



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

Where Love Leads to Action

A Note from our Co-Presidents

Barbara Miller and Susan Reinhard

*"Take my hands and let them work for You; take my mind, my memory,
my will and make me use them all to do Your will on earth"*

~Mary Virginia Merrick

These words from our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, served as inspiration this past year as we fully emerged from two years of marked changes in our world and neighborhoods. CCSA learned to adapt and pivot in order to meet the needs of those we serve. Some of the relationships with our Outreach partners have changed, where and how we serve looks different yet the opportunities to serve children in need of resources have grown. For almost 20 years, our Atlanta chapter has taken up the cause of improving childhood literacy as a means of carrying out our mission of increasing skills and self esteem, and promoting resiliency and self sufficiency in the children we serve.

This cause is imperative now more than ever in light of the recent pandemic. Studies have shown the degree to which schools and learning were disrupted over the last two years was so profound that the effects may damage the prospects of an entire generation of young people. To that end, our **"All in for Literacy"** letter campaign, headed by **Hendie Salton** and **Patti Anhut**, focused on raising funds to support the literacy efforts of our chapter. It was a resounding success, allowing us to fully fund the teachers, staff and material support for our Summer Enrichment Programs at St. Peter Claver and Our Lady of Victory Schools. The data from these programs show an overall improvement in the student's test scores as well as being a source of fun and enjoyment!

We were provided the opportunity this summer, to serve two new outreaches: **Latino Association for Parents of Public Schools/LAPPS** and **MUST Ministries**. We provided new books to children participating in LAPPS Summer Event Series in five metropolitan Atlanta areas and our volunteers provided supplies and packed nearly 200 lunches for MUST to distribute to children missing out on school sponsored lunch programs during the summer months.

We were honored to receive generous donations not only from our fundraising efforts, but from local parishes, church groups and even an anonymous donor to support our efforts. We strive to be good stewards of these gifts and were pleased to initiate the Mary Virginia Merrick scholarship for students applying to high school and a literacy grant to support the library and reading resource programs at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School.

We continue to provide assistance to mothers and babies in need with our Layette Program. Although still unable to return to in-person rocking, our Grady Rockers have assembled over 100 mini-layettes, which include a board book and a coloring book for NICU graduates. This year we delivered over 132 full layettes to our outreach partners, including the mobile unit of The Hope Center as a new recipient. Our Garden at The Elaine Clark Center is thriving and its bounty was used by the Center's chef in crafting meals for the children. We are thrilled to be back in person, sponsoring Fall on the Farm day with a petting zoo, books and crafts at the Child Development Academy.

We are so grateful to our community partners who collected books, sponsored diaper and formula drives and days of service for CCSA. Every Christ Child Society member can celebrate these accomplishments as they are the reason we are able to reach so many in the greater Atlanta area. We truly could not be the "working hands" Mary Virginia Merrick speaks of without the unfailing support of our members and the tireless efforts of our Board!

Thank you for your support and let's continue to improve children's lives together.

Joyfully,

Susan and Barbara



2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Barbara Miller & Susan Reinhard
Co-Presidents

Karen Morakis & Terri Wortham
Immediate Past Co-Presidents

Maureen Conboy
Secretary

Marcia Dunn
Treasurer

Kathy Herald* & Sally McNulty
Co-VP Social

Deb Brewer* & Casey Long
Co-VP Outreach

Gina Steers
VP Communications

Mary Pat Davis & Lizette Warren
Co-VP Membership

Father Daniel Ketter
Spiritual Advisor

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OUTREACH CHAIRS

Margie Jameson
Grady Rockers

Deb Brewer
Elizabeth's Garden

Mimi Dukes
Lunch Ladies of Cristo Rey

Dodie Snider
St Peter Claver Library Support

Sue Trzaska
"Let's Read!" Books Program

Patti Anhut
"Let's Learn!" Summer Programs

Patricia Diego
Layette Inventory & Assembly

Leslie Vaughan
Layette Quilt Sewing

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COMMUNICATIONS

Katy Asip
Visual Communications

Kimberly Morakis
Social Media Director

Lizette Warren
Technology

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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@christchildatlanta

@christchildsofatlanta

one of 45 chapters of



NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

Let's Learn!

One of the main focuses of our organization is children's literacy. We have created several outreach programs to support children's literacy in the Atlanta area. Classroom, Library & Staff Support at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School and our Summer Enrichment Program at St. Peter Claver and Our Lady of Victory.



As part of our *Let's Learn!* Program, CCSA members volunteer at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School (SPC) on Tuesdays and Fridays to help in various ways. Our SPC Outreach Coordinator, **Dodie Snider**, works closely with the school and looks for opportunities where we can support literacy in the school's underserved population where many students are learning English as a second language.

