



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF PHOENIX
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

www.christchildphx.org • 4633 N. 54th St., Phoenix AZ 85018 • 602-840-5066

March, 2024



Dear Ladies of the Christ Child,

This year's Red Wagon Fare fundraiser and Luncheon was a **SPECTACULAR SUCCESS!** We were sold-out with over 200 attending. Thanks to many generous donors, we raised close to **\$61,000**, a record! This will enable us to increase the number of children we serve and upgrade the goods and services we offer them! All this success didn't happen by accident. It is thanks to our Co-Chairs, **Sharon Del Duca-France** and **Pam Del Duca**, who had a vision of the potential of this fundraiser/luncheon and worked to achieve it. The sub-committee chairs, and their helpers did a fantastic job organizing and planning.

What really touched my heart was when, due to Sharon's unexpected illness, she had to go to Texas for treatment and Pam went with her. At that point, I was very worried that the whole event would end up being cancelled, but the Del Duca sisters held everything together and continued to lead the committees via phone calls and emails. I saw in action the **true heart of our Christ Child Sisters**. Committee members came together and did not let this important event fail. Ladies stepped up, taking on extra responsibilities when necessary and kept everything moving forward.

This is what being a member of the Christ Child Society is all about!



Thank you all for your hard work!
It was worth it!!

God Bless,

Nancy DiMascio
Chapter President

**Executive Board
2023-2024**

President

Nancy DiMascio

Vice Pres./Pres. Elect

Janet Travis

Vice Pres./Membership

Elida Desmond

Treasurer

Kathy Attwood

Secretary/Ways & Means

Sharon Del Duca-France



**Board of Directors
2023-2024**

Dir. of Service Projects

Nora Phillips

Dir of Program Services

Wallie Sweeney

Dir. of Communications

Julie Dettloff

Assistant Treasure

**Not yet filled*

Member at Large

Shawna Reynolds

Member at Large

Maritza Mangiapane



**It takes all
of us to
make our
Chapter
successful**



**Expand your role with
CCS for the next year!
We need you!**



Educational Funding Report



Students from St. Louis the King School

In July, 2020, CCS received a bequest from **Mary Riordan's** estate in the amount of **\$25,000**. Mary was one of our long-time members who had passed away and had been a teacher in the Creighton School District. In March of 2021, we received another bequest from one of our founding members, **JoAnn Donnelly**. Her bequest was

\$18,926.57. The Board of Directors at that time decided to use the money for "educational purposes" and contacted St Matthew's School and St Agnes School for a wish list, which they provided.

We were able to provide them with **Chrome Book computers, I-Pads, headphones** and other items that were not in their budget. We spent approximately **\$18, 525** for these two schools.

In 2023, **Nancy DiMascio** contacted the Superintendent of Schools for the Phoenix Diocese and asked for recommendations for schools that might need our assistance in purchasing school supplies. The three schools he recommended were **Queen of Peace in Mesa, St Louis the King in Glendale, and St Jerome School in Phoenix**. They

each sent us a wish list and we worked with the schools to fulfill their wish lists.

Queen of Peace asked for a **miter saw** for their woodworking program, **an Imagination Playhouse** and **laptop computers**. St Louis the King sent us an extensive list of **school supplies**, which we purchased, and St Jerome did the same, as well as some **custom T-shirts**, and **payment for a bus for a field trip** to the World Wildlife Zoo. We also paid for **books for the first grade** at St Agnes School. We worked from September, 2023 through February, 2024 fulfilling their wish lists and delivering almost all of the items they wanted. Some of the larger items were delivered directly to the school.



Students from St. Jerome School



Here is a breakdown of the monies spent for each school:

Queen of Peace	\$8,362.63
St Louis the King	\$5,022.01
St Jerome School	\$6,550.24
St Agnes School	\$107.88
Total spent	\$20,042.76

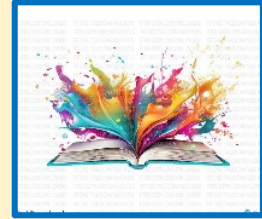
There is \$5,450.11 left in the **Designated Funds for Education**.

-Bette Laatsch



Book Club One Has Openings!!

