



CONNECTIONS

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Christ Child Letter from 1970s

Long known as "Tucson's quiet charity". Christ Child is an interdenominational group of women dedicated to helping the less fortunate in low-key but very practical ways.

Founded in 1887 in Washington, D.C., as a lay Catholic organization, it now numbers more than 9,000 members across the country and represents a wide variety of churches.

The Tucson chapter, started in 1971, consists of some 70 Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, Mormons, Baptists and other, subscribing to different faiths but reaching out together to improve the health, education, shelter and general well-being of the community's most needy children and adults.

Over the years, volunteers in Tucson's Christ Child chapter have raised funds for hospitals, neighborhood centers, shelters for battered women and the homeless, Indian missions, schools, youth groups and more.

Wherever need exists, Christ Child is there.

But our special project is providing layettes for poverty-stricken women and their newborn infants. The layettes (valued at about \$120 each retail) include handmade baby clothes, blankets, feeding equipment, even toys.

Some 300 of these layettes are given each year to needy women of all ethnic groups and backgrounds selected by local health, welfare and religious officials.

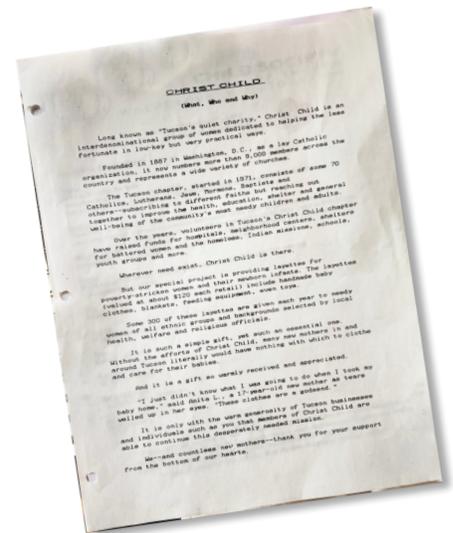
It is such a simple gift, yet such an essential one. Without the efforts of Christ Child, many new mothers in and around Tucson literally would have nothing with which to clothe and care for their babies.

And it is a gift so warmly received and appreciated.

"I just didn't know what I was going to do when I took my baby home, said Anita L., a 17-year old new mother as tears welled up in her eyes. "These clothes are a Godsend."

It is only with the warm generosity of Tucson businesses and individuals such as you that members of Christ Child are able to continue this desperately needed mission.

We – and countless new mothers – thank you for your support from the bottom of our hearts.



Letter found in the archives from 1970s

Christ Child Society of Tucson Officers:

President: Nancy Thorpe

Immediate Past President: Angela Schneider

Vice President: Debra Anne Melkun

Vice President Membership Chair & Chapter Liaison: Vita Balsino

Recording & Corresponding Secretary: Jean Brabenc

Treasurer: Fran Vicino

Fundraising Committee: Pat Lunsford

Layette Committee Chair: Dianna Balsamo

MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT

It is that time of year here in Tucson when the weather is warming up, the wildflowers are blooming, many new beginnings which bring joy to all our hearts.

As Mary Virginia has expressed pure joy is being able to share ourselves with those in need. We have been able to work and share our love with so many families, infants and school aged children in the Christ Child name by, "Nurturing the Seeds of Success in the Children We Serve".

This is such a special way to share God's love, and with our upcoming National Convention in Tucson we have a great opportunity to be with so many talented women and men to share each other's dreams and goals in our chapters.

I know you all are getting excited and looking forward to this great event, here is a quote from a member about the last conference.

"I felt so much a part of something "Big" that one small woman envisioned so long ago. I am humbled to have been introduced to this giving organization". Chris Schwartz, Detroit, MI chapter. This photo shows how working and

linking ourselves together we can be unstoppable.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Deb Auclair for the great Newsletter she has put together to inform you of all the opportunities we have for you to take part in and help those that are underserved in our community. Please give her a Big Thank you when you see her.

Also, a big "Thank you" to Debra Anne for a successful Roadrunners Hockey Fundraiser. We are so blessed and fortunate to have so many wonderful, talented women working for those who are less fortunate. Debra Anne Melkun thank you for making this such a fun and successful event, we are proud of you.

