



## In This Issue

2. Message from the President & Past President
3. 50<sup>th</sup> Gala Summary of a Wonderful Event
4. Santa Cruz Catholic School asks and receives!
5. Arizona Star Article about our Gala
6. We Have Updated Our Website
7. Program Update: Wings
8. NCCS 2021 Conference
8. Happy Father's Day
9. Program Updates: Literacy, Layettes
10. In Closing ... "Story of a Soul"



The Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch, venue for 50th Anniversary event.

**50th Gala Fundraiser a Success, see page 3**

## CCST Officers (2019-2021):

President:  
Nancy Thorpe

Immediate Past President:  
Angela Schneider

Vice President:  
Deborah Auclair

Vice President Membership Chair & Chapter Liaison:  
Vita Balsino

Recording & Corresponding Secretary:  
Jean Brabenec

Treasurer:  
Fran Vicino

Fundraising Committee:  
Pat Lunsford

Grant Writing:  
Amy Yersavich

Layette Committee Chair:  
Dianna Balsamo



[Watch a highlight video of the Gala.](https://www.youtube.be/zvXKWdchz50)

## Thank You, Angela Schneider

Angela did an outstanding job co-chairing the 50th Gala Event and leading CCST as president from 2017-2019 and past president from 2019-2021. The CCST Board honored her for her leadership and friendship with something we remembered she really liked: The Christ of Peace Crucifix.



Also, congratulations Angela. for becoming **The National Christ Child Society President-Elect.**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thank you, Nancy, for your leadership from 2019 – 2021.

We look forward to your continued support as you serve as past-president. CCST is better because of you! Blessings always, Deb.

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on my last two years with CCST. When I became your President in September 2019, our nation had not heard of Covid-19. In spite of the pandemic, CCST did prevail and we were able to complete the following: We started the year with our usual enthusiasm to serve children in Tucson by bringing school supplies for San Xavier Mission School. Early in 2019, we gathered at St. Augustine High School where the students volunteered making fleece blankets that we would later donate. We continued donating layettes to Casa de los Niños, provided financial support for San Xavier computers and continued our reading program there. For National Day of Service in October 2019, our chapter went to Pio Decimo and read, made a craft and handed out books to the children. We had a successful fundraising Fashion Show in November 2019 at Oro Valley Country Club where some members modeled fashions from Chicos. In February 2020, some chapter members went to the Roadrunner ice hockey game. We cheered on our 100-year-old member, Kathryn Bossuyt, as she willingly tried to climb on the Zamboni! Sadly, we lost her a few months later and our chapter started a Kathryn Bossuyt Literacy Fund in her honor. The Spring Gaslight Theater fundraiser had to be canceled and instead we had a virtual fundraiser for Mother's Day. Our in-person meetings had to be canceled and several members learned how to meet by zoom. Thanks to members and supporters, our virtual Bowling for Babies was also very successful.

In the second year of my presidency, covid still clouded all activities but hope was on the horizon due to vaccines. For the National Day of Service 2020 we held a food drive and had enough nonperishable food to fill over 100 bags. These were donated to Pio Decimo and were distributed to those in need. Our chapter expanded to donate to foster babies and teens in partnership with AVIVA. A program entitled "Wings" was reborn. Originally Wings provided blankets to foster children and was reworked to also provide foster teens backpacks with needed hygiene products and much more. Our member volunteers and friends sew the bags, donate the products and fill them. Also, much work was done in preparation for our 50-year anniversary that was held in April. The Gala was an incredible evening with great food, music, raffles, silent and live auction and dancing! The generous donations made it possible to fund student computers at Santa Cruz Elementary School and continue serving children in our community.

It has been a rewarding experience and I look forward to working in a new program with Junior Christ Child members.

God Bless you and keep you,

Nancy Thorpe



## Denim and Diamonds 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

### Tucson, We Did It!!! What a Success!

Denim and Diamonds has come and gone, and what a success this celebration was. Two years of planning and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christ Child Society of Tucson, was a great event. Tucsonans rallied in support of the Western themed evening, and helped us to surpass our goal of \$25,000.00.

