



# Christ Child Society of Atlanta

*Challenging Poverty One Child at a Time*

NEWSLETTER 2016

Christ Child Society  
of Atlanta  
P.O. Box 88705  
Atlanta, GA 30356



## Christ Child Society of Atlanta AT A GLANCE

Since our founding in 2003, the Atlanta chapter has accomplished so much! Many children throughout the city have been helped as a result. Have a look at the numbers

### OUR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- Rocking Babies in the Grady NICU
- Reading buddies at St. Peter Claver School
- Gardening at Elaine Clark Center and St. Peter Claver School
- Cooking with garden produce in the classrooms at Elaine Clark
- Sorting, assembling and delivering layettes
- Sewing play quilts for the layettes
- Collecting and distributing used children's books
- Serving lunch at Cristo Rey
- Assisting in the store at Pregnancy Aid Clinic
- Many other efforts behind the scenes!!!

  
**2140**  
LAYETTES  
DONATED

**700**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS PER YEAR

 **2** VEGETABLE & HERB  
GARDENS

 **4,500**  
AWARDED  
IN GRANTS

**9**  
OUTREACH  
PARTNERS

FOUNDED IN  
  
**2003**

**2**  
ENDOWMENT  
FUNDS

  
**27,800**  
BOOKS DONATED

**71**  
CURRENT  
MEMBERS

  
**1900**  
QUILTS  
SEWN BY  
MEMBERS



Casey and her mom, Abigail Sammon at Elizabeth's Garden during the 2016 National Convention

## A note from our President Casey Long

What a whirlwind year 2016 has been for Christ Child Society of Atlanta!!! Our goal to double our layettes this year has been supported with a grant from The North Georgia Catholic Foundation. We have gone from 144 layettes per year to 286 layettes this year with our efforts now reaching six different agencies to support their prenatal programs. Along with the national awareness of literacy, we are now also adding a baby book to each layette!

Our volunteers are now in their twelfth year as Grady Rockers in the NICU of Grady Hospital. We continue to support them with our provision of books and coloring books for the sibling waiting room and new baby items for their annual shower during National Preemie

Awareness Month. The reading program at St. Peter Claver has grown from one day per month to two days per month, with the addition of a Mystery Reader on both days for the primary grades.

Our presence at Cristo Rey lunchroom has also doubled...to twice a week as we enter our third year. What a privilege to watch these kids grow along with their school! Elizabeth's Garden is going through a metamorphosis as they build an additional classroom building at the Elaine Clark Center. The garden will stay in its original position but we will add a toddler playground and new paths and planting beds as we reassemble it. The garden continues to be a very special part of the school that is enjoyed by all! The second Elizabeth's Garden at St. Peter Claver has continued to thrive with assistance from their Green Thumb Club and maintenance of the butterfly garden. We continue to collect and donate used children's books and distribute them to share with children that do not have books in their home.

This fall we hosted our first National Christ Child Society convention for all 44 chapters across the country. What a memory and an honor to greet, host and acquaint ourselves with so many wonderful, caring women from across the U.S. They loved the southern hospitality of our members as we served them sweet tea in Elizabeth's Garden, the signature project of our chapter!!!

The layette meetings, brunches, masses, rosaries and socials have all created memories as we work, laugh and get to know our members. Our chapter is now entering its 13th year since we were chartered in April, 2004. We have come so far since our humble beginnings and have had so much fun along the way!!!! Come support or join in our efforts to serve the underprivileged children in Atlanta!

## 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](http://www.christchildatlanta.org)



**NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

## 2016 Executive Board

Casey Long  
*President*

Patti Anhut  
*VP Outreach*

Hendie Salton  
*VP Membership*

Carolyn Lamonaca  
*Treasurer*

Gerry King  
*Secretary*

Katy Asip  
*Communications*

Ginger Bowers  
Kathy Cayce  
*Co-Social*



# focus on LITERACY

In an affluent community of 10,000 families children are exposed to **30 MILLION BOOKS** by school age.

In 10,000 families in poor communities that number is only **33 BOOKS**

Member Jean Parker reads to kids as part of the Mystery Reader Program



## Reading Program at St. Peter Claver Elementary School

We are in our third year of our reading support program at St. Peter Claver School and our efforts continue to grow. We are now serving the children in grades preK-8 as reading buddies and mystery readers twice a month.