Christ Child Society of Atlanta has had the pleasure of working with Kathy Schenck in the library for the past several years. This year there is a new media specialist, Sharon Gex Davis, at SPC. She brings excitement and new energy to the library and we look forward to supporting

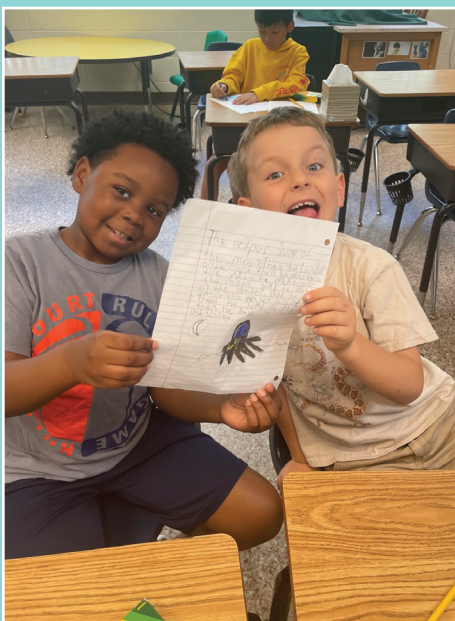
her! In the media center, volunteers read to the students, assist with crafts, shelve books, create bulletin boards, and various other projects. They offer support to the classroom teachers and staff in any way they can. We are looking forward to resuming the one-on-one tutoring that is so important to these students.

Susanne Greenwood, the principal of SPC is always supportive and appreciative of CCSA's help. Due to the generosity of our members and donors, this year CCSA was able to support literacy at higher levels by providing a grant for reading support and tutorial services for the students as well as our yearly purchase of new wish list books for the library. Seventy books, including Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, and Newberry Award Winners were added to the school's library. Our annual Christmas Party was back in person, for its 6th year, with a Pizza Party and gift of a new book for each student. At the end of the school year, CCSA hosted the Accelerated Reader (AR) Ice Cream Social, where the students played a round of miniature golf on a course created from cardboard boxes, Legos and other items. The students, staff and our volunteers had so much fun!

Literacy is a foundational mission of CCSA and our members recognize the importance of reaching out to these young learners and instilling the love of books & reading. We are always looking for new volunteers to join us in this vital and rewarding outreach!



SUMMER Enrichment



CCSA is most proud to support one of our biggest programs: Summer Enrichment at **Our Lady of Victory** and **St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School** for students ranging from Pre-K 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.

Member SPOTLIGHT

Katy Asip

Katy Asip is a founding board member of the Christ Child Society of Atlanta, chartered in April, 2004. Katy has always brought creative and cheerful insight to our organization. In the formative year, 2004, Katy stepped up to create our first CCSA letterhead. From this offer to help, she created her own graphic design business, "Asip Ink Custom Stationery Design" which includes wedding and party invitation design, graduation announcements, Christmas Cards, etc. Katy also donates her design talents to many local Catholic schools to provide their brochures, advertising and invitations. Katy is responsible for the beautification of all of our "Happenings", logo design, fundraising announcements, invitations, website, emails and this newsletter - basically, anything that has our name on it, she created!!!

Our sweet Katy has never let CCSA pay her a cent for all of her time and efforts, but gives her talents as her gift to the organization that she helped start so long ago. If you know Katy, this is not a surprise. We appreciate ALL of her time and talent in supporting the Christ Child Society of Atlanta for so many years.

ALL IN *for* LITERACY

Annual Appeal 2022



This year, we conducted our first letter campaign appeal, asking members to support our largest program, "**Lets Learn!**". We decided to focus on this program in light of the declining literacy rates noted among students following school shutdowns during the pandemic. Our donors responded most generously and we surpassed our fundraising goal! This provided the means to expand our literacy efforts including book purchases, new learning materials for our Summer Enrichment programs and reading support at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School. We are grateful to **Diane and Joe Hurley** for hosting a beautiful post-campaign evening for VIP donors where a beautiful original painting donated by artist and member **Mimi Dukes** was awarded in a raffle drawing. We could not have achieved

this without our tireless fundraising committee, along with the design, technical and financial teams for whom we are so grateful!

Outreach update



MUST MINISTRIES

Since 1995, MUST Ministries has been partnering with churches, schools, corporations and volunteers to feed children in the metro-Atlanta area in the summer. These children miss school-sponsored lunch programs during the summer months and often go hungry. CCSA was thrilled to assist MUST Ministries in this very vital program for we know that "a hungry child cannot learn". This past June and July, CCSA purchased supplies for breakfast/lunch kits and acquired several gently used books. Our volunteers gathered at the homes of **Casey Long, Gina Steers, Barbara Miller** and **Sally McNulty** to assemble nearly 200 meal kits which, along with the books, were delivered to and distributed by MUST. We look forward to continuing our partnership next summer.