Book Club One has openings and we invite interested members to contact **Pat French**. We meet on the third Monday of the month from October through May at Mt. Claret. Book clubs are a great way to share our favorite books and be exposed to new authors and genres. In addition to expanding our literary horizons and enjoying each other's company, researchers quoted in *The Guardian*, report that **joining a book club has been shown to extend our life span considerably!**



Take That Step... For the Love of Children

Our projects and programs start in September and run through May. We hold an Annual Meeting in May and elect the Board members who will lead us through the following year. We are now at the time of year when we are thinking about who those new leaders will be. Two years ago, when I was asked if I would consider being the president, I refused immediately. I had plenty of good reasons why I could not accept. I didn't know enough about the Christ

Child Society....I really didn't know many ladies...I am just a worker bee...I certainly didn't know anything about leading a group of ladies like yourselves! I had the same misgivings that many of you are probably having right now. After much persuasion, not to mention a lot of praying! I agreed to be the president. I didn't know what I was doing, but I was willing to learn, and I trusted in the good ladies around me to help and guide me.

I must say, I have never looked back! This is a wonderful organization filled with the best ladies you could ever meet. You are not expected to know everything (or anything, really) about the position you might be considering. There are many ladies who have been there before you and are ready and willing to help. All you need is the courage to say that one little word, **yes**. We are here to help. We won't let you fail!

Please contact me if you would like more information about **Vice President/Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, or any position you might consider**. As I said in my opening letter, this is the **true heart of our Christ Child Sisters, supporting each other and not letting our organization fail**.

This is what being a member of the Christ Child Society is all about!

*Call or email me today!
Nancy DiMascio*





Upcoming events----mark your calendars
Get Involved & Stay involved for the love of Children!

March			
Monday	3/11	Mass & General Meeting	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am
Tuesday	3/12	Book Club II - <i>The Personal Librarian</i>	Member's Home
Wednesday	3/13	Corpus Christi Layette	Corpus Christi @ 9:00 am
Thursday	3/14	Layette & Comfort Quilts	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am
Monday	3/18	Book Club I- <i>Horse</i>	Mt. Claret @ 10:00 am
Tuesday	3/19	Book Club Buddies	St. Matthew School @ 12:45 pm
Wednesday	3/20	Corpus Christi Layette	Corpus Christi @ 9:00 am - <i>Distribution</i>
Thursday	3/28	Layette & Comfort Quilts	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am - <i>Distribution</i>
Sunday	3/31	Easter Sunday	

April			
Tuesday	4/02	Board of Directors Meeting	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am
Wednesday	4/03	Shower of Love	Corpus Christi @ 10:00 am
Thursday	4/04	Bedtime Bags	Mt. Claret @ 9:00 am
Tuesday	4/09	Book Club II - <i>Pot Luck/Book Selection</i>	Member's Home
Wednesday	4/10	Corpus Christi Layette	Corpus Christi @ 9:00 am
Wednesday	4/10	Storybook Friends	St. Agnes School @ 11:30 am
Thursday	4/11	Layette & Comfort Quilts	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am
Monday	4/15	Book Club I- <i>Last Dress from Paris</i>	Mt. Claret @ 10:00 am
Tuesday	4/16	Book Club Buddies	St. Matthew School @ 12:45 pm
Wednesday	4/24	Corpus Christi Layette	Corpus Christi @ 9:00 am - <i>Distribution</i>
Thursday	4/25	Layette & Comfort Quilts	Mt. Claret @ 9:30 am - <i>Distribution</i>

National Christ Child Society Convention 2024

OMAHA BOUND!

Rise & Shine

OMAHA USA NEBRASKA

Everyone is invited!

Save the Date!!
September 19TH -21ST
Embassy Suites Downtown Omaha
OMAHA TOUR
Featuring Boys Town
and
The Largest
Stations of the Cross

INSPIRING SPEAKERS
Including Author of
"Tattoos on the Heart" &
Founder of Homeboy Industries
FATHER GREGORY BOYLE
!!!

More details to come!

Lots of
**NETWORKING
INSPIRATION
EDUCATION
RAFFLE
PRIZES
FUN**



Christ Child Society of Phoenix Day of Prayer

On February 26, 2024, more than 30 members and guests of the Phoenix Chapter gathered at *The Sisters of St. Benedict Monastery* for a Lenten Day of Prayer. It was a beautiful, slightly cloudy day for the occasion.

When we arrived at the Monastery, we browsed through a boutique of religious items set up for our pleasure. Just after 10:00 am we gathered in the Chapel with *Sister Linda* who led our day. After welcoming us, she played a lovely song sung by a father and his 6 year old daughter. We were all blessed as they sang "There is Peace in Christ". Sister then delivered her message challenging us to get back on the path to Heaven. She asked us to reflect on where you are, and where you are going. She described how God is calling us all to forgiveness and service. She warned against allowing unforgiveness to tear us apart, and then invited us to consider the areas in which we need to forgive others.