Classes of children preK-4 have a story hour with volunteers from the "CCS ladies". Our volunteers choose books to read with the younger children. It has been fun to share many of our own favorites! Older children are read a chapter book that has been chosen by the teacher from the Battle of the Books program. The children are expanding their knowledge and love of books while the Christ Child Society is supporting efforts to increase literacy!



Our volunteers also work individually with children to develop oral reading and comprehension skills.

National Christ Child Society was the recent recipient of a gift of 7,000 copies of "Good Night Moon" from Follette books. These were distributed to all 44 chapters of the Christ Child Society to be included in our layettes. National has also developed an insert card for the layettes that describes the importance of reading to a child. As part of the increased awareness in literacy, we have decided to keep the momentum going. Our chapter has been adding a board book copy of "100 First Words" to each of our layettes that we distribute to our outreaches. We hope this small effort will start these new moms reading to their children.



Patti Anhut reads to students at St. Peter Claver

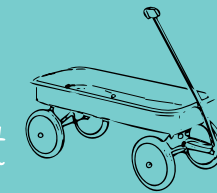
We supply books to waiting rooms in clinics and other areas where clients and their children may not otherwise have access to books.

We currently supply books to:

- Grant Park Clinic
- Grady Hospital
- Pregnancy Aid Clinics Roswell/Hapeville
- Beacon of Hope/Decatur
- Heartbound Ministries

**YOU CAN HELP** our chapter by holding a book collection in your neighborhood, local gym, office, bridge group, church, etc.

## Red Wagon Event



Our Fundraiser, *I Don't Have a Thing to Wear*, featuring author Jackie Walker was a huge success! We shopped at our silent auction and vendor booths, we lunched and we learned about the psychology of why we dress the way we dress. Overall, everyone had a great time and we've received some wonderful feedback on the event. The proceeds, which totaled over \$36K are essential to funding the many outreaches of our chapter including the Layette Program, Elizabeth's Garden, Reading Program and more. This successful endeavor would not have been possible without great community support, including the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the efforts of so many CCSA members! We are so very grateful to all!

## National Christ Child Society 2016 Convention, Atlanta, GA

Our Atlanta Chapter hosted its first National Christ Child Convention in 2016. All 44 chapters from across the country were represented as we learned more about the initiative of "Challenging Poverty". Ideas and programs were shared at the three day convention that included a fun visit to Elizabeth's Garden. Despite the construction ladies were able to visualize the garden and its value.



The convention concluded with a mass celebrated by Archbishop Wilton Gregory in which layettes from all 44 chapters were presented at the offertory.



## Announcing New Toddler Playground at Elizabeth's Garden



As a result of a generous donation by the father of our own Elizabeth Huffner,

whom the gardens are named after, we have decided to incorporate a much needed toddler playground into Elizabeth's Garden at The Elaine Clark Center. This expansion of our current garden comes at the perfect time as it is currently in the middle of a construction zone as the ECC adds a new wing to their center.

Our garden will remain in the same area with the "E" bed in its original position, however, a new, refurbished garden will be planted once the construction is complete. In addition to the playground, we will be adding cement paths to replace our small stone paths that were often affected by hard rain.

The playground will have a low elevation from the ground so that crawlers and early walkers can confidently and safely navigate the different levels of the playground. Multi-sensory panels, including an abacus, shape-board, colored bead hour glass, and a musical panel will enhance playtime and incorporate fine motor skills. Plants and produce will be planted and a new strawberry patch will be incorporated into the new space. We are excited about this opportunity to expand our efforts at ECC! Our garden will be bigger and better than ever. If you haven't had a chance to see it, please make an effort to visit once it's complete.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

**HOLIDAY SERVICE AND SOCIAL POT LOCK**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 6 PM  
AT HENDIE SALTON'S HOME

**SPRING FUNDRAISER, "A NIGHT IN MEMPHIS"**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017  
GEORGIA ENSEMBLE THEATRE IN ROSWELL

## Thank you to Catholic Foundation of North Georgia

The Christ Child Society of Atlanta was the proud recipient of a \$2000 grant to help support expansion of our layette program in 2016. We are currently providing layettes for Grant Park Clinic, Mercy Care, Grady Hospital NICU shower, Pregnancy Resources of Doraville, Pregnancy Aid Clinics, Beacon of Hope, and Sheltering Grace. The generosity of this grant has helped in our efforts to support these outreaches in the Atlanta community.