



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

Where Love Leads to Action

A note from our Co-Presidents

Karen Morakis and Terri Wortham

"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today"

As we look back on our two year term as Co-Presidents during a pandemic, perhaps we didn't pick a lot of flowers but we definitely planted a lot of seeds! Our ability to volunteer and interact face to face was indeed limited, but that did not stop us from planning for the future and keeping the organization strong and ready for the easing of restrictions and a return to full speed ahead.

We are proud to announce three new Outreach Partners this year: St. Andrew Preschool, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Atlanta in three locations: Bellwood, Fuqua, and Peachcrest. To date we have supplied over 500 books to the Boys and Girls Club and over 30 layettes to SVdP. In spite of lowered demand for layettes due to the pandemic, we continued with our layette assemblies and building inventory. As summer drew near, demand grew, and we are thrilled to have delivered hundreds of layettes to our Outreach Partners. Our Grady Rockers morphed into the Grady "Sewing Machines" who pivoted from sewing masks to sewing isolette covers. This served a critical need for Grady and kept our relationship strong for the day we can return to rocking and nurturing the babies in the NICU. In the meantime, our Grady Rockers will be assembling mini-layettes for the mothers of the babies in the NICU.

We had our first virtual fundraiser and it was a huge success! Under the direction of **Patti Anhut** and **Annemarie Boehnlein**, we exceeded our fundraising goals. This level of support allowed us to commit to our on-going effort of summer enrichment camps at our "Let's Read!" Partners, Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter Claver. Data from these camps show that the children surpassed goals and filled learning gaps from a challenging year. We maintained the libraries at both schools when the children were not present. Keeping books on the shelves is very important for sowing of seeds!

We emerged from Covid in May with our first gatherings since early 2020. Oh the joy of coming together with all of the friendly faces of our membership for the ten year celebration of Elizabeth's Garden in May and the Summer Social in June! We are encouraged to have more of the same as we enter the 4th quarter. Fall/Winter events are continuing with Fall-on-the Farm at the Children's Development Academy, our Membership Luncheon on November 16 and the Christmas Social and book wrapping service project on December 12.

We have been honored and privileged to serve as your Co-Presidents these past two years. We may be stepping down but we are never stepping away. Leading Christ Child Society of Atlanta has been one of our greatest gifts and we thank you for your support and generous hearts. As we turn the helm over to our Co-Presidents Elect **Barbara Miller**, **Susan Reinhard** and the 2022 Board, we ask that you welcome them with the same support as they continue to sow the seeds of the flowers of tomorrow.

Joyfully Yours,
Karen Morakis and Terri Wortham



2021 Executive Board

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Immediate Past Presidents

Barbara Miller & Susan Reinhard
Co-Presidents Elect

Mary Pat Davis
Secretary

Marcia Dunn
Treasurer

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Co-VPs Outreach

Alessandra Saccaggi & Lizette Warren
Co-VPs Membership

Mary Porter & Gina Steers
Co-VPs Communication

Mary Ellen Klinger & Robyn Taylor
Co-VPs Social

Father Daniel Ketter
Spiritual Advisor

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Outreach Chairs

Margie Jameson
Grady Rockers

Dodie Snider
St Peter Claver Library Support

Deb Brewer
Elizabeth's Garden

Mimi Dukes
Lunch Ladies of Cristo Rey

Sue Trzaska
"Let's Read!"

Patricia Diego
Layettes

Leslie Vaughan
Quilt Sewing

Jeanne Heekin
Pregnancy Aid Clinic

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Communications

Katy Asip
Visual Communications

Lisa Houlihan
Social Media Director

Lizette Warren
Website Management

Christ Child Society of Atlanta is a non-profit organization serving underprivileged children in the Atlanta area and is open to people of all faiths.

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CELEBRATING TEN YEARS



Casey Long in Elizabeth's Garden with one of the students at Elaine Clark Center.

On a beautiful afternoon on Sunday, May 2nd, we joyfully celebrated the ten year anniversary of Elizabeth's Garden at the Elaine Clark Center (ECC). This was our first social gathering since the pandemic began and God blessed us with gorgeous weather.

Our Garden Committee, led by Master Gardener and Co-VP Outreach **Deb Brewer**, worked diligently for months to prepare the grounds and beds for the event. They added soil and planted shrubs, herbs, flowers and organic vegetables. Truckloads of mulch were delivered and distributed with the help of Jim Brewer and Blessed Trinity students, led by Nicholas Miller, son of Co-President Elect **Barbara Miller**. Benches were added for children and adults, and one bench was engraved in memory of Frank Clark. The children helped us on our Wednesday morning garden days and it was fun to share Elizabeth's Garden with them again!

