



See the Christ Child in every child and serve Him
 Mary Virginia Merrick • 1866-1955 • Founder • National Christ Child Society

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TEXAS CAPITAL AREA, INC.

Volume 9 Issue 3 July 2010

INSIDE



- NCCS President Mary Graves attends Founder's Day Mass & Dinner
- 30 new members join the Capital Area Chapter
- Lots of fun at the First Annual Evening for the Ladies
- Provisional Member Program to begin fall 2010
- New service project to benefit homeless students
- Sign up for 2010-2012 Berkman Elementary ESL & Mentoring Service Projects

Presidents Message

Greetings!

I am Julie Schultz, new CCS president for the next two years. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve and I'm excited about our many service projects – all for the needs of children right here in our community.

Thank you to the outgoing board and especially Linda Allen and Lorraine Schuckman, outgoing co-presidents. You did a fabulous job!

We have 30 new members joining our ranks. What a blessing! I'd like to thank our current members for recruiting so well and thank our new members for accepting the invitation.

We have a wonderful new board full of energy, enthusiasm and ideas. We can't wait to get going! In this newsletter Ofelia Melendez will share information about our newest service project. Wendy Bierschenk has a recap of our very successful first annual Evening for the Ladies.

As our chapter grows and our projects expand, we can benefit from sharing responsibilities. The board is working to define each service project and fund-raiser to form smaller committees. We encourage ALL members to volunteer for one (or more) of these committees. We will benefit from each other's ideas, energy, prayers, and guidance as we look to better serve the needs of our community. In the words of Mary Virginia Merrick, "It is the personal element that brings true charity to life." *Julie Schultz*



2010-2012 Capital Area Board Members

Pictured from left: Lois Feist, Becky Cook, Lorraine Schuckman, Rose Zavala, Wendy Bierschenk, Ofelia Melendez, Julie Schultz, Barbara Forby and Mickey Rowland. **Not pictured:** Rebecca Martinez, and Ardeth Hadley



Pictured above with Fr. Dean from left are:

Vice Pres.	Wendy Bierschenk,
President	Julie Schultz,
Pres. Elect	Ofelia Melendez,
Treasurer	Rose Zavala

Not pictured:
 Recording Sec. Rebecca Martinez

A warm welcome to new Christ Child Society Members: Debra Ainsworth, Lori Bawek, Ann Bierschenk, Dorothy Blanco, Jan Broxterman, Sarah Brunet, Olga Castillo, Michelle Chavez-Clark, Mary Beth Dennehy, Anita Drouin, Denise Eichstadt, Sandra Faltese, Linda Foerster, Marsha Garcia, Patti Goertz, Jaclyn Johnson, Mary Jane Koch, Hortensia Mackemson, Lucy Martinez, Teresa Micek, Marie O'Neill, Diana Reyes, Sue Riddlehuber, Guilda Roman, Karen Smith, Mary Q. Smith, Maggie Sullivan, Angela Torres, Louise Valero, and Joan Watkins.

Our new members join us from many different churches and parishes and from as far away as San Antonio and Detroit! A series of New Member Orientation meetings will be held over the summer to introduce everyone to the chapter's service projects, fundraising events and volunteer opportunities. We look forward to getting to know you all!

Thank You to our current members for inviting and inspiring your family and friends to become a part of our chapter and our legacy.



New Capital Area CCS Members



New and current CCS members pose together after the Mass and Induction Ceremony

2010 Annual Founder's Day Mass and Dinner Lorraine Schuckman

Our 9th Annual Founder's Day Mass and Dinner was celebrated on a beautiful evening, April 27th at Saint William Catholic Church in Round Rock. Father Dean Wilhelm officiated. The Founder's Day Mass is held in the spring of each year to remind us of our organization's founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, and to recognize the history of our Chapter.

After Mass, Fr. Dean formally inducted 22 new Christ Child members and the new board members were sworn in. Following the induction ceremony, it was a full house in the Parish Hall as members and their families gathered for a delicious dinner catered by NemeC Catering from Georgetown. A wonderful variety of homemade desserts were provided by board members. Classical guitarist Jody Moseley and two of his students Kyle and Clare Rowland, children of CCS member Mickey Rowland, entertained us with a selection of classical, blues and jazz guitar.

