



# CONNECTIONS

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**CCST Officers (2021-2023):**

President:  
**Deborah Auclair**

Immediate Past President:  
**Nancy Thorpe**

Vice President:  
**Vita Balsino**

Vice Pres. Membership Chair & Chapter Liaison:  
**Dianna Balsamo**

Recording Secretary:  
**Jean Brabenec**

Corresponding Secretary:  
**Judy Chuinard**

Treasurer:  
**Nancy Thorpe**

Board Members at Large:  
**Bonnie Alberts**  
**Frances Smith**  
**Pat Lunsford**

## Our New Spiritual Advisor

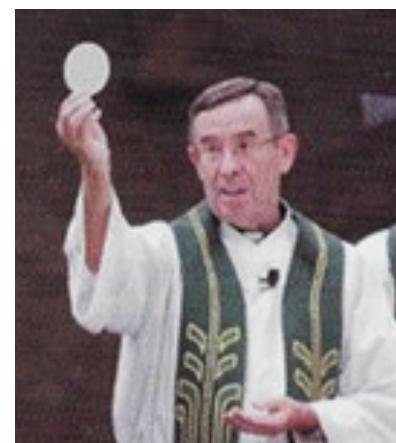
Our by-laws state that the Christ Child Society shall have one Catholic spiritual advisor appointed by the Ordinary of the diocese in which the Society is chartered. Father Patrick Grile is a Redemptorist priest and resides at the Redemptorist Center in Tucson. "Father Pat" has agreed to be our Spiritual Advisor.

The Spiritual Advisor will receive notice of all meetings and shall participate as his schedule permits. He will also lead a mini-retreat for members in 2022.

We are so grateful that Fr. Pat has agreed to join us!

## Congratulations to Fr. Pat Grile! 50 Years in the Priesthood!

On June 24, 1971 at the Redemptorist seminary Holy Redeemer College in Waterford, WI, Fr. Grile, C.Ss.R. received the Sacrament of Holy Orders from Bishop William Murphy!



Welcome Fr. Pat—you have been a priest the same length of time that Christ Child Society of Tucson has been an organization!

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi CCST Members,

I am used to asking others for input to this newsletter and find myself tasked with writing an article that is hopefully uplifting and worthwhile for you to read. I look at the Christ Child Society of Tucson as a wonderful organization of people who want to make sure children are cared for.

In 2019 I began my journey with the Christ Child Society of Tucson. I attended a new members' luncheon at Coco's restaurant. There I met the women of the Board and realized that this was the place God wanted me to be. I moved from the Rochester, NY area in 2019 because my husband always wanted to be in the Tucson area. After we both retired and were empty nesters, we thought about coming out to Tucson, but I didn't want to give up the ministries I was a part of in New York State. Well, I trusted God to let me "bloom where I am planted".

I had been a prison minister in New York State for almost a decade and was active in my Church's Social Outreach programs. Well, God provided. After being here for three years, I am a part of the Marana Correctional Facility's bilingual weekly Communion Service for Christian men. I have coordinated a three-day retreat there annually. I do prison ministry to show inmates that someone cares who is non-judgmental. These people have made mistakes, but are paying their debt to society and deserve a second chance.

I am honored to be the president of this wonderful organization. I hope you find this newsletter informative. It includes our 2021-2022 CCST calendar of meetings, events and fundraisers. You will also find the announcement of the 520 Christ Child program which is modeled after the Detroit Chapter's 313 Christ Child program to attract youthful members. Please check out details about the book drive for National Day of Service in October. You can also find details of recent events such as Volunteer Day at St. Augustine's Catholic High School and the New Member's tea we celebrated in August which recruited five more caring women to join our mission to serve.

Blessings always,

Deb Auclair



# MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Junior Christ Child of Tucson: Exciting News! The Tucson Chapter of Christ Child Society is adding a new committee to our chapter this year. The Junior Christ Child of Tucson will be a group of teens looking to volunteer and be a part of a cohesive committee. This is a National Christ Child initiative and is a great opportunity for students to get involved. It will not be a standalone chapter but formed as a committee under our local chapter.

These teens will be required to fill out a registration form with a parent signature, which will authorize pictures and participation. There will be no membership fee to join. A leadership team will be selected by the members and the team will determine the group projects. The volunteer coordinators, Theresa Osborne for JCC, and Nancy Thorpe for CCST, will review their ideas. These projects may include helping CCST assisting with invitations from CCST as well as creating their own such as flower sales or a 5K run.