Just think how many children and families this amazing organization has served in those years. On an average we serve 4,000 children and families a year which brings us to 200,000 lives we have reached out to and served in the past 50 years. **WOW**, how awesome is that, for an organization that most folks in Tucson have not heard of? Now they have and they know we are on the move. You should be so proud of yourselves, and want to share this organization with all you meet. Just think how much more we could do for those in Tucson if we expanded our Membership.

I do not believe we did this all by ourselves. The Christ Child had His hand over us and blessed us through all the planning and the event itself. With Him for us, who could be against us (not even Covid)? Let's say a prayer of thanksgiving that we were able to give Santa Cruz Catholic School \$14,000.00 for computers so that the students have individual computers for their studies. And that was just the beginning! Our evening was highlighted by an opening flag ceremony by the American Heritage Girls honoring our veterans and first responders, an opening prayer by Bishop Kicanas and amazing raffles, silent auction items, & live auction donors. We line danced and had a great time sharing the Christ Child Society of Tucson Story.

Winners of the Raffle were:

- [1] \$1,200. Ritz Carlton winner is Victoria Kuzel
- [2] \$500. Cash winner are Mr. and Mrs. Harrison
- [3] \$200. Walmart Gift Card winner is Angela Cox

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members, friends and families who worked

so hard to make this a success.  
Love you all!

Yeehaw and looking forward to the next Gala.



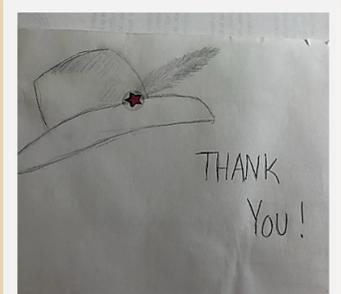
Angela Schneider Co-Chair



Rosie Celentano Co Chair

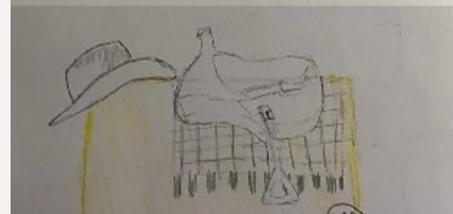
### Our Thanks To The American Heritage Girls

The American Heritage Girls did a tremendous job passing out hors d'oeuvres, helping set up and clean up. On top of all their hard work, they sent us a thank you note!



Hello this is Maria Osborne, I wanted to say. thank you for letting me help at the Gala it was so much fun. All you ladies did a great job planning it. I enjoyed being flag for you all I was a bit nervous in the beginning but it turned out pretty good. thanks again for letting me help I enjoy helping you and Christ Child Society any time.

Yours Truly- Maria Osborne



## Santa Cruz Catholic School asks and receives!

Many items were auctioned off in a variety of ways during the 50th Gala Dinner. One request was received from the Santa Cruz Catholic School asking for support for their purchase of chrome books for their students. During a playful moment, our auctioneer, Gary Corbett, simply asked (to save time) if anyone would be willing to donate the entire 14,000 toward the cause, this is the time?

Then he continued on and to the surprise of the crowd, Judy Vanderlinde raised her paddle and donated a significant amount of money which was met with a round of applause.

In Total \$14,000 was donated to the schools cause! We are so grateful to our generous donors.



## The Arizona Daily Star Publishes An Article Highlighting the 50th Gala Event

### Arizona Daily Star

By Loni Nannini Special to the Arizona Daily Star

After more than a year of social isolation, a group of 40 volunteers and its supporters is ready to celebrate a golden anniversary with a COVID-friendly, in-person gala outdoors.

“We are thrilled to be able to host this event live in beautiful outdoor gardens. We are hoping that now that everyone is getting vaccines, they are ready to get out. It has been a difficult year for so many people and gathering together for this event with our friends is really important. We are doing our best to make this celebration a success and meet our goal of helping infants and young families with children in need,” said Angela Schneider, co-chair with Rosie Celentano of the Denim and Diamonds 50th Anniversary Fundraising Gala to benefit the [Christ Child Society](#) of Tucson.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at The Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch, 6801 N. Camino Verde; funds raised will be funneled toward computers and tablets for Santa Cruz Catholic School and San Xavier Mission School along with other Christ Child Society of Tucson projects.