The garden served as a beautiful backdrop for our tents, tables with flower pot centerpieces and musicians. Russell Brown and Carrie Holley of the Magnolia Express band provided the entertainment. Nanette Horrocks of At Your Service Horrocks tended bar, serving a delicious raspberry lemonade signature cocktail along with beer and wine. Guests enjoyed vegetable crudite shooters and an array of sweet and savory treats, many of which were prepared by former chef and Co-VP Social, **Mary Ellen Klinger**.

Co-Presidents **Karen Morakis** and **Terri Wortham** welcomed everyone and Co-VP Outreach **Casey Long** gave a brief history of the garden, which is our chapter's signature project. We had three distinguished guest speakers: ECC Executive Director Beth Schmeehling-Cook, Don Huffner, and Matthew Dooley. Don Huffner gave a touching and inspiring talk about his connection to the garden and the legacy of his late wife, **Elizabeth Huffner**, for whom the garden is named. Don was instrumental in starting our Garden Endowment and is one of our biggest supporters. Matthew is an alumnus of the ECC and has cerebral palsy. Following in his family legacy of grandparents Vince and Barbara Dooley, Matthew was inspirational in speaking about what it is like to be in a wheelchair and overcome obstacles through his strong faith in Christ. Whether it's overcoming challenges by skydiving or talking to school administrators about special needs students, Matthew is making a difference in the lives of others by fulfilling God's purpose for his life.

Our Spiritual Advisor, **Father Daniel Ketter**, led us in a prayer of blessing for the garden and its children. He also pulled the winning tickets for our **Serve In Style** drawing. We are grateful for all who came together to make the event possible. It was a huge success!

CCSA is most proud to support one of our biggest programs: Summer Enrichment at Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic Schools for students ranging from PreK through 7th grade. Both schools held programs over an eight day period in June focused on reading and math skills. The students also enjoyed Art, Music, Outdoor Sports, Media and Digital Enrichment, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities. These extra curricular classes helped to mold the whole child and provide smiles and giggles all around!

Lisa Shupenus, OLV program coordinator, shared her feedback: "I think with the pandemic, these kids needed time to come back, be relaxed, and spend quality time together with their teachers and friends. At the end of the day they didn't want to go home. Thank you for supporting us and giving our school this blessing!"

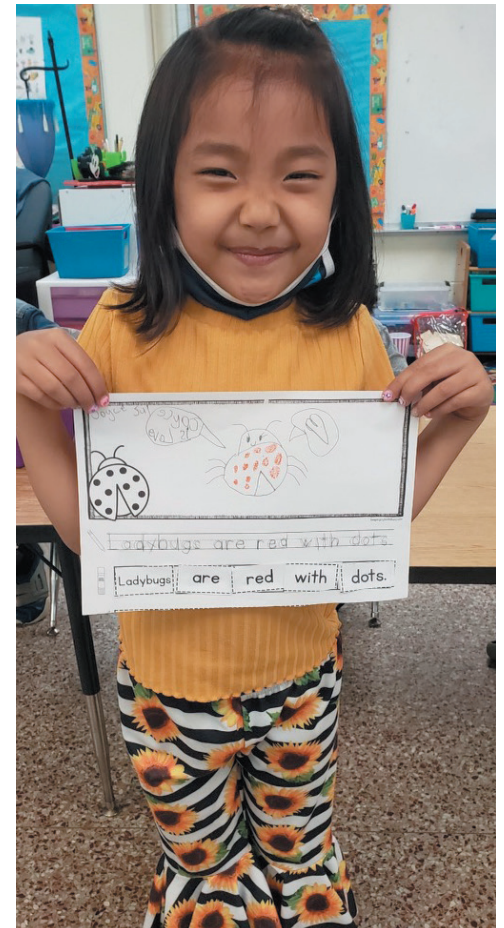
Breanna Johnson-Anderson served as co-coordinator for the SPC program. She shared her thoughts: "We had a great end to our two-week summer enrichment camp! I saw growth in all students who attended our camp and their smiles confirmed it every day! Thank you again for everything! Please pass along our gratitude to all the CCSA members."



In both programs, significant gains were reported in reading and math. Many students showed a 10 to 20 percent gain in skills, with some students realizing even greater gains from the small group and one on one instruction.