We welcome these teens and look forward to working with the Junior Christ Child Chapter of Tucson! God Bless you and keep you,

Nancy Thorpe

CCST Past President



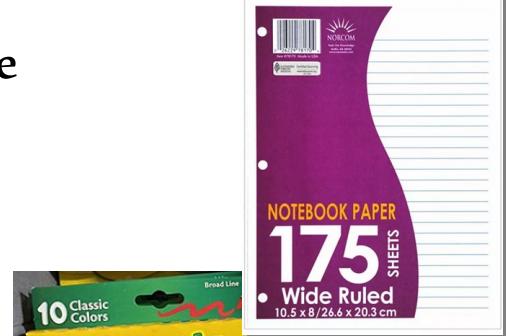
## Needed: Supplies for the San Xavier Mission School

The Christ Child is helping fill a need for school supplies for San Xavier.

They could really use the following school supplies:

- Loose leaf sheets of printing paper for K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Copy Paper
- Dry Erase Markers
- Pocket folders (\$0.15 each)
- Bibles

If you would like to help,  
please contact [Deb@auclair1.com](mailto:Deb@auclair1.com).



## New Challenges / New Horizons

Welcome Back Tucson,

I am here to thank you all for coming together with your Christ Child friends to begin a new year. In spite of many challenges, our Tucson chapter had a successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Event which will allow us to serve more children. We did it by working together and by putting the pandemic behind us. Going forward we will use our strength and faith in the Christ Child to look ahead to new horizons. With this being said, I would like to share this article with you.

"Volunteer? "A person who expresses a willingness to undertake a service." What does it mean to be willing? Being a Volunteer means that you are offering something - something that is not required nor an obligation.

You do not volunteer for the pursuit of a monetary prize or recognition. You volunteer because the optimist inside of you, perhaps the idealist, spies a glimmer of hope.

When you volunteer, you are making connections. You are connected with the community. You are connected with the problem as well as the solution. You are connected to a process-a process in which you believe. Through your actions and involvement, you are benefitting others as well as yourself.

Volunteers make an immeasurable difference in the lives of others. Oftentimes, they perform with the core intention of helping others. But did you know that volunteering can benefit your own health as well? Researchers have attempted to measure the benefits that volunteers receive including positive feeling referred to as helper's high, increased trust in others and increased social interaction.

Benefits: from lowering stress to boosting self-confidence, research has shown that volunteering offers many health benefits, especially for older adults. With this being said, please try to reach out and try something new to do in our chapter, we have many new programs and children that need our help. We are working on many new members, so you will be able to make new friendships in Christ."

Please Give It a Try....

Blessings and Love,  
Angela Schneider  
NCCS Board President Elect

## VOLUNTEER



Hello Ladies, I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that we delivered all your beautiful quilts. We took the larger ones to Pio Decimo Center run by Catholic Community Services for their Low-Income Senior Housing, and their Transitional Housing where the women with children are trying to make a new life for themselves and their families.

They were all so pleased to have them and I believe they will treasure them for a long time.

Quilts were delivered to the Diamonds Children hospital.

I can't thank you enough for all you do for our communities. God Bless you all for your beautiful work.

Thank you,  
Angela Schneider  
NCCS Board President Elect



# Fund Raising and Events Schedule

Please mark your calendars for all upcoming 2021-2022 CCST Meetings, Fundraisers and Events (DRAFT 25Aug21)