We then all took part in the *Stations of the Cross – Mary's Way of the Cross*. This was a different version than most of us were familiar with. It was a deeply spiritual experience leading us to really feel how Mary, the Mother of God, must have felt as she witnessed her beloved son tortured and hung on the cross. The thing that touched all of us was how Mary walked through this horrific experience in silence, praying for Him, accepting His destiny, all the while with no judgment, condemnation, or resentment. We were given questions to reflect on and consider how this could apply to our own lives. A Communion service followed the stations.

A few Benedictine Oblates prepared a wonderful lunch for all of us, giving us plenty of time for reflection and community. Sister Linda ended the day with closing comments asking us to continue our Lenten journey with prayer and reverence, striving to draw closer to the Lord. It was truly a wonderful day!

Submitted by *Kathy Attwood*, Treasurer

*A PDF of Mary's Way of the Cross was included in the email with this newsletter.



The Christ Child Society of Phoenix enjoyed a wonderful Day of Prayer 2024 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Phoenix.



Spring Into Action and Mail in your Shower of Love Reservation for April 3, 2024! Don't miss this great event!

Christ Child Society of Phoenix Spring Shower of Love



Benefiting



Wednesday, April 3, 2024
Starting at 10:30am
**Corpus Christi Parish
Community Center**
3550 E. Knox Rd.
Phoenix (Ahwatukee), AZ
85044



Brunch Menu
Chicken Salad on Croissant
Fruits and Cheeses
Strawberry Walnut Salad
and more

Cost \$15.00

Collection Items Needed

- Drawstring cloth laundry bags, handmade or purchased
- Disposable diapers & pull-ups sizes 4 & 5
- Boy's new or "gently used" clothes, sizes 5T -20
- Elementary age Boy's new or "gently used" shorts & T-shirts
- Boy's sneakers, any size
- Men's sneakers, any size smaller than 14

----- Please clip and Return -----

RSVP with check by Friday, March 15
Invite a Friend

Name: _____ Brunch Cost \$15

Name: _____ Brunch Cost \$15

Make check payable to **Christ Child Society of Phoenix**
Mail to:

Christ Child Society of Phoenix, 3550 E. Knox Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85044



Red Wagon Fare -February 3, 2024



Our MC-Mary Jo West

Saturday dawned bright and sunny as only a February day in Arizona can. Four of us ladies carpooled from the Ahwatukee area to the event being held at the historic Phoenix Country Club, which was built in 1899. The Country Club and PGA Championship golf course form a tree and water filled oasis in the midst of the city.

We were welcomed by a large, bright red wagon, with balloons attached and our name the “Christ Child Society of Phoenix - Red Wagon Fare” in front of the country club. We made our way

upstairs to the large foyer and ballroom reserved for our special day. And what a day it was! Wonderful items were displayed on tables along one wall of the foyer leading to the main room. Each item had a brightly decorated bag in front of it just waiting for you to drop the winning ticket in. We got our name tags on and hurried to find a ticket seller so we could buy our tickets to drop into those magical bags. As we entered the main room, there were very special silent auctions items displayed on a table. A San Diego beach vacation home, a diamond necklace, spa packages, a lovely painting of our desert, golf packages and more - all yours to take home if you had the highest bid.



Sharon Kwasnica was a big winner!

There were more items on tables in the ballroom with those lovely bags in front of them. So many amazing gifts to win.

After much deliberation on what to bid on, it was time to take our seats and Let the program begin.

Our president, **Nancy DiMascio**, welcomed everyone, then **Monsignor Thomas Hever** gave the Invocation and lunch was served. We had a delicious chicken salad and rolls followed by desserts of chocolate dipped strawberries and dainty bites of sweets.



During lunch, we were entertained by a very special MC, **Mary Jo West**. She sang the “Prayer of St. Francis” and the song “Sisters” in honor of



Red Wagon Fare 2024 Continued...

Sharon Del Duca-France and **Pam Del Duca** who were in charge of this year's Red Wagon Fare. I really don't think there was a dry eye in the house!



Many attendees reported getting their start in CCS from their mothers

The winners of the prizes were announced and you could hear the cries of "I won" and "that's my ticket" followed by clapping and laughter throughout the ballroom.



Mary Jo West interviewed members about our many projects and programs. Janet Travis spoke about Comfort Quilts

At last, all the prizes had been won and it was

time to end our wonderful Red Wagon Fare.

Our group was one of the last to leave and, although not one of us had managed to win any of those amazing gifts, we left feeling happy and uplifted by the wonderful day spent with our Christ Child sisters and friends in support of our goal of serving the children in Phoenix.

*- Nora Phillips
Director of Project Services*



Red Wagon Fare Committee 2024
Not pictured: Sharon Del Duca-France