Christ Child Society of Atlanta funded teacher salaries for the two camp sessions and provided snacks for the students. A collection of used books was also donated to each camp session. Every student was able to take home a minimum of two new books. Students took so much pride in choosing new books that were going to be a part of their home library.

This is an important need in our outreach community and we are so grateful to all of our members and community partners for supporting our fundraising efforts which allow us to serve these deserving children.





Our Virtual *Serve in Style* event was finally held on April 17- 21 with great participation! Our raffle drawing was held on May 2, and four lucky winning tickets were drawn at our Garden Celebration. We are grateful to our members, friends, family, and all community partners who made this event possible. Your support allows us to continue our mission and look to expand our service to more children who need us most. Funds generated from *Serve in Style* allow us to continue meaningful summer enrichment programs and many more efforts throughout the year. Thank you for making our first virtual *Serve in Style* fundraiser a fantastic success! We also thank Tootsies for their support and willingness to sponsor CCSA for a day of shopping.

Member SPOTLIGHT Lisa Houlihan



This year's spotlight features a new initiative for Christ Child Atlanta, social media. The newly created position of Director of Social Media, was enthusiastically embraced by member **Lisa Houlihan**. Her willingness to bring CCSA into the social media world combined with her creativity and knowledge of this important and fast moving platform made her an easy and obvious choice for our 2021 Member Spotlight.

Lisa expresses her commitment best: "When I joined Christ Child a few years ago, I soon realized I was unable to physically volunteer as much as I had hoped. My plate was full with a part time job, various entrepreneurial endeavors and visiting my three adult children who all lived out of state. The question presented itself; how could I donate my time and talents virtually to a cause I so passionately believed in? The answer was right in front of me and **Karen Morakis** made it clear that CCSA needed more visibility online. Cue - social media!"

Lisa's extensive knowledge of social media helped our organization understand why social media is so important: "Instagram and Facebook have become vital to most organizations, opening up an easy way to communicate instantly to our followers. Fortunately I had experience with social media and digital graphic design and was able to develop a media plan for CCSA which could be executed from my home. When an organization can use social media to connect with its audience, it can generate name awareness, attract members and promote their activities and outreach programs."

Lisa achieved these goals by utilizing Facebook and Instagram and posting events and information about CCSA approximately 2-3 times per week. Her posts were creative, eye-catching and presented our organization in a positive and inspiring light. As Lisa likes to remind us, her posts are only as impactful as the number of people who view them! To this end, she educated us on the importance of increasing our followers and encouraging viewers to "like" and "share" to compound our impact.

Timing is everything and Lisa's two year term was just that for CCSA. The Covid years presented a unique challenge when it came to reaching our members since face to face meetings and lack of volunteering were not an option. Reaching out through the virtual world gave us a life line and the ability to feel well connected. Having a strong social media presence was never more important than these last two years.

Lisa joined CCSA in 2019 and took the position of Social Media Director on January 1, 2020. During this time Lisa also maintained her own social media Platform, *2redtulips*, a site designed to spread positivity. She has volunteered at PAC and is a Cristo Rey Mentor. If you haven't visited our CCSA social media please do so:

@christchildsofatlanta on Facebook

@christchildatlanta on Instagram

When you see our beautiful and impactful social media presence, we are sure you will agree that CCSA is very lucky to have this talented woman as one of our own. Thank you Lisa for your time, talent and bringing us into a whole new world!

Lisa's dedication helped us to address the benefits of using social media in the nonprofit world:

- Significantly increases an organization's reach (billions of people use social media).
- Spreads the word about an organization's mission.
- Postings are free.
- Attracts new donors and keeps existing donors engaged.
- Assists in growing a network of volunteers
- Interactive content posted to social media allows the audience to participate and feel more engaged.

FOLLOW US!



@christchildatlanta



@christchildsofatlanta

Junior Member Kimberly Morakis

Social Media helps us to attract new members and especially younger new members. These younger members can help us in unique ways; for instance in the ever changing world of technology. We are utilizing one of our first Junior Members in this very capacity! At the conclusion of 2021, Lisa will pass the Social Media Director baton to **Kimberly Morakis**, Junior Member since 2020. Kimmi has been following us on all the social media platforms making it easy for Lisa to teach her the ropes. Kimmi will bring a fresh perspective to this job and we are very excited for her involvement and her willingness to say "yes"!