Latino Association for Parents of Public Schools/ LAPPS

This past summer, CCSA received a request from a woman who knew us from our bookshelf at Good Samaritan. Azucena is an Equity Angel with Latino Association of Parents of Public Schools, whose mission is to empower parents to be fundamental and active participants in their childrens' education. During the summer months, LAPPS sponsored science and reading lessons at "pop-ups" in five Latino neighborhoods in metro-Atlanta. In creating a partnership with LAPPS, CCSA supplied and delivered 220 new books from their wishlist as well as 200 donated books for the children to take home. **Casey Long, Susan Reinhard** and **Maureen Conboy** visited two of the pop-ups and met with the children and staff. We are so pleased to work with LAPPS in providing reading materials for students for whom English is a second language. Studies have shown this population was made more vulnerable to decreased literacy rates in light of the pandemic and school closures. Placing books in the homes of these children is vital to developing an interest and love of reading. CCSA looks forward to continuing this partnership!



Fall Social

On September 8th, we gathered at the home of Anne Marie Newman for food and fellowship while we discussed our upcoming activities and goals. It was a beautiful evening as we welcomed new members and renewed relationships.

Thank you

2022

MEMBERS

(current through October 1, 2022)

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

We are currently accepting membership renewals for 2023 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)

Chigoke Adoma	Diane Dooley	Diane Kelly	Alessandra Saccaggi
Tanya Alley	Vicky Driesse	Maura Kelly	Hendie Salton
Patti Anhut	Terri Ducote	Gerry King	Liz Schantz
Barbara Arkedis	Nancy Duffy	Kim Kingsfield	Nancy Schrage
Katy Asip	Mimi Dukes	Nicole Kitchin	Bridget Snelling
Kim Asip	Marcia Dunn	Nancy Leonard	Dodie Snider
Annemarie Boehnlein	Liz Fetter	Sue Lienhard	Donna Soper
Pamela Bolton	Karen Frohoff	Casey Long	Gina Steers
Deb Brewer	Dale Gaston	Jenn Martel	Toni Stoughton
Claire Brown	Tracy Giglio	Mayra Martinez	Susan Summers
Debbie Brown	Donna Gilli <i>(Deceased)</i>	Amy Mathes	Jean Sykes
Diane Campbell	Susanne Greenwood	Megan McGowan	Carol Tally
Kathy Cayce	Jennifer Guynn	Sally McNulty	Sara Talton
Mae Beth Chiarella	Michele Hamilton	Barbara Miller	Mary Tapp
Kelly Clinch	Peter Hardin	Kara Miller	Robyn Taylor
Claire Conarro	Patty Hawkins	Karen Morakis	Anne Teddlie
Maureen Conboy	Beth Hazy	Kimberly Morakis	Amy Terrell
Dawn Corner	Jeanne Heekin	Christy Moran	Kathy Thompson
Kathy Cox	Patty Hene	Sheila Moriarty	Carol Tiarsmith
Pat Cross	Jane Henley	Julie Moyers	Sue Trzaska
Ann Czabala	Kathy Herald	Kay Muething	Leslie Vaughan
Mary Pat Davis	Regina Hild	Anne Marie Newman	Lizette Warren
Tanetra Dawkins	Alix Hillyer	Theresa O'Donnell	Kathleen Wild
Kathleen de Groot	Lisa Houlihan	Anne Olson	Kathy Wilson
Patty Decraene	Diana Hurley	Julius Parrella	Carol Wood
Lisa Dempster	Angela Ilse	Barbara Poole	Lindsay Wortham
Patricia Diego	Margie Jameson	Mary Porter	Terri Wortham
Elaine Dolt	Melinda Joe	Susan Reinhard	Kathleen Zamer

We are grateful for Community Support

MARIST CHEERLEADERS LAYETTE ASSEMBLY

The Marist High School cheerleaders continued their tradition of providing diapers and financial support for our layette program. During their cheerleading camp on July 28th, Board members **Sally McNulty** and **Kathy Herald** shared the history of The National Christ Child Society and Mary Virginia Merrick with the girls who then assembled 35 layettes for delivery to our outreaches.



BOOK DRIVES

Our gently used books are an integral part of our mission to provide reading resources through our bookshelves and donations.

Sue Traska sorted and organized over 2,000 books collected by various book drives sponsored by CCSA member, **Sheila Moriarty**, the **St. Ann's Mother's Guild**, **All Saints Church**, **St. Jude School**, **Atlanta Academy**, **Transfiguration Catholic Church Ladies Auxiliary**, and **St. Jude Church Ladies Book Club**. We are grateful for these community members for supporting our mission!

LOCAL CHURCHES

We are so thankful for the financial support from the members of our local church community. The contributions from **St. Ann Women's Guild**, **Holy Spirit Catholic Church**, **All Saints Catholic Church** and an Anonymous donor provided the means for us to expand our literacy efforts and support for children in need of resources.