Month	Event	Date	Location / participants
July 2021	Board Meeting	7/12/21	Coco's Restaurant
Aug 2021	New Potential Members Tea	8/21/21	Tohono Chul (Dianna - lead)
	Wing's 25 drawstring bag fill by Amer. H'tg. Girls	Aug 2021	Angela / Deb
	Volunteer Day at St. Augustine High School	8/27/21	St. Augustine High School 8AM- 10AM Bonnie & Deb working Adilene Encinas
Sep 2021	CCST member meeting bring school supplies	9/13/21	Hacienda del Sol 5501 N Hacienda Del Sol Rd, Tucson, AZ
	American Heritage Girls (AHG) Service Day	9/18/21	Coordinating with Teresa, AHG leader
Oct 2021	National CCS Conference	9/17-18/21	William F. Bolger Center MD (Angela, Nancy, Deb to attend)
	CCST member meeting – bring a book	10/11/21	Hacienda del Sol
	National Day of Service – 'Fostering a Love of reading – Together'	10/25-31/21	Bonnie / Deb / Angela / Nancy working w/ George Rushing, Pio Decimo & Maria Rothstein, San Xavier
	National Day of Service – AZ Star article		Deb contacted Loni Nannini – awaiting response
	Wings collection / Layettes	TBD	Santa Catalina Catholic Church Deb wkg. with SCCC Social Justice Team
Nov 2021	CCST member meeting	11/08/21	Hacienda del Sol
	The Highlands Kindness Fair of Charitable Organization	11/13/21	The Highlands at Dove Mountain – need members' support
	Virtual Fund Raiser – What are you thankful for?	11/01/21	Mailing to members and friends
	520 Christ Child (Tucson area code) Evening event to include younger folks	11/12/21	Craft Republic Dianna - lead
Dec 2021	CCST member meeting – Christmas Party for members, spouses and new potential members	12/08/21	TBD – member's home or restaurant?
	Catholic Community Services has asked CCST to collect toys, donations, goodies (extra blankets) for their party for ~100 children.	Dec TBD, 2021	Deb, Nancy, Angela to work with Peg Harmon
	Christmas Tree of Love – gifts returned	12/11-12/21	Our Lady of the Desert
Jan 2022	CCST member meeting	01/10/22	Hacienda del Sol
	Day of Reflection for all Members (Jan or Feb)	Jan 2022?	Redemptorist Center? (Deb to contact) Lead by Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Pat
Feb 2022	CCST member meeting – Annual Business Meeting – Member Appreciation Meeting	02/14/22	Hacienda del Sol
	Day of Reflection for all Members (Jan or Feb)	Feb 2022?	Redemptorist Center? (Deb to contact) Lead by Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Pat
Mar 2022	CCST member meeting	03/14/22	Hacienda del Sol
	Layettes of Love collection?	TBD	Santa Catalina Catholic Church?
Apr 2022	CCST member meeting	04/11/22	Hacienda del Sol
	Layettes of Love collection?	TBD	Our Lady of the Desert?
May 2022	CCST member meeting -Recognition	05/09/22	Hacienda del Sol
	Layette - Shower of Love	May, 2022	Dianna' home for Casa de Los Nino's
	Denim & Diamonds annual event	05/14/22	The Oasis Wildhorse Ranch
	Virtual Fund Raiser – Mother's Day memorial	05/08/22	Mailing to members and friends
Nov 22	National CCS Convention	Nov., 2022	Tucson (Ventana Canyon)

# St. Augustine's Catholic High School Volunteer Day

On August 27, CCST thoroughly enjoyed helping the students of St. Augustine's complete their volunteer day! They made fleece blankets that will be given to children in need. The students were focused, dedicated and shared their future plans for themselves as they prepare to leave high school. For those that wonder sometimes what this next generation has to offer, spending time with these students was so uplifting! Please join us next year for this event. We could your use your help!



**Frances** helped her table make fleece blankets. She says, "This is always fun!"

**Bonnie** enlisted some of her friends to help. Thanks, Marie and Crystal!



# RECRUITMENT

## New Members' Tea

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have some great news! Our layettes are flying off the shelves in the storage unit. All the organizations we deliver to are asking for MORE. Hurray!!! In the last couple of months, we have made well over a 100 and delivered just as many.

They are going like hot cakes. As a matter of fact, Aviva said one young girl came to them with a three-day old baby with nothing. They gave her one of our layettes and then she had something. All the organizations get excited when we deliver to them. God wants us doing this and we shall. Aren't we blessed to be able to help?

Another lovely experience is when we bring the layettes, the staff get so excited at how lovely they are. Thanks to the ladies who make our blankets and toys. Many thanks to our layette committee and all who meet every Wednesday at the storage unit to work.



Vita and Dianna model Wings drawstring bags.

Speaking of that, we will be having a mixer on November 12 at Craft Republic for all those 25-45 who want to learn about us as well as work for us. The first drink is on us and food will be served. Please get the word out.



On August 21<sup>st</sup> a Tea was held at Tohono Chul Garden Bistro for new members. At that time, Deb, Vita, Dianna and Nancy spoke on the different things our society does. It was a great success. Congratulations! We are growing. We signed up five new ladies while enjoying tea, scones and fruit. God bless us all and all we do.

Many thanks to the ladies who make our blankets and toys. We cannot forget to thank the committee who meets every Wednesday at the Storage Unit to work on making the layettes.



# To know us... is to Join Us



Christ Child 520 offers young professionals in Tucson an opportunity to be active within Christ Child Society, without the requirement of acquiring a Christ Child membership. We are a sub-group of Christ Child Society of Tucson, a chapter of The National Christ Child Society, looking for volunteers to join our efforts. There are no strings attached to this group!