Summer Social

After being canceled last year, we were delighted to be able to get together for our Summer Social on June 11. A huge thank you goes to Co-VPs Social **Mary Ellen Klinger** and **Robin Taylor** for preparing an amazing feast. The food was absolutely delicious and everyone was so happy to be out socializing on such a lovely evening. Also, we are very appreciative for our hosts **Mary and Win Porter** for opening up their beautiful home to our chapter members and spouses.

Thank you

2021

MEMBERS

(current through October 1, 2021)

Our members are the backbone of this organization. Thank you to our members from this past year.

We are currently accepting membership renewals for 2022 and welcome those who recently joined.

Membership Levels

\$50 Junior Member
(age 35 and under only)

\$65 Regular Member

\$115 Layette Member
(membership + donation of 1 Layette)

\$200 Mary Virginia Merrick Member
(membership + donation of 2 Layettes + donation for CCSA Programs)

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| Chigoke Adoma | Darsheuna Dumas | Diana Langhorne | Kelly Schwalb |
| Tanya Alley | Marcia Dunn | Sue Lienhard | Ana Shields |
| Siana Altiise | Liz Fetter | Casey Long | Bridget Snelling |
| Sarah Alvarez | Ellen Foster | Jenn Martel | Dodie Snider |
| Patti Anhut | Karen Frohoff | Amy Mathes | Donna Soper |
| Barbara Arkedis | Dale Gaston | Kathy Mawn | Gina Steers |
| Katy Asip | Tracy Giglio | Sally McNulty | Toni Stoughton |
| Kim Asip | Donna Gilli | Barbara Miller | Susan Summers |
| Annemarie Boehnlein | Susanne Greenwood | Kara Miller | Jean Sykes |
| Deb Brewer | Jennifer Guynn | Karen Morakis | Magy Tadros |
| Claire Brown | Peter Hardin | Kimberly Morakis | Carol Tally |
| Kathy Cayce | Patty Hawkins | Christy Moran | Mary Tanzy |
| Claire Conarro | Beth Hazy | Sheila Moriarty | Mary Tapp |
| Maureen Conboy | Jeanne Heekin | Julie Moyers | Robyn Taylor |
| Dawn Corner | Patty Hene | Kay Muething | Anne Teddlie |
| Kathy Cox | Kathy Herald | Anne Marie Newman | Amy Terrell |
| Pat Cross | Regina Hild | Theresa O'Donnell | Kathy Thompson |
| Ann Czabala | Alix Hillyer | Anne Olson | Carol TiarSmith |
| Rebecca Dacey | Lisa Houlihan | Julius Parrella | Sue Trzaska |
| Mary Pat Davis | Diana Hurley | Barbara Poole | Leslie Vaughan |
| Kathleen De Groot | Margie Jameson | Mary Porter | Christine Walters |
| Patty Decraene | Kathleen Kehner | Susan Reinhard | Lizette Warren |
| Patricia Diego | Diane Kelly | Dayna Royal | Kathleen Wild |
| Elaine Dolt | Maura Kelly | Alessandra Saccaggi | Kathy Wilson |
| Diane Dooley | Gerry King | Hendie Salton | Lindsay Wortham |
| Terri Ducote | Kim Kingsfield | Liz Schantz | Terri Wortham |
| Mimi Dukes | Mary Ellen Klinger | Nancy Schrage | Emily Wright |
| | | | Kathleen Zamer |

We are grateful for Community Support

MARIST CHEERLEADERS LAYETTE ASSEMBLY

Led by Past President **Patti Anhut** for 16 years, the Marist cheerleaders have been assembling layettes for our chapter as a service project during their summer cheerleading camp. On July 21, they gathered once again. The squad members donated packs of newborn diapers, over 200 gently used books for our community bookshelves, and a monetary donation. Past President Patti Anhut shared the history of the National Christ Child Society and Mary Virginia Merrick with the girls. They completed an assembly of 34 layettes to be distributed throughout the year. Thank you to member **Kathy Herald** who assisted with this effort, as well as coaches Dessie Stowe and Tina Herald. We are so grateful for Patti and this Marist group who continue to support CCSA year after year!



ATLANTA ACADEMY BOOK DRIVE

To celebrate Easter, **Sue Trzaska** coordinated with Atlanta Academy who held a "Fill the Basket" event. As a result, we received a generous donation of 656 gently used books. We are so thankful for Atlanta Academy's support to promote literacy to needy children in the community.

