



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

Where Love Leads to Action

A note from our Co-Presidents

Karen Morakis and Terri Wortham

"Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily." - St. Francis De Sales

When we took the helm of Christ Child Society of Atlanta in January, we never dreamed these words would be so profound in regard to leading our organization. Just 10 weeks into our journey, the world was thrust into a pandemic that changed the way we traditionally served our communities. It wasn't just a pivot, it was more like a 360 degree turn! Our big events were canceled and our volunteer opportunities halted. However, the "little" opportunities quickly blossomed. ***It was the year that we really lived by our mantra "find a need and fill it" and the words of our founder Mary Virginia Merrick "nothing is ever too much to do for a child."***

As the world shut down, we geared up! We immediately created a COVID Relief button on our newly revamped website and were amazed by the generosity of our 115 members and friends. We collected enough money and provided volunteers to serve the needy in our outreaches in a myriad of ways:

- Funded and delivered over 100 meals to Grady nurses over four shifts
- Provided food and beverages to The Center for Children and Young Adults
- Provided groceries for Cristo Rey families through the Twelve Disciples Food Drives
- Sewed over 320 masks for Grady and the Elaine Clark Center

We were determined to fill the gaps left by months of school shutdowns and sudden virtual learning. Thanks to the generosity of our members and our volunteer efforts, we were able to accomplish the following over the summer:

- Funded two summer enrichment camps at St. Peter Claver and Our Lady of Victory Catholic Schools
- Funded book requests and magazine subscriptions for each grade at Bright Futures Academy
- Supported community book drives resulting in hundreds of delivered books to our outreaches
- Maintained and enhanced Elizabeth's Garden at the Elaine Clark Center for returning children

This fall was met with a resolve to incorporate COVID protocols that enable us to increase our service. After a kick-off Mass with our Spiritual Director, Father Ketter, we began to resume volunteer activities. Small, masked groups returned to assembling layettes, volunteering in the media center at SPC and OLV, delivering books, sewing isolette covers for the NICU at Grady and even a spotlight appearance on The Quest radio station that enabled us to share our organization with thousands of listeners!

In lieu of our annual membership luncheon, a Mass was held for our chapter at Holy Spirit Catholic Church with Father Ketter as the celebrant. We inducted our 2021 Executive Board, welcomed 22 new members and presented those present with their membership pins.

Shortly, we will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of our signature project, Elizabeth's Garden at the Elaine Clark Center. A big celebration is planned for May 2021. Additionally, our biggest fundraiser, "Serve in Style" has been rescheduled for April 24, 2021. With God's mercy and your prayers, both of these events will happen in a world free of COVID. Whatever 2021 brings us, we are confident and ready to serve God joyfully through the little, unexpected things that surround us daily.

Thanks to all our dedicated members who answered the needs and improved the lives of so many in our community.

Karen and Terri, Co-Presidents



2020 Executive Board

Terri Wortham & Karen Morakis
Co-Presidents

Patti Anhut & Hendie Salton
Immediate Past Presidents

Mary Pat Davis
Secretary

Annemarie Boehnlein
Treasurer

Jeanne Heekin & Kathy Herald
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

Grady Rockers
Margie Jameson

St Peter Claver Library Support
Dodie Snider

Elizabeth's Garden
Deb Brewer

Lunch Ladies of Cristo Rey
Mimi Dukes

"Let's Read!"
Kim Kingsfield

Layettes
Patricia Diego

Pregnancy Aid Clinic
Patti Anhut

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Communications

Visual Communications
Katy Asip

Social Media Coordinator
Lisa Houlihan

Website Management
Lizette Warren

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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one of 46 chapters of



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

FALL on the FARM

Last year we added a new outreach at the Children's Development Academy (CDA), which provides early learning programs and childcare for preschool children in the metro Atlanta area. We held a successful and popular event with the children: Fall on the Farm. Christ Child Society of Atlanta volunteers served 150 children ages 12 months to five years. Nine classrooms circulated through stations where they read stories, sang songs, made barn crafts, and visited a petting zoo. The Little Red Mobile Petting Farm provided a miniature horse, miniature cow, miniature goat, sheep, rooster and bunny for the children to brush and pet. The Atlanta chapter purchased 150 books; one for each child at the CDA to take home for their parents to read to them.

Our chapter won the National Day of Service Award for the **Make a Difference: Inspire Me to Learn** campaign. The Award Committee congratulated the Atlanta chapter on "outstanding efforts" as our "farm themed activities at the Children's Development Academy more than met the listed criteria for the \$500 award. The review committee wished they were there to pet the animals at the petting zoo!" We also received congratulations on being recognized by the Georgia Bulletin with a full-page article. The prize money went toward the purchase of brand new board books for each student at the CDA.

Due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to have the event this year. However, we are excited to be holding the event again in 2021. The children enjoyed our stories, songs, and crafts... but most of all they loved petting the animals! We cannot wait to do it again!



Elizabeth's
GARDEN
AT ELAINE CLARK CENTER

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

In celebration of our 10-year anniversary this year, we are hosting an outdoor event for Elizabeth's Garden in early May.