Please continue to read on and look at all the opportunities out there for you to participate in. **We need your help** to be a success and continue to help and reach out to more families and children.

Yours in the Christ Child,
Angela



Layette Committee Status

We would like to see more of you at all these events. They are fun, and we are doing great things in our community, in the name of the Christ Child. We are helping all in need whether it be in collecting, sorting or assembling Layettes, it can also be in our Literacy programs, or helping with Fundraisers. You are missing out in seeing what all our efforts as a chapter are doing right here in Tucson. Please make sure you read all the information sent to you from National and be sure to check out their webpage lots of great information and learning tools.

www.nationalchristchild.org

The Layette Committee has a new address:



National Self Storage of Dove Mountain

12071 N Thornydale Road

If you need to get in the storage unit contact Dianna Balsamo 520-270-1950

Lenten Opportunity

Barrio Tour of Homes



On April 4th there will be the Barrio Tour of Homes from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Volunteers are needed to work at the registration tables to check people in and hand out information. Volunteer timing is from 9:00am until 3:00pm.

Also need volunteers at each of the homes that are on the tour to check for wrist bands, share information about the house, direct traffic flow and generally keep an eye on the house. Looking for both morning and afternoon shifts. We will have a meeting with these volunteers prior to April 4th

Nutrition Program

Just a friendly reminder that the jars on our luncheon tables are for the change you save all month to support the Nutrition Program at San Xavier Mission School. These children on the reservation are very prone to diabetes, due to their diets. So, our mission is to help them get healthy snacks during their school day, trays of vegetables are cut up and passed out to all the children in the school. If you do not have change, any donation would be appreciated. We even have a donor that sends \$25.00 per month for this program.



Feed the Hungry Pío Decimo Center, 848 S Seventh Ave. Tucson AZ 85701

Would you consider helping with "Feed the Hungry" at Pío Decimo Center in the name of the Christ Child as discussed at our February meeting. This not only builds our relationships with the community in need, but allows us time to be together and have fun. Beginning in March volunteers (6) are needed every 3rd Thursday of the month from 9:00am to about noon. The dates are Mar. 19th, Apr. 16th, May 21st, Jun. 18th, Jul. 16th, Aug. 20th

National Christ Child Convention

A Destination to Remember

Another opportunity for volunteering is the September National Christ Child Convention. There are many



events in the works for which we need your help! The National Christ Child Society's National Convention is in Tucson from September 17-20th at Ventana Canyon.

Follow the link below to see our 2020 Convention Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLlh8V7J5c&feature=youtu.be>

Committee Chairs are Angela Schneider and Rosie Celentano. We need our entire chapter's help for a weekend of fun, frolic, relationship building and education

Volunteers as of today:

- ◇ Nancy Thorpe
- ◇ Sylvia Blount
- ◇ Merry Lewis
- ◇ Shirley Bailey
- ◇ Dianna Balsamo
- ◇ Vita Balsino
- ◇ Bonnie Alberts
- ◇ Fran Vicino
- ◇ Debra Melkun
- ◇ Deborah Auclair
- ◇ Jean Brabenec

If your name is not on the list please let me know your intentions. We would appreciate all the help we can get. This will be a weekend to remember

Christ Child Society of Tucson 50th Anniversary Celebration (1971-2021)

Committee Chairs are Angela Schneider and Rosie Celentano.

Date: April 17, 2021

Mass to be celebrated by Bishop G. Kicanas at Our Lady of the Desert Church followed by a Cowboy Black Tie Fund Raising Event at the Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch. Visit <http://www.wldhorse.com/>



Our Lady of the Desert Church

RECENT/UPCOMING EVENTS



Our first Hockey Night Fundraiser was held on February 21st (final score was 3-2 in OT). It was a great success and allowed us to gather as a community and share our message. We had lots of fun while making a profit.

Kathryn (our centenarian) wasn't able to ride the Zamboni however, she represented us well because she always has a smile on her face and joy in her heart.



Kathryn Bossuyt cheering on the Roadrunners



Debra Anne riding the Zamboni

Recycling for San Xavier Mission School



Shirley Bailey sharing CSST



Save your cans and bring them to our meeting or drop them off at Angela's house. (13142 N Rivercain Loop, Marana, AZ 85658)



Donations Needed...

