



Christ Child Society of Atlanta

Where Love Leads to Action



"Let not a day pass without having learned something, without having overcome yourself in something, without having performed a kind act, without having accomplished something."

These inspiring words from Mary Virginia Merrick still ring true for Christ Child Society of Atlanta and its members today. As we close out 2019 our chapter is busier than ever with efforts to serve others throughout the Atlanta community.

We celebrate our strongest membership level since our chapter was founded, as so many of you share the secret of CCSA! To provide opportunities for an increasing membership, we have in-

creased our volunteer efforts at two established outreaches, Cristo Rey High School and St. Peter Claver Catholic Regional School. We are also working to increase our literacy efforts north of the city, partnering with the Children's Development Academy in Roswell. Celebrating our National Day of Service there, complete with a fall farm festival, was such fun we are not sure who enjoyed it more, the students or our members!

Our summer programs expanded to support children's academics for students at St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School and Our Lady of Victory School in June. Bright Futures Academy, a new partner, received math skill books and novels for summer reading, courtesy of CCSA.

In 2019 we will distribute over 3,600 books to 10 different outreach partners to support our "Let's Read" program. We have more quilt sewers for our Layette program than ever before. We are grateful for that as we continue to distribute almost 300 layettes per year. And thanks to our green thumb gardeners, Elizabeth's Garden at the Elaine Clark Center continues to thrive!

***"you will be
changed for
the better
for having
served"***

Every Christ Child member is responsible for these achievements and so much more. Day in and day out, our members have answered the needs we have presented to them to better the lives of so many in our community.

Our board continues to "steer the ship," sharing our mission and looking for needs to fill. We strongly encourage all members to consider serving on the board in the future. Board roles are manageable and allow members to see first hand the meaningful support we give to

many outreaches. Remember, God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called! We can tell you from personal experience that you will be changed for the better for having served!

As our term comes to an end, we are grateful to all of our board members who have worked tirelessly to continue our mission. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our chapter. Our new co-presidents, Karen Morakis and Terri Wortham, together with their 2020 board, will take the helm in January and we are certain CCSA will flourish in their capable hands.

Thank you for all that you do for Christ Child!

Patti and Hendie, Co-Presidents

2019 Executive Board

Patti Anhut & Hendie Salton
Co-Presidents

Terri Wortham & Karen Morakis
Co-Presidents Elect

Casey Long
Immediate Past President

Lizette Warren
Secretary

Annemarie Boehnlein
Treasurer

Jeanne Heekin & Kathy Herald
Co-VPs Outreach

Diana Langhorne & Karen Morakis
Co-VPs Membership

Beth Hazy
VP Communication

Amy Mathes & Christy Moran
Co-VPs Social

Father Daniel Ketter
Spiritual Advisor

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Outreach Chairs

Grady Rockers
Margie Jameson

St Peter Claver Library Support
Dodie Snider

Elizabeth's Garden
Casey Long

Lunch Ladies of Cristo Rey
Mimi Dukes

"Let's Read!"
Kim Kingsfield

Layettes
Patricia Diego

Pregnancy Aid Clinic
Patti Anhut

Communications
Visual Communications
Katy Asip

Social Media Coordinator
Lisa Houlihan

Website Management
Lizette Warren

OUR MISSION:

*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.*



one of 46 chapters of

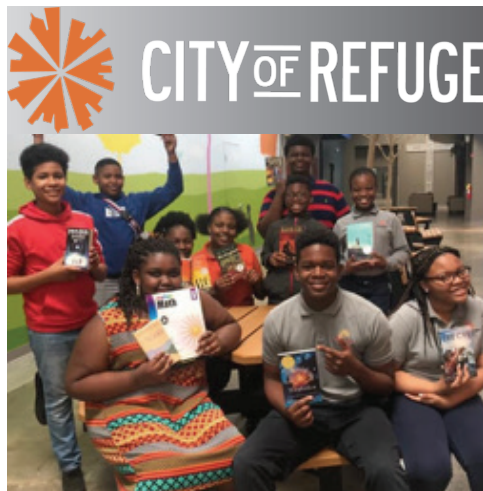
NATIONAL CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

christchildatlanta.org | christchildatlanta@gmail.com
P.O.BOX 88705 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30356

Mercy Care Clinic and Bright Futures Academy at City of Refuge

For over 20 years, City of Refuge has provided a faith based environment to help individuals and families transition out of crisis. Founded and currently led by Pastor Bruce Deel, it is a 200,000 square foot campus located in the heart of the city. This area has the highest crime rate per capita in Georgia, the highest rate of incarceration, the highest homeless population per capita, a less than 50 percent high school graduation rate, and a 40 percent unemployment rate. Quite literally, it is a refuge. A one-stop-shop for transitional housing, on-site medical and mental health care, childcare, and vocational training, including accredited intensives in auto tech, culinary arts, and coding.