Elizabeth's Garden was created at The Elaine Clark Center as the signature project of the Christ Child Society of Atlanta. The Garden was named in memory of our past president and dear friend, Elizabeth Huffner. The organic garden grows fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers for both the children and staff to enjoy. It also serves as an outdoor sensory classroom and playground for the special needs children and typical learners from ages six weeks to four years that the center serves. Over the years, our garden has evolved from our humble beginnings to a large area with several gardens, paved paths and so much more. The E bed (in honor of Elizabeth Huffner) was replaced in 2019 by Eagle Scout, Michael Irlandez. It stands in the original footprint with new wood and seasonal plantings.

The garden has continued to flourish and be a source of education and support for the children, parents and staff at the

Elaine Clark Center. Our toddler playground was added in 2017 and is used and enjoyed daily. We also added musical instruments, benches, an arbor, signs, planter boxes, and a butterfly garden in the renovation projects of the school and garden.

Our members maintain the garden with monthly meetings and we also offer cooking classes that incorporate the produce from the garden in recipes and projects with the students. Throughout 2020, we have continued to have our monthly garden workdays... in spite of COVID! The garden is managed by our member and Master Gardener, Deb Brewer, along with our garden helpers.

In honor of the 10-year anniversary, we will be adding new children's benches and an adult polymer bench. Look for Wednesday morning volunteer opportunities in the monthly Sign Up Genius and stay tuned for details on our May Garden Celebration!



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

INVITES YOU TO



SERVE *in* STYLE

LUNCHEON • FASHION SHOW • SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

Cherokee Town Club • Buckhead *Featuring TOOTSIES*

Presenting Sponsors Kathy and Greg Thompson

Dr. Seuss Week at the Elaine Clark Center

In early March we held a Green Eggs and Ham event for Dr. Seuss week. Dressed up in Dr. Seuss attire, our volunteers prepared and worked with 18 pre-school children on a craft. Some read the book to the children while others cooked and served green scrambled eggs and ham! Even the pickiest eaters agreed, "I do SO like green eggs and ham. Thank you! Thank you, Sam-I-am!"



Donate a layette In Honor of or In Memory of a loved one. Perfect when a Sympathy card is not quite enough to express your condolences or perhaps you want to let that special someone

know you are thinking of them. Your donation of \$50 covers the cost of one layette which includes many essentials for a new mother. Visit the shop on our website to order and we will mail an acknowledgement to the designated person

Since 2005, our members have held, nurtured and fed the newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Grady Memorial Hospital of Atlanta. This weekly ministry is one of our most enduring outreaches under the direction of our Chair, Margie Jameson. Since the pandemic, our volunteers have been unable to have physical contact with the babies. That hasn't stopped Margie, and the volunteers she leads, from finding other needs and meeting them with joy.

Margie expresses her commitment best: "I just felt helpless this year and wanted to be a good ambassador for Grady Rockers & CCSA. Like everyone, I was so hungry to work and volunteer and felt the most important thing we could do was keep the communication going with our outreach partner who is like family. I did not want to let the relationship drift away. More importantly, I know that we want all of the families and staff in the NICU to know we are there for them and praying for them. What a gift for all of us to live out our mission even when things get tough. Our very own founder was the epitome of overcoming obstacles and exemplifying our faith through service to others. Most of us will never know the true meaning of sacrifice as she did."

Margie's dedication led to three major initiatives for Grady this year. First, Margie identified that since the PPE equipment was going to the front line healthcare workers, there was a great need for homemade fabric masks for the NICU staff. Heroically, Margie and her "Sewing Machines" jumped into action! To date, Margie and her team have provided over 325 masks to the Grady NICU nurses and the Elaine Clark Center.

Second, having a personal connection with the nurses and staff, Margie recognized the added strain of the pandemic and suggested that a nice meal might help boost morale. This resulted in Christ Child organizing, funding and delivering 100 meals to the nurses over four shifts!

Finally, Margie learned of a critical need for the precious babies. Head Nurse Jackie Jackson RN mentioned that they were in need of "Giraffe Covers" for the baby isolates / bassinets in the NICU. These are the blankets that cover the beds in order to help the

Member SPOTLIGHT



Margie Jameson

tiny preemies heal and grow. The covers provide darkness and noise reduction thereby mimicking the mother's womb. Without hesitation Margie brought the request to CCSA and funding was approved to purchase material and customized tags. Margie and company then mobilized to sew and deliver 37 custom covers!

Of course, Margie and her group of volunteers long for the day they can return to rocking the babies and sharing their love.

"I have always had a love for all in the NICU. Both of my children were preemies, and my son spent time in the NICU. I was sick and unable to hold him, and I have always wanted to give back. While I will never be able to fully repay the wonderful staff and volunteers who held my baby and gave him comfort and love when I was unable to, I can pay it forward to help other families. When Casey told me about the Grady Rocker Outreach Program, I knew I had found a way to serve and fulfill my dream of giving back. I am so honored to know RN Jackie Jackson and her entire staff at Grady. It is such a pleasure to serve with my fellow Grady Rockers in any capacity we can. This year opened my eyes to more ways we may serve our precious little ones in the NICU. Hopefully, we will continue to serve in these ways, but also most importantly get back to holding, feeding, rocking, and singing to the babies soon."