We were honored to have in attendance NCCS President Mary Graves, who gave a DVD presentation on the life of Christ Child Society founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, and answered questions afterward. Out-going Co-Presidents Linda Allen and Lorraine Schuckman wrapped up their terms by sharing their gratitude and recognizing the board members who served with them. Linda and Lorraine were also inducted as the latest and greatest members of the Capital Area Gavel Club.

New Chapter President Julie Schultz introduced the members of the 2010-2012 board and closed the evening by thanking everyone for attending, and the members of the Gavel Club for organizing the event.



*Out-going
Co-Presidents
Linda Allen and
Lorraine Schuckman*

*Clare Rowland
and Classical
Guitarist
Jody Moseley
provide music
for the evening*



The First Annual Christ Child Society Evening for the Ladies was held May 6, 2010, in the Pavilion at St. William Catholic Church. There were about 120 guests in attendance and almost \$4,000.00 was raised through ticket sales, silent auction, and quilt raffle.

The evening opened with a wine and cheese appetizer, followed by a brief history of Christ Child Society. Mary Maxwell, our featured entertainer and humorist from Omaha, Nebraska, had the guests in hysterics as she shared her views on many things only a woman can appreciate and, thankfully, laugh about. The main course was a spaghetti dinner cooked by member Rose Zavala. A variety of donated and home baked desserts completed the evening. Thank you to Committee Chair Becky Cook, CCS members, and the men of Knights of Columbus for your help in making the evening so enjoyable. Special thanks to Bob and Jan Huelskamp for hosting Mary Maxwell during her visit to Texas.

We are very excited about the success of this year's event and have already started planning for next year. The Second Annual Evening for the Ladies will be Tuesday May 3, 2011, in the St. William Parish Hall. The planning committee has met and is looking for subcommittee chairs and volunteers for: Food, Entertainment, Decorating, Silent auction, Event Promotion, Christ Child Society Promotion, and Finance. **The next planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th** at Wendy Bierschenk's, 1808 Creek Ledge Place in Round Rock. To learn more please contact Wendy at wembier@hotmail.com or 512-775-9744. We need you!



*Guest Speaker
Mary Maxwell
enjoys good
company and
conversation
during dinner*



Guests enjoy Mary Maxwell!

Provisional Member Program to be Implemented September 2010

Ardeth Hadley, Julie Schultz

The Capital Area Chapter is initiating a PROVISIONAL Member Program beginning fall 2010. Along with this change, The Prospective New Member Gathering will be held in September 2010.

The purpose of the Provisional Program is to allow interested persons to explore and understand our organization before making a final membership commitment. Our hope and goal is to increase our membership retention rate by fully educating provisional members and fostering a passion for our mission statement.

Anyone wishing to join CCS will join as a Provisional Member for the period of September to April. During that period of time, provisional members will attend a series of meetings and events that will introduce them to our chapter's service projects, fundraising events and volunteer opportunities. Provisional members differ from active members in that they pay reduced dues, have no vote at general membership meetings nor will they hold leadership positions. We will follow the NCCS New Member Orientation Guidelines.

Provisional members will be inducted as active Christ Child Society members at the annual Founder's Day Mass held in April.

Current CCS members will be asked to mentor provisional members. This would ensure that each provisional member is informed of upcoming events, has someone to accompany them to events, and has a contact for any questions they may have.

We are excited about this change as it signifies a period of growth and development for our chapter! To learn more contact Provisional Member Chair, Pam Finley at pfinley2@austin.rr.com.

And so it Begins! New Member Orientation



New members gathered on a *wonderful* rainy evening, Tuesday June 29th for the first of three new member orientation meetings. Members were greeted, fed well, and then educated about the Capital Area Chapter's many service projects.

We are excited about the terrific response to the information shared. Many members took the opportunity to ask questions and to sign up for individual committees. Thank you to President Julie Schultz and Vice President Ofelia Melendez for organizing and coordinating the meeting, and to Hospitality Chair Virginia Pargmann for the delicious treats. In order to improve and meet the needs of future incoming CCS members the Capital Area Board will seek feedback from the new members at the conclusion of their orientation.

We look forward to seeing all new members again at the **next New Member Orientation on Tuesday, July 27th 6:30-8:30pm at the St. William Pavilion** as we focus on the Chapter's fundraising events. Please make every effort to join us.