Since its inception in 1971, the all-volunteer nonprofit organization has been dedicated to serving the needs of children and youth of all races and religions. The local chapter is one of 46 nationwide that comprise the second-oldest Catholic charity in the nation, according to Schneider, immediate past-president of the local chapter and president-elect for the national board of directors.

“For an organization to be around for 133 years with more than 6,000 volunteers, that is a really big story, but for some reason, news about the Christ Child Society seems to get lost in the shuffle,” Schneider said.

Founded by Mary Virginia Merrick in 1887 with the motto to “find a need and fill it,” Schneider said that Merrick has served as an inspiration for generations of volunteers.

“I love to help children. Pre-COVID, many of us would read face-to-face with kids at San Xavier Mission School and I just love to see their smiles. It is not only about reading, but about the fact that someone cares, and that was what Mary Virginia Merrick — who happened to be a paraplegic herself — was all about: That no child should ever go without,” said Schneider.

To that end, the Tucson chapter has spearheaded efforts that have included providing layettes for expectant mothers through Casa de los Niños, foster care organizations, Banner Children’s at Diamond Children’s Medical Center and many other organizations. The group also teaches parenting classes, tutors in classrooms and supports literacy, and assists with the financial needs of various child-related programs and schools.

Prior to raising funds for technology, which became particularly vital during COVID-19, the organization has also assisted with projects such as building and equipping science labs for Santa Cruz School. It also provides ongoing assistance with healthy nutrition and other programs at San Xavier Mission School.

Ultimately, supporters view the gala as an opportunity to promote awareness about the Christ Child Society and its mission in the community.

“We are a small but mighty group and are looking for new members who have a desire to help children. We also welcome partnerships and in-kind and monetary donations,” said Schneider.

Schneider said volunteers are optimistic that Tucsonans will rally in support of the upcoming Western-themed evening and help them to reach their \$25,000 goal, particularly since the response to date has been enthusiastic.

“It has been a really nice journey to see how generous businesses and people have been, even though we know how hard it is for many places after COVID. They still want to help out and that is a heartwarming story in the midst of the negative news we hear so much,” said Schneider.

Contact freelance writer Loni Nannini at [ninch2@comcast.net](mailto:ninch2@comcast.net)

## We Have Updated Our Website

We invite you to visit our newly re-designed website. Our goal was and is to be able to easily keep it fresh with a new professionally designed starting point.

One aspect you will notice is that we also have a new address (domain) which is a bit easier to enter and correctly categorizes us as an

organization (.org) rather than a commercial enterprise (.com). No worries, however, if you enter the old web address, since you will be automatically forwarded to the new web page anyway. The new web address is:

[www.christchildtucson.org](http://www.christchildtucson.org)



### Dedicated To Supporting Tucson Children In Need

Christ Child Society of Tucson has been offering development programs for various underprivileged communities for more than 50 years. We are a chapter of The National Christ Child Society that focuses on aiding children and parents throughout Tucson and its surrounding area.



### Mission Statement

The Christ Child Society of Tucson is a nonprofit association of volunteers dedicated to expressing their love of Christ by personal service to God's children in need, regardless of race or creed.

### What We Do

We have 3 main programs [1] "Layettes of Love" which our founder Mary Virginia Merrick started in 1877 to help mothers of newborns have something new and helpful for their babies, [2] A CCST Literacy program which allows our members to help children in the Tucson community learn to read while supplying them with books and [3] A Foster Teens program called "Wings" which provides hygiene essentials and a daily devotional to teens who are in need.



## Wings ... A Program Update *The Foster Teen Drawstring Bag Program*



Thank you if you have provided fabric or have sewn for Christ Child Society of Tucson's drawstring bag program for the homeless teens of Tucson. Your donations of fabric and talent make a difference.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, I had an interesting interaction at JoAnn's Fabric store when I was buying fabric. The salespeople who cut the fabric always ask about the project you are making with the material they are cutting. This shopping trip, the women at the checkout counter asked me what I was making and when I said drawstring bags for foster teens, the sales clerk said "I was once one of those teens and this means the world to them. It shows them that someone cares!"

Deb Auclair, Wings Foster Team Program Chair



Vita helps fill drawstring bags with toiletries, socks, underwear and a journal in May at the Thornydale storage unit.