Margie joined CCSA in 2014 and began leading the Grady Rockers in 2016. She has attended layette assemblies and evening work nights. Her own words sum up why no one else was more deserving of the 2020 Member Spotlight:

"Christ Child is such a gift to me. My heart is full and I feel as though I get so much more than I give. We are so blessed to have such a fabulous loving community. In this year of 2020 when the world likes to shout that we are divided, I just want to say, "Look at my sisters in CCSA!" Live a life of love, inclusion, and service and the world would be a better place."

We couldn't agree more! Thank you for your efforts and for your membership Margie. We are lucky to have you!

Thank you

2020 MEMBERS

(current through October 1, 2020)

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

We are currently accepting membership renewals for 2021 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 | Kathleen deGroot | Mary Ellen Klinger | Nancy Schrage |
| Stephanie Adrian | Patricia Diego | Elaine Knight | Ana Shields |
| Marissa Ahrens | Elaine Dolt | Carolyn LaMonaca | Bridget Snelling |
| Stephanie Allen | Diane Dooley | Diana Langhorne | Dodie Snider |
| Tanya Alley | Terri Ducote | Sue Lienhard | Donna Soper |
| Sarah Alvarez | Megan Duffy | Casey Long | Gina Steers |
| Patti Anhut | Annette Dukes | Jenn Martel | Toni Stoughton |
| Barbara Arkedis | Mimi Dukes | Amy Mathes | Susan Summers |
| Katy Asip | Marcia Dunn | Kathy Mawn | Jean Sykes |
| Kim Asip | Amy Ewers | Kayla McDonald | Magy Tadros |
| Stacy Bean | Liz Fetter | Sally McNulty | Carol Tally |
| Cutia Blunt | Donna Gilli | Barbara Miller | Mary Tapp |
| Annemarie Boehnlein | Susanne Greenwood | Daphne Miller | Robyn Taylor |
| Christine Bonatz | Jenn Guynn | Kara Miller | Anne Teddlie |
| Deb Brewer | Patty Hawkins | Karen Morakis | Amy Terrell |
| Claire Brown | Beth Hazy | Christy Moran | Kathy Thompson |
| Yo Burstein | Jeanne Heekin | Sheila Moriarty | Carol Tiarsmith |
| Kathy Cayce | Patty Hene | Julie Moyers | Kesha Trippett |
| Claire Conarro | Kathy Herald | Kay Muething | Sue Trzaska |
| Maureen Conboy | Regina Hild | Louise Mulherin | Carol Vaccaro |
| Dawn Corner | Lisa Houlihan | Anne Marie Newman | Doris Vander Wiele |
| Kathy Cox | Diana Hurley | Anne Olson | Leslie Vaughan |
| Allie Crawford | Margie Jameson | Barbara Poole | Lizette Warren |
| Pat Cross | Carla Kalil | Mary Porter | Kathleen Wild |
| Ann Czabala | Kathleen Kehner | Susan Reinhard | Kathy Wilson |
| Rebecca Dacey | Diane Kelly | Dayna Royal | Terri Wortham |
| Jerrica Davis | Maura Kelly | Alessandra Saccaggi | Emily Wright |
| Mary Pat Davis | Gerry King | Hendie Salton | Kathleen Zamer |
| Patty Decraene | Kim Kingsfield | Liz Schantz | |

We are grateful for Community Support

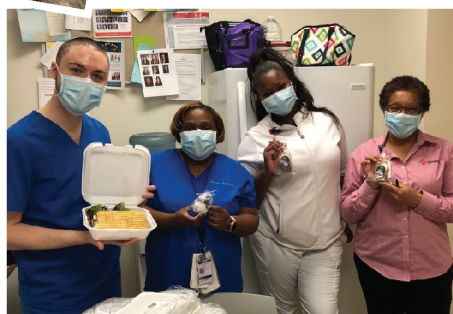
We were able to do so much throughout the pandemic because of the support of our community partners!



Thanks to Mike Garcia, Chef and owner of Rosa Mia Ristorante Italiano and Belen de la Cruz Empanadas & Pastries, both in Johns Creek. These generous business owners made the food and delivery possible for our Grady Hospital Healthcare Workers. Chef Garcia even made one of the Grady deliveries himself!



Thanks to Daisy Troop 19019 for donating yummy Girl Scout cookies to our Grady Healthcare workers!



Edenwilde Cares

Neighborhood Book Drive

Michelle Sturm and her community of volunteers organized a book drive for us in August. They posted signs at their pool and clubhouse explaining who we are and what we do. We received an outpouring of support and collected two carloads of gently used children's books to be distributed to our outreach programs. In addition, we received several "nearly new" educational toys which we donated to St. Peter Claver Catholic School. Thank you Edenwilde neighbors!