CCSA recognized this as a community we could support through several of our outreach programs. We began by provid-



ing layettes to new mothers getting services at the Mercy Care Clinic located at City of Refuge. We recognized a need for children's books, so we installed a "Let's Read!" community bookshelf in the clinic's lobby, which we continually supply.

As our visits increased, we learned about Bright Futures Academy, a private middle and high school located there, and looked for a way to help. Member, Mary

Tapp, our liaison there noted "CCSA has been able to directly support the literacy efforts of this incredible school through our book donations and by getting books into the hands and homes of their students". We started by simply donating gently used books for middle and high schoolers. This allowed them to establish a program called, Sustained Silent Reading, giving students a set time, during the school day for their own reading. With the success of our 2019 fundraiser, we were able to increase our efforts by purchasing all their summer reading books and summer workbooks. One student sent us a note reading "Thanks for all you have done throughout the school year. Thank you for giving out of kindness. I love the books!".

Members can look for
"Book Delivery
Mercy Care at City of Refuge"
in the Sign Up Genius if you'd
like to visit this impressive
community in person.



Our Grady Rockers program is one of the longest running and most successful Outreach ministries in our chapter. Since 2005, our members have provided the helping hands needed to support this very busy NICU (Neo-

natal Intensive Care Unit). Grady's Perinatal Center and NICU serve more than 40 counties in the north Georgia region. With 35 or more premature and high-risk babies in the unit at one time, these fragile babies are cared for by a dedicated staff of neonatologists and neonatal nurses. Many of these babies come from long distances or are the result of a difficult delivery making family visits problematic. Knowing that nurturing these tiny infants is vital to their full recovery, we step in. Our Rockers embody the words of our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, "The personal element brings true charity into life. The giver and the gift are brought together, and the link is the Christ Child."

This weekly ministry never takes a break.... all year, including Holidays and summer breaks, this dedicated group of women show up every Friday to nurture, hold, feed, and rock our city's most vulnerable. Margie Jameson leads our efforts at Grady, as our Grady outreach coordinator, "I have



had a desire to volunteer in the NICU since giving birth to my son 26 years ago. He was premature and spent time in the NICU. I was so sick that I did not meet my son or hold him for the first time, until he was 24 hours old. I was so grateful for the nurses and the lovely volunteers who sang to my newborn, held his hand through the incubator, and loved on my sweet baby when I could not. It is such an honor to help other mom's and families the same way. It is a commitment to volunteer in the NICU, but honestly, I believe I may benefit as much if not more than the beautiful babies and families. Assisting with nurturing new life, with love and affection, allows me to live my faith along with my amazing community of CCSA!"

As a steady presence in the NICU, a new need was identified by our volunteers to assist in education. As a result, we have contributed

1000 Understanding My Signals booklets. These booklets are an important educational tool for parents. Without proper education, the parents would not be prepared to take their baby home. Grady is also a part of our layette outreach, with CCSA providing layettes every Christmas as part of their Secret Santa program.

To be a part of our Grady Rockers Outreach requires a bit of tenacity. There is an application, interview, background check/health screening, and orientation. Sometimes this process can take 6 months or longer. Any member interested in joining this incredible group of women, please contact Margie Jameson.

Christ Child Society of Atlanta
INVITES YOU TO



SERVE *in* STYLE

LUNCHEON • FASHION SHOW • SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2020

Cherokee Town Club • Buckhead

Reserve your spot online at christchildatlanta.org



Recap

An Enchanted Evening

We'd like to thank all our members who supported this year's Red Wagon fundraiser, An Enchanted Evening. It was a sellout and a huge success!