Challenging Poverty: One Child at a Time

Berkman ESL Book Club and Mentoring Resumes in the Fall

ESL Book Club - *It's time to choose monthly themes, develop lesson plans, shop for books, and plan for crafts.*

The Berkman ESL service project resumes in October of this year at Berkman Elementary in Round Rock. Teams of 2-3 CCS volunteers meet with children of adult ESL Round Rock Community Education participants one evening a week for one month. Teams can choose from the months of October, November, December, February, March or April. CCS volunteers will introduce a book and theme for each month. Each week volunteers read the book and introduce the games and crafts that follow prepared lesson plans. At the end of the month team members will present the children with their very own new copy of the book.

Sound like fun? Come join us for a **planning meeting on Sunday, August 8th, 3:00pm at Ofelia Melendez's house** 1901 Red Rock Dr., Round Rock. For more information contact Ofelia at 512-786-4705 Ofelia_melendez@yahoo.com



Mentoring - *Do you like to play card games or make crafts? Are you a good listener, compassionate, a cheerleader; do you like to play ball, read, laugh, or are you good at math?*



The social worker at Berkman has identified several children who, for many different reasons, are in need of a little extra time and attention during the school year. CCS Members are urgently needed to assist with this service project. Give one hour a week in the classroom or during lunch, and the rewards will be just as beneficial to you as to the child you share your time with. Training is provided by RRISD. A background check is also required. For more information on this very rewarding program, please contact Ofelia Melendez

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

Mother Teresa

In May, Julie Schultz and Ofelia Melendez met with Round Rock Independent School District Homeless Education Program Coordinators to determine if CCS could collaborate with the school district to help another segment of the student population. Maria Green and Cal (Cynthia) Lopez of the Homeless Education Program shared that in the 2009-2010 school year **the average number of RRISD homeless middle school students averaged 99 while the high school population averaged 115**. A homeless student is described as one who is experiencing housing issues, who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It may also include youths who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

The timing of the visit was truly divine intervention as the Homeless Education Program lost its grant that provided hygiene packets for this group of students. Both coordinators were familiar with the CCS Hygiene Service Project benefitting Berkman Elementary and asked if our organization would be willing to provide for the middle school students as well.

The new service project adopted by CCS to provide hygiene packets to RRISD homeless middle school students will be implemented beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Hygiene packets assembled for the elementary school children contain travel size toiletries. Hygiene packets for middle school students will include full-size items. The toiletries will be packaged in an opaque, durable drawstring tote bag.

How can you help? This past school year, the cost to RRISD to provide one hygiene packet was \$10.64. You can support this project with a monetary donation or by donating any of the following items:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 full size bottle shampoo | 1 toothbrush | 1 travel size package baby wipes |
| 1 full size bottle conditioner | 1 full size toothpaste | 1 feminine hygiene product (<i>assorted pocket size</i>) |
| 1 large bar of soap | 1 wash cloth | 1 full size (<i>alcohol free</i>) hand sanitizer |

We will begin assembling approximately 100 tote bags at the **next work day, August 21st at the Stitching Studio on Anderson Mill Rd.** For additional information or to volunteer as committee chair, please contact Ofelia Melendez ofelia_melendez@yahoo.com or (512) 786-4705.

Fundraising News Wendy Bierschenk

Fundraising Committee Chairs are needed to help plan the events which are necessary to raise money to run this excellent organization. These committees are Garage Sale, Baby Shower (at St. William and other area parishes and churches) and Evening for the Ladies (EFL). Please contact Wendy Bierschenk wembier@hotmail.com (512) 775-9744 if you are interested in volunteering. We need you!

The next New Member meeting is scheduled for July 27th 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the St. William Pavilion. This meeting will focus on the various fundraising events and corresponding volunteer opportunities. Refreshments will be provided.

Christ Child Society was honored to receive a \$1000.00 Grant from Chaparral Women's Club to benefit our Chapter's Hygiene Packet program. This marks the fifth year that the Women's Club has awarded a grant to our Chapter. Becky Cook attended a beautiful luncheon and received the grant on behalf of the Christ Child Society. We are very blessed and grateful to the Chaparral Women's Club for their support of our Chapter's many service projects.

The Layette Service Project is growing! We are excited to announce that beginning July 2011 we will add another layette assembly, bringing our total layette assemblies to three per year.