Do you have any extra fabric that can be cut into 20" by 16" pieces to make drawstring bags? Please email Deb at [Deb@auclair.com](mailto:Deb@auclair.com) or (585) 309-9064. Thank you so much!



NEW CHALLENGES/NEW HORIZONS

## NCCS 2021 Conference

shared by Mora Lynch

Please join us at the NCCS 2021 Conference being held this year in Potomac MD at the Bolger Center, [September 17-18](#). We are very excited about our new venue and look forward to having at least one member from each chapter, join us for what we are hoping is a live in-person event this year.

This year's conference is **ALL ABOUT YOU!** and a bit of our required business. We listened to what chapter leaders have said, and we want to let you know we heard what you need. This conference's programs are designed to help you meet your chapter goals.

The health and well-being of our members and staff is of utmost importance and we are working very closely with the Bolger Center to make sure all safety protocols are met. We have sent out a quick *Save-the-Date* and ask all to respond to our short survey about how comfortable you feel attending



the event this year. Please try to let us know if you are going to try to attend, no later than May 28th, so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you in Bethesda for a fun time of laughter, learning and sharing and making new friends! We all share a common mission, and we are dedicated to doing anything we can to help children in our local communities.

Hotel and registration information can be found on the NCCS website at <https://www.nationalchristchild.org/events-1/save-the-date-national-conference-2021>

We just received an update from the Bolger Center and we are allowed to have 250 guests. So let's fill the Conference to Capacity.

Angela Schneider NCCS President Elect

## Happy Father's Day (June 20)

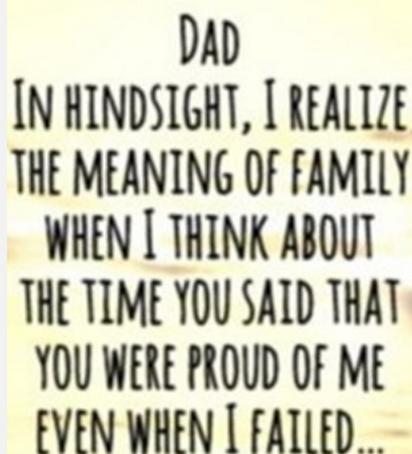
Because our newsletter missed Mother's Day, we want to share CCS National President, Molly Fanning's article honoring mothers.

The most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral – a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body.

The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven; only a human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creatures. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creating. "What on God's good earth is more glorious than this:

to be a mother?" Venerable Josef Cardinal Mindszenty. On the weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup> when we thank our mothers and consider the great joys of motherhood, we also know that motherhood can be filled with many other emotions and life situations that are not so joyful. Mary Merrick recognized that the gift of a layette to a newborn could help a family go home with the peace of knowing that someone cares about them and their baby. This life affirming



program is the unifying signature of every Christ Child Society Chapter across the USA. In the last five years alone, over 113,000 layettes have been distributed by chapters. Think of how many it must be since 1887. Early on, Mary Merrick knew that to provide recourse to those babies and children, who are born into families in need, enables us to recognize the inherent dignity of all, by leading us to see the presence of Christ in those children.

We want to also acknowledge Father's Day (especially those Fathers who have passed away but are not forgotten).

## 2021 ONE Christ Child Society National Day of Service

### Literacy Program Massive Book Drive

Christ Child Society of Tucson  
National Day of Service  
October 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

If you have shelves of children's books that your kids have outgrown, there are some young people in town who could really use them. Christ Child Society chapters across the country are banding together to collect 100,000 children's books and get them into homes that need them and the Christ Child Chapter of Tucson is part of this massive effort. One of the best indicators of academic success is getting children's books into homes and then reading them



Christ Child Society  
National Day of Service 2021 ONE

Fostering a love of reading-together

to our kids. Yet, 61 percent of low income families have no children's books.

Help us build up reading levels! Clean off bookshelves at the same time! Information about the Christ Child Book Drive, will be coming very shortly. Monetary donations for books are also welcome, online or by mail.