We are looking to attract young professionals (i.e. 25-40 year olds) in the Metro Tucson area. We will be providing opportunities to become more active in the Christ Child community.

Please join us at Craft Republic, 7624 N LaCholla Blvd on Friday, November 12, 2021 7:00-9:00 pm - First drink and food on us!



# PROGRAMS



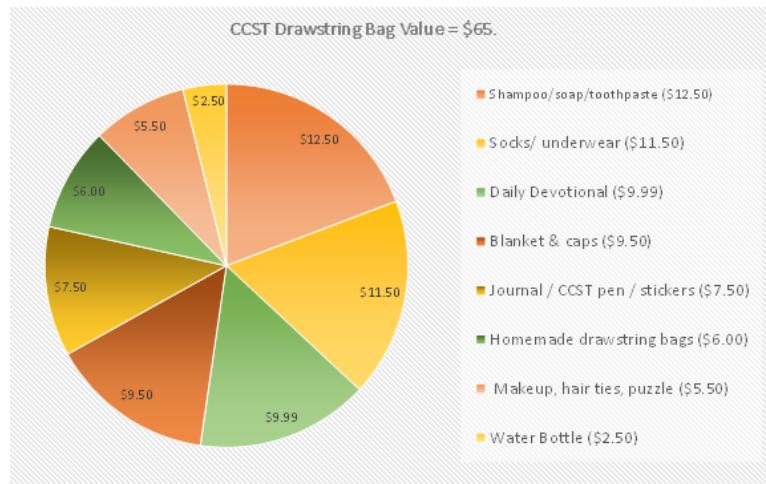
## Wings ... An Update *The Foster Teen* **Drawstring Bag Program**



Do you have any extra fabric? Do you sew and have 45 minutes to sew a drawstring bag? Deb supplies kits complete with fabric, lining, interior pocket and cording. All you have to do is sew it! Call or email Deb at deb@auclairl.com or (585)309-9064 and she'll get you some kits!



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.



The above chart indicates the breakdown of the contents of the Wings drawstring bags. Since Wings restarted in 2021, we have made and delivered 105 drawstring bags to Aviva.



Deb dropped off drawstring bags to Aviva in August. They are always so appreciative! Check out this link to our web site for the pattern to make bags.

<https://christchildtucson.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CCST-Drawstring-Bag-Pattern-with-side-strings-V6.pdf>

# 2021 NDS Campaign is a Book Drive

Will you join us to create a massive book drive? 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 Tucson Christ Child Chapter 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 to our kids. *Yet, 61 percent of low income families have no children's books.*

With that in mind, please bring any children's books you would like to donate to our next two meetings.

Christ Child is working with San Xavier and Santa Cruz Mission Schools, as well as the Pio Decimo Center and surrounding Tucson and Marana Communities so that your donations will go into homes that need them.

Help us build up reading levels! Clean off bookshelves at the same time!