The Layette Committee is looking for new members. If you like to organize, shop, sew or help with inventory...we need you! The following is a list of volunteer opportunities within the Layette Committee:

- Distribution of Layettes
- Local shopping for Layette items
- Promotion of Layette Service Project
- Flannel Material Coordinator
- Flannel Cutters
- Blanket Makers/snippers
- Transportation Coordinator
- Inventory of Layette items
- Online ordering of Layette items
- Scheduling Facilities for Assemblies
- Towel Coordinator
- Towel Makers
- Burp Cloth Makers

As you can see there are many areas in which you can help. Please contact Rebecca Cook for more information or to volunteer rebeccacook@austin.rr.com or (512) 310-9365.

If you would like to help achieve our goal of 200 layettes for the October 23, 2010 Layette Assembly the following are items needed:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 130 bundles of newborn diapers - 1 doz. each | 255 receiving blankets |
| 10 caps | 180 baby wipes |
| 165 handmade blankets-knitted, quilted, crocheted | 50 hooded towels |
| 150 age appropriate toy or book - no button eyes | |

2011 Layette Assembly Dates:

Saturday, March 26 th	9:00am	St. William Parish Hall
Saturday, July 23 rd	9:00am	St. William Pavilion
Saturday, October 22 nd	9:00am	St. William Pavilion

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. **Website will be up and running by August 2010.**

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 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 Newsletter Editor Mickey Rowland rowlandgk@yahoo.com or (512) 970-9985

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TEXAS, CAPITAL AREA, INC.

P.O. BOX 5953
Round Rock, Texas
78683

www.christchildsocietyoftexas.org

Spiritual Advisor
Fr. Dean Wilhelm
St. William Catholic Church
512-255-4473

...

President

Julie Schultz
512-246-8934

amrschultz@yahoo.com

Immediate Past Pres. /Parliamentarian

Lorraine Schuckman

Schucks70@yahoo.com

President-Elect/Service

Ofelia Melendez
512-786-4705

Ofelia_melendez@yahoo.com

Vice President/Fundraising

Wendy Bierschenk

wembier@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Rose Zavala

txmxchef@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Rebecca Martinez

Rebecca_ai@hotmail.com

Membership

Ardeth Hadley

lahad38@gmail.com

Layette

Becky Cook

rebeccacook@austin.rr.com

Bereavement

Lois Feist

lpfeist@gmail.com

Hospitality

Virginia Pargmann

robparg@aol.com

Historian

Barbara Forby

barbara.j.forby@usps.gov

Newsletter/Publicity

Mickey Rowland

rowlandgk@yahoo.com



See the Christ Child in every child and serve Him
Mary Virginia Merrick • 1866-1955 • Founder • National Christ Child Society

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TEXAS
CAPITAL AREA, INC.
P.O. Box 5953
Round Rock, TX 78683
www.christchildsocietyoftexas.org

Christ Child Society of Texas
Is a chapter member of
National Christ Child Society
4340 East West Highway Suite 202
Bethesda, MD 20814
1-800-814-8129 fax: 1-301-718-8822
www.nationalchristchildsoc.org

Please direct questions, information & articles to
Newsletter Editor, Mickey Rowland
rowlandgk@yahoo.com
(512)970-9985

---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.

Ladies... Mark Your Calendars!

"I know it to be a small service, but the great things are so little and the little so great." MVM

July

- 17 Board Mtg., 8:30am - St. William RE Bldg. Room #22
- 27 New Member Orientation (Fundraising) 6:30-8:30pm - St. William Pavilion Refreshments provided

August

- 8 ESL Planning Mtg., 3pm - Ofelia Melendez's house 1901 Red Rock Dr., Round Rock
- 10 By-laws Committee Mtg., 9am - Mary Urbanowski's house
- 10 Evening for the Ladies (EFL) Planning Mtg. 6:30pm Wendy Bierschenk's house 1808 Creek Ledge Place, Round Rock
- 18 Board Mtg. 6:30pm - Julie Schultz's house

- 21 Work Day 10am - 1pm Stitching Studio 9725B Anderson Mill Rd., Austin

September

- 8 Board Mtg. 6:30pm - Ofelia Melendez's house
- 11 Work Day 10m - 1pm Stitching Studio 9725B Anderson Mill Rd., Austin
- 16-18 NCCS National Convention Cleveland, Ohio
- TBA Prospective Member Tea

October

- 16 Board Mtg., 8:30am - St. William RE Bldg. Room #22
- 23 Layette Assembly & General Meeting 9am - St. William Pavilion