



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

Where Love Leads to Action

NEWSLETTER 2018



A note from our Co-Presidents Patti Anhut and Hendie Salton

More than one hundred thirty years ago, Mary Virginia Merrick and her friends sewed clothing for a newborn at Christmas time and the Christ Child Society was founded. Today, with forty-six chapters and over six thousand members, her legacy continues. Our Atlanta chapter celebrates its fifteenth year and continues to grow and look to “*find a need and fill it*” in our community.

Our layette program continues to expand. Over the summer we partnered with yet another great agency, Good Samaritan Health Center in Atlanta. This full-service medical facility was overjoyed at our offer to donate layettes which are given to expectant moms as they approach their delivery dates.

Before the end of this year we will have distributed more than 350 layettes to seven agencies. We hold regular assemblies to meet this need and our sewing group works diligently to sew the quilts for our layettes. This chapter effort, in memory of Mary Virginia Merrick and her sewing circle, reminds us that working together benefits many.

Our signature program, Elizabeth’s Garden was redesigned and enlarged in 2018. Thanks to the efforts of Casey Long and our garden committee volunteers, it is more beautiful and bountiful than ever before. It was so rewarding to see months of planning and hard work come to fruition, all to benefit the students of The Elaine Clark Center.

Following National Christ Child Society’s call to literacy, the Atlanta chapter has also increased its efforts. This summer at Saint Peter Claver Regional Catholic School we held our second annual Summer Enrichment Program. This eight session summer camp reinforced and strengthened reading and math skills for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Our “*Let’s Read!*” program has also expanded, and we are now delivering books to five neighborhood clinics so that children can take the books into their homes. We are grateful for all of our community supporters who continue to supply us with books so that we can in turn stock our book shelves for this important project.

Our chapter has realized substantial growth this year and we are grateful to all our members for their willingness to serve and entice their friends to join them in service. Whether you rock babies at Grady Hospital, serve lunch at Cristo Rey High School, work in Elizabeth’s Garden, sew quilts, assemble layettes, help in the PAC baby boutique or assist at Saint Peter Claver Regional Catholic School, your efforts help and improve the lives of those most in need. The Christ Child motto, “*Labore est orare,*” to work is to pray, is fully represented in our members. We give thanks for your dedication and look forward to continued efforts in the coming year!

OUR MISSION:

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.

Visit our website: www.christchildatlanta.org

2018 Executive Board

Patti Anhut
Hendie Salton
Co-Presidents

Casey Long
Immediate Past President

Lizette Warren
Secretary

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Amy Mathes
Christy Moran
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Father Daniel Ketter
Spiritual Advisor



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



Elizabeth's GARDEN

AT ELAINE CLARK CENTER

Elizabeth's Garden, originally established in October 2010, is the signature project of the Christ Child Society of Atlanta. The design of herb beds, the revised E bed and the strawberry patch were parts of the original plan.

A new garden design along with building construction were first an idea in 2013/14 but it took several years for the permits, funding and construction to be completed. We waited patiently as construction continued, eagerly anticipating our new and improved garden space. Finally, our prayers were answered, and the new toddler playground was installed last winter.

In addition to the installation of our toddler playground at Elizabeth's Garden last winter, we have also completed the installation and the dedication of the new garden space at The Elaine Clark Center! In April 2018, Bishop Ned Shlesinger was there to bless Elizabeth's "new" Garden and to lead the children through the arbor as they sang "Old MacDonald".

The playground and garden are enjoyed daily by the children and staff at the center. Through the generous support of private and community donations, we have also been able to install an arbor, benches, a musical sound garden, a new strawberry patch, small traffic signs, a butterfly garden, log tunnel, and additional vegetable/ herb beds!!!! The original "E" bed remains in place and continues to teach and inspire the teachers and children with its produce.

The garden is also surrounded by new sidewalk paths that make it easy for children with physical delays or limitations to navigate throughout the garden independently. A new sprinkler system will insure our produce will grow and flourish. It is a very special place that provides a multi-sensory experience for all the students at the center.

Future plans include a clear establishment of the new vegetable beds and grass. The Elaine Clark Center hopes to add swings and a gross motor climbing area to this wonderful outdoor classroom.

Christ Child Society of Atlanta is grateful to Casey Long and all of the dedicated "garden volunteers," who have spent many hard-working hours in a special place for deserving students. This chapter effort is carried out in the memory of a beloved past president, Elizabeth Huffner, who continues to inspire our "growth" every day!



Let's READ!

Did you know that 61% of low-income families have NO age appropriate books in their homes? Or that there is only 1 book for every 300 children in low income neighborhoods? These alarming statistics have caused us to expand our efforts in collecting and distributing gently used children's books in a program called "Let's Read!" Our chapter has always collected gently used children's books for distribution to some of our outreach partners. With "Let's Read!" we installed 3 new community book shelves which we keep stocked year-round with books from infant to young readers. We encourage families to take the books home to keep. We also purchase new books as gifts for the children at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School. And we continue to offer books to any of our outreach partners who have a need. We hold regular community book drives to replenish the book supply and are always on the lookout for new partners to hold book drives or places to house a new book shelf. Help us to expand this effort in 2019 by holding a used book collection in your neighborhood or place of business!

Christ Child Society
2019 Spring Fundraiser

An
Enchanted
Evening

Saturday, March 16, 2019
City Springs Theatre
Rogers and Hammerstein's
**SOUTH
PACIFIC**
Performed by
City Springs Theater Company

**LIMITED SEATING
RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW
at christchildatlanta.org**




Recap

SERVE In Style!

