for the wonderful food, Mike Squillace for the great entertainment, Virginia our dessert coordinator and especially the EFL planning committee, thank you. We could not have done it without you!

**Wendy Bierschenk**  
CCS VP; Fundraising  
EFL Committee Co-Chair  
512-775-9744  
wenbier@hotmail.com

**Sarah Brunet**  
EFL Committee Co-Chair

# 2011 Annual Founder's Day Mass & Dinner

Our Annual Founder's Day Mass and Dinner was celebrated on April 28th at St. Helen Catholic Church in Georgetown. Monsignor Louis Pavlicek officiated and seminarian Alex Caudillo assisted. Each year at mass, we honor our founder, Mary Virginia Marrick and remember special individuals. After mass Monsignor Louis recognized our new members, Hilda Del Dotto, Cheryl Lattner and Donna Sprow.

Following mass, members and their families gathered for a delicious dinner in the St. Rita Center. Past president, Virginia Pargmann, introduced member Mary Urbernoski, past president of Christ Child Society Western Reserve Chapter in Ohio and Jan Huelskamp, past president of Christ Child Society Dayton, Ohio, Chapter. She asked them to share their experiences as members of other chapters and what brought them to Christ Child Society. Lorraine Schuckman recognized each member by the year they joined.

President Julie Schultz introduced the members on the board and thanked the Gavel Club for organizing the event.

## MISSION

**Our motive and spirit is love for the Christ Child, expressed in fellowship and service to our community's youth who are most in need of spiritual, physical, emotional or economic support, regardless of race or creed.**

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**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
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**Please direct questions, information &  
articles to  
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**Look for changes coming to the Christ Child Society Capital Area Website. Updates and improvements are being made to the CCS Capital Area website to keep membership and visitors informed. We encourage you to use the website as another tool for promoting our organization and to keep abreast of chapter activities.**

**Facebook? Be a fan of the CCS facebook page. The page will contain current information on upcoming events, locations, dates, and times, etc. Please contact CCS member Valarie Melendez at [val\\_melendez@hotmail.com](mailto:val_melendez@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.**

**Any suggestions or ideas on how we can better keep you informed? Is there information you would like that we're not providing? Let us know. Contact the newsletter editor.**