For the Christ Child Society of Tucson to fill Layettes of Love with many needed items to distribute to underserved moms and babies in Tucson during this Lenten Season. Contact Dianna Balsamo (520-572-0551).



Layette committee working at the storage unit. Just completed 32 layettes.



Gaslight Fundraiser



<small>GENERAL ADMISSION</small>  <small>MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR OUR NEXT SHOW</small>	THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY <small>presents</small> <i>An Afternoon at the Gaslight Theatre</i> SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020 <small>DOORS OPEN: 2:15 PM SHOW TIME: 3:00 PM</small> BUCCANEERS of the CARIBBEAN <small>\$25.00 per person</small>
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Sunday April 5th, 2020

\$25/person

3:00 pm

Contact Mary Zacharias for Details
520-488-8570

Day of Reflection

Lunch Potluck

Saturday April 18th at Merry Lewis's Home 11:00 am
Facilitated by Camille Sensale

Good Opportunity to bring some friends to share our Love for the Christ Child Society and our mission.

Great time to Invite them to join.

MEETING CALENDAR

Mark Your Calendars Events and Meetings

Christ Child Monthly Member Lunch Meetings at Hacienda Del Sol at 11:30 5501 N Hacienda Del Sol Rd, Tucson, AZ 85718. If you RSVP to the Monthly Luncheon Meeting and for some reason you not able to attend and don't cancel by Friday before you are responsible for that lunch payment. Contact Frances Smith (520) 885-5065.

CCST meetings
held at Hacienda Del Sol at 11:30 5501 N Hacienda Del Sol Rd. Contact Frances Smith (520) 885-5065

Shower of Love & Day of Reflection
Apr 18 held at Merry Lewis' home 4315 N Pontatoc Rd., Tucson.

Shower of Love Recipient
is Casa de los Ninos
May 16 held at Pat Lundsford's home 10760 E Oakwood Dr., Tucson

Mr. Nature
presentation is held at San Xavier Mission School
1950 W San Xavier Rd., Tucson

Layettes to be displayed at Santa Catalina Church, 14380 N Oracle Rd., Tucson.

CCS National to be held at the Ventana Canyon Resort, 7000 N Resort Dr., Tucson

2020 Christ Child of Tucson Calendar													
Jan-20							Feb-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13 CCST mtg.	14	15	16	17	18	9	10 CCST mtg.	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mar-20							Apr-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9 CCST mtg.	10	11	12	13	14	5 Gaslight Fundraiser	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12 Easter	13 CCST mtg.	14	15	16	17	18 Shower of Love
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24 Mr. Nature	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May-20							Jun-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 Layettes		1	2	3	4	5	6
3 Layettes	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8 CCST mtg.	9	10	11	12	13
10	11 CCST mtg.	12	13	14	15	16 Shower of Love	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

MEETING CALENDAR

2020 Calendar, continued

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Jul-20							Aug-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13 CCST mtg.	14	15	16	17	18	9	10 CCST mtg.	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
Sep-20							Oct-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14 CCST mtg.	15	16	17 CCS Nat'l.	18 CCS Nat'l.	19 CCS Nat'l.	11	12 CCST mtg.	13	14	15	16	17
20 CCS Nat'l.	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Nov-20							Dec-20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9 CCST mtg.	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14 CCST mtg.	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksg' n.	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25 Order's	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Thank you!

Thank You for all you do!
We're looking forward to seeing you at one of our volunteer opportunities and at our upcoming events.

Remember: "It's all about the kids"

Shirts for Sale



Christ Child T Shirts and Polo Shirts will be for sale at our meeting.

Please share this newsletter with all you meet and share, share, share, the Christ Child Mission and what we do for our community, and ask them to join the fun in Challenging Poverty One Child at a Time.

Remember in this sacrifice of Thine own and only child, all children everywhere throughout the world, and grant that, like Thy Son, as they increase in years, they may grow in grace and wisdom before Thee, and in the sight of men, for the improvement and saving of the world.
O Jesus the friend of little children, bless the little children of the whole world.

Mary Virginia Merrick





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.christchildsocietyoftucson.com
or call: 520-400-4447, 520-616-2191