Our Red Wagon Event, "Serve In Style," was our most successful fundraiser to date! 200 guests enjoyed a spring fashion show, silent auction and luncheon at Cherokee Town Club. Six of our past presidents strutted the runway alongside professional models in the latest fashions from Tootsies. Our special guest, Katy Huffner, daughter of past president Elizabeth Huffner, brought tears of joy to the audience as she walked in honor of her mother. We cannot thank our members and our community enough for their support of this most important effort.



Member SPOTLIGHT Patricia Diego

As a founding member of the Christ Child Society of Atlanta, Patricia Diego has served as an active volunteer from the beginning. So, it comes as no surprise that for the last ten years, Patricia has managed a very key project for our chapter. Five times throughout the year, Patricia holds our layette assembly at her home. This entails ordering stock to ensure we have adequate inventory as well as sorting and storing the items. Anyone who has participated in the assemblies can tell you how organized she has made this process. With our layette distribution count now at over three hundred and fifty per year, Patricia's willingness to manage this project for us is critical to a major effort for our chapter. Layettes are a signature program for all Christ Child chapters in the country, and many other Christ Child chapters rent storage space to house their supplies for this outreach effort. We are so blessed to have Patricia's leadership and generosity.



In addition to the assemblies, twice a year, she opens her home to our members for fellowship. In September we gather to recite the Rosary together, hold an assembly and share a brunch. It is a wonderful kick-off of our chapter's fall activities and a chance for members to meet and catch up after summer vacations. In March, Patricia welcomes us again for a Memorial mass in her home with a scheduled layette assembly and brunch. It's become another wonderful tradition that's anticipated by our members! Dodie Snider, Co-VP of Outreach for our chapter notes, "We are forever grateful for all of Patricia's hard work on the Layette Program. Her dedication, focus and passion are what makes it a success with the Atlanta chapter and the community. We couldn't get along without her!"

Patricia and her husband, Pablo, have been wonderful supporters of Christ Child Society of Atlanta. When asked why she continues to serve in this role Patricia says, "It's really no trouble and I know that even if it's only once every other month, I keep in touch with a group of amazing ladies that otherwise I would probably not see!" Patricia's unending dedication to our chapter allows us to continue to fill a growing need in the community and we are incredibly grateful for her willingness to open her home to all of us time and again. She exemplifies Mary Virginia Merrick's words, "Nothing is ever too much to do for a child!"



2018 MEMBERS

Congratulations Members!

CCSA earned the Membership Award at the National Christ Child Convention in Milwaukee this September!

Of 46 chapters nationwide, our chapter achieved the highest growth percentage, 35%, over a two year period.

We are grateful to our members for "sharing the secret" of Christ Child Atlanta with their friends in order to grow our chapter.

Christine Aleem	Patricia Diego***	Casey Long***	Donna Soper
Sarah Alvarez	Megan Duffy	Melanie Louder	Gina Steers
Patricia Anhut***	Mimi Dukes***	Patrice Mantovani	Toni Stoughton*
Barbara Arkedis*	Lisa Equi	Jenn Martel	Susan Summers
Katy Asip***	Shannon Everly	Amy Mathes	Kathleen Swann
Stacy Bean	Donna Gilli***	Daphne Miller*	Jean Sykes
Cutia Blunt	Susanne Greenwood	Barbara Miller	Magy Tadros
Annemarie Boehnlein**	Jennifer Guynn	Patsy Moeller	Carol Tally*
Virginia Bowers	Suzanne Hartigan	Karen Morakis	Mary Tapp***
Deb Brewer	Beth Hazy*	Christy Moran**	Robyn Taylor
Kathy Cayce*	Jeanne Heekin	Sheila Moriarty**	Anne Teddlie
Susan Cicero	Patricia K Hene	Julie Moyers***	Amy Terrell*
Nancy Coats	Kathy Herald	Kay Muething**	Kathy Thompson*
Claire Conarro	Catherine Hoort	Louise Mulherin	Marjorie Thul
Maureen Conboy	MargieJameson	Anne Marie Newman***	Carol Tiarsmith
Kathy Cox**	Maura Kelly	Anne Olson*	Susan Trzaska**
Allie Crawford	Diane Kelly*	Barbara Poole***	Leslie Vaughan**
Casey Crayne	Gerry King**	Chelle Pope	Jan Wagner
Pat Cross	Kim Kingsfield***	Mary Porter	Lizette Warren
Alexandria Curtis	Mary Ellen Klinger	Alessandra Saccaggi*	Kathleen Wild
Ann Czabala	Elaine Knight	Hendie Salton***	Kathy Wilson***
Mary Pat Davis	Mary Kramer	Nancy Schrage**	Carol Wood
Patty Decraene***	Carolyn LaMonaca**	Ana Shields	Terri Wortham***
Kathleen DeGroot	Diana Langhorne*	Bridget Snelling	Kathleen Zamer
	Sue Lienhard	Dodie Snider**	

*** founding member ** member for at least ten years * member for at least five years

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We'd like to thank our corporate community for their generous support of our programs

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The Catholic Foundation of North Georgia
The Geheren Firm
House Doctors
Tootsies
Under The Pecan Tree
Vision Works
Whole Kids Foundation

OUTREACH PARTNERS

A Beacon of Hope, Decatur, GA
Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School
The Elaine Clark Center
Good Samaritan Health Center
Grady Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Grant Park Clinic
Mercy Care Clinics, Chamblee & City of Refuge
Pregnancy Aid Clinics, Roswell & Forest Park
Pregnancy Resources of Doraville
St Peter Claver Regional Catholic School

Sisters of Charity