## 2020 ONE Christ Child Society National Day of Service

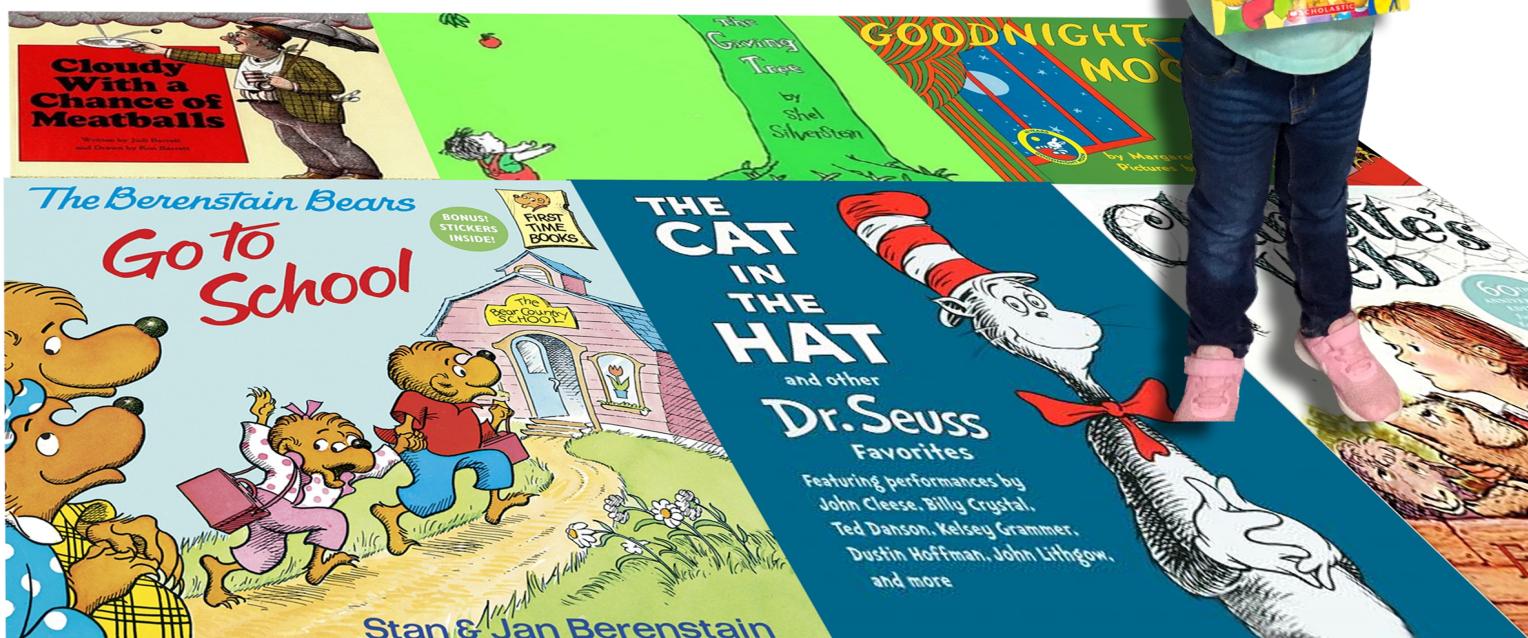
For more information about the Christ Child Society, go to [www.christchildtucson.org](http://www.christchildtucson.org).

For updates on our national goal, go to [www.nationalchristchild.org](http://www.nationalchristchild.org).

Monetary donations for books are also welcome, online or by mail.

Please mail to Christ Child Society of Tucson, PO Box 36212, Tucson AZ 85740 or call Deb Auclair at (585)309-9064.

**Thank you in advance for your support!**



# 2021 National Christ Child Conference



The NCCS 2021 Conference being held this year in Potomac MD at the Bolger Center, [September 17-18](#). Angela Schneider, Nancy Thorpe and Deb Auclair will be there and look forward to having at least one for this in-person event this year. This conference's programs are designed for National to help us meet our chapter goals.

National will be rolling out a new software platform called Tradewing which was designed to help CCS Chapters network with each other. Deb has been a part of the roll out group and looks forward to sharing it with members when she returns from the conference. We will have our own mini Facebook where we can message each other, have meetings, and have a repository of information.

## We are going to build on our success from our 50th Gala...

We are doing it again on Saturday,  
May 14, 2022.

**Save the Date:**  
**May 14, 2022**

**Denim & Diamonds**

51st Anniversary Gala  
Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch

(520) 250-4103  
[info@christchildtucson.org](mailto:info@christchildtucson.org)  
[www.christchildtucson.org](http://www.christchildtucson.org)

# IN CLOSING...

Key message	Verse/ Quotation	Key message	Verse/ Quotation
Hope	I boast of the glory of God, I boast of my Afflictions, for out of Affliction comes Endurance, Endurance comes Character, Proven Character comes Hope, and Hope never disappoints. Romans 15:3-5	Salvation	He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds we have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24
Teach me, O God	Call to Me and I will answer and tell you great and unsearchable things that you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3		For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God but by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. Romans 5:10
Adam to Jesus	Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all people so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all people. Romans 5:18	Belief	For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17
Patience	Be patient with one another, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2	Confidence	It is not you who have chosen Me. It is I who has chosen you. John 15:16
Beauty	Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 1 Peter 3:3-4	Wisdom	Let the words of Christ, in all their richness live in your hearts and make you wise. Use His words to teach and counsel others. Colossians 3:16
Service	Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others; so, use your gift well. 1 Peter 4:10	Character	It's all about character . . . Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions, they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny. Anon.
Self-control	Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your sisters and brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8	Tooth-paste	Words sometimes can hurt. Remember when tempted to say something that you will be sorry for, pause, say, "be with me Holy Spirit". Try to keep your mouth closed for as long as you can to keep yourself out of trouble! Think about toothpaste - once it is out there it is tough to get back into the tube! Anon.

## A Prayer of Encouragement

May today there be peace within you.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use these gifts that you have received, and

pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. Amen



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*