We are looking for volunteers to help collect and distribute books. Please contact Bonnie Alberts or Angela Schneider at [info@christchildoftucson.com](mailto:info@christchildoftucson.com). Thank you in advance for your support! Bonnie Alberts, Literacy Chair

### CSST Officers for 2021-2023

At our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Nancy Thorpe led the ceremony to install our new officers for the 2021-2023 term. The new officers are Deb Auclair - President; Vita Balsino- Vice President, Dianna Balsamo - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Jean Brabenec – Recording Secretary; Judy Chuinard – Corresponding Secretary; Pat Lunsford, Frances Smith, Bonnie Alberts – Members at Large; Vacancy – Treasurer.

### Layettes

Our layette committee is working along rapidly. Donations are pouring and we are putting them in our layettes with joy. We have just given the last 23 to Casa de Los Ninos. We are about to put more together for more of our babies. A big thanks to all who donate in any capacity. We are truly grateful.

Dianna Balsamo, Layette Chair



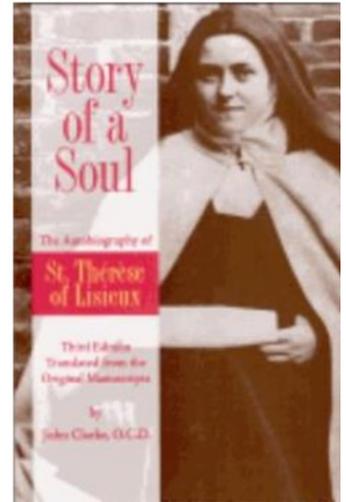
L to R: Nancy, (past President), Vita (VP), Bonnie (Member @ Large), Pat (Member @ Large), Deb (President-elect) & Dianna (2nd VP). Jean (Recording Sec'y.) and Judy (Corresponding Sec'y.) are not pictured.

## Key thoughts from “Story of A Soul” by Saint Therese of Lisieux

1. Accept God’s will with what happens.
2. Never offend Him.
3. Die for Him.
4. Work for His glory.
5. Stay humble.
6. Love my neighbor as myself, (as directed in the O.T.) and love my neighbor as God loves me (as directed in the N.T.)
7. Realize others mean well.
8. Always sing His Canticle of Love.
9. Only Seek Wisdom from God, (like Solomon). With this comes all good.
10. Speak only gently to one another and accept idiosyncrasies as melodies.
11. Help me to pass His riches on to those who come to me for food.
12. To account nothing of oneself and to think always kindly and highly of others, this is great and perfect wisdom.
13. The humbler a person is and the more obedient a person is in themselves the more obedient towards God, the wiser they will be in all things and the more their soul shall be at peace.
14. It is not harm to yourself to place yourself below all others; but it is great harm if you place yourself above even one. Peace is ever with the humble person but in the heart of the proud there is envy and continual wrath.
15. Withstand thy will at the beginning and unlearn an evil habit. Know what peace a holy life should bring to you; you would be more zealous for spiritual profit.
16. It is good that we endure contradictions when we mean to do well, for these things help keep us humble.
17. One ought to rest wholly upon God so that he needs

not seek much comfort at the hands of men. In the world there can be no perfect security. It is written in Job that the life of a man upon earth is a trial.

18. When laboring, cease not from mental prayer.
19. MEMORIZE THIS PRAYER from The Imitation of Christ: Help me, O God, in my resolutions and in Thy holy service and grant that this day I may make a good beginning, for until now I have done nothing!
20. Never promise thyself security in this life.
21. A merry evening makes a sad morning.
22. We deceive ourselves by inordinate life which we bear towards the flesh.
23. It is a certainty that one cannot have two paradises, the delight of this world or the joy of eternal life in heaven.
24. Inquire of God what is good and acceptable for the beginning and perfecting of every good work.
25. In the evening, one shall always be glad if one spent the day profitably!
26. Don’t be quick to judge others, for you don’t know how much they are bearing from you.
27. The testimony of a good man is a good conscience.
28. The glory of the good is their conscience and not in the report of men.
29. Not to look for consolation from any created thing is a sign of great purity and inward faithfulness.
30. Be humble and live peaceably and Jesus shall be with thee!
31. What good is it if one is of cheerful heart when favor comes to thee? Seek hard exercises and undertake



If you would like to donate, become a member or get more information about The Christ Child Society of Tucson, please visit our webpage: [www.christchildtucson.org](http://www.christchildtucson.org)

or call: 585-200-9026

choose  
joy