We were treated to a lovely cocktail hour overlooking the green at the new Sandy Springs City Springs complex. We then enjoyed the professional theatre production of "South Pacific" at the beautiful new Performing Arts Center. All this to benefit our chapter's growing outreach programs in literature and layettes.

A special thank you to our remarkable fundraising committee! They were the best marketing and planning team we could have hoped for. We've already begun our fundraising efforts for the 2020 Red Wagon event and new faces to this team are welcome. Join us for a rewarding and fun experience.

Member SPOTLIGHT



Leslie Vaughan

The signature program for all Christ Child Chapters across the country is the layette. This meaningful tradition originated when Mary Virginia Merrick and her friends sewed clothing for a newborn child in need in 1884. Here in Atlanta, we pride ourselves on our layette contents wrapped snugly in a beautiful quilt which our members sew for us.

Leslie Vaughan has spearheaded this effort for numerous years. Although flannel and quilting fabric can be costly, Leslie is a bargain shopper and works with JoAnn's Fabrics to purchase these items at the lowest possible price, thus allowing us to be good stewards of the donations we are given.

This effort is truly a commitment. Leslie shops for fabric, binding and thread, often ordering in bulk to keep us in supply. In addition, she cuts all the fabric, prepares the pieces, then distributes them to our legion of trusty sewers so they can be finished. We currently distribute close to 300 layettes per year. Many chapters rent space to house layette supplies but once again, CCSA is free from that expense as Leslie graciously fills her spare bedroom with fabric and supplies!

Leslie has recently had some big life changes, but her dedication to Christ Child Society has not diminished. Her husband Steve has recently retired and they have set off on many adventures in the last year. She has also welcomed her first grandchild, Madison, who just turned a year old. She recently set up a sewing station at their beach house so she can continue working on quilts. Now that's a dedicated volunteer!

In addition to her Christ Child efforts, Leslie also sews caps for cancer patients. Talk about a giving spirit!

When we asked Leslie why she feels called to this effort, she responded, "I have a passion for children and I love to sew, so I am thrilled to be able to combine these things for the Christ Child Society. I have sewn the blankets for years but didn't really appreciate the importance of them until I had a granddaughter. I made one of these blankets for my personal use for when Madison came over to the house. Since babies have to be taught how to be on their stomachs it was amazing to watch her as she explored and laughed at the animals on the blanket. It was nice to come full circle and see the importance of, not only what our blankets do, but what the whole layette package does for the families that receive them."

For more than ten years, Leslie has been an active member in the Atlanta chapter. She has rocked babies in the Grady Hospital NICU, worked in Elizabeth's Garden and of course sewn quilts and assembled layettes. She is a wonderful example of someone who regularly focuses on the needs of others. We are grateful for her efforts and membership in Christ Child Society of Atlanta!

OUR MEMBERS

Chigoke Adoma
Stephanie Adrian
Stephanie Allen
Tanya Alley
Sarah Alvarez
Patti Anhut
Barbara Arkedis
Katy Asip
Stacy Bean
Cutia Blunt
Annemarie Boehnlein
Deb Brewer
Claire F. Brown
Kathy Cayce
Susan Cicero
Maureen Conboy
Jeanne Connolly
Kathy Cox
Allie Crawford
Pat Cross
Ann Czabala
Rebecca Dacey
Mary Pat Davis
Jerrica Davis
Patty Decraene
Kathleen deGroot
Patricia Diego
Elaine Dolt
Charlie Donnolly

Kimberly Duckworth
Terri Ducote
Megan Duffy
Mimi Dukes
Marcia Dunn
Christine Elliott
Amy Eweers
Liz Fetter
Vicky Gastaldi
Donna Gilli
Susanne Greenwood
Jennifer Guynn
Suzanne Hartigan
Beth Hazy
Jeanne Heekin
Patricia K Hene
Kathy Herald
Regina Hild
Diana Hurley
Robin Isaf
Dede Jackson
Margie Jameson
Kim Jardina
Carla Kalil
Diane Kelly
Maura Kelly
Gerry King
Kim Kingsfield
Mary Ellen Klinger

Elaine Knight
Mary Kramer
Carolyn LaMonaca
Diana Langhorne
Lois Leeds
Casey Long
Jenn Martel
Amy Mathes
Kathy Mawn
Daphne Miller
Barbara Miller
Kara Miller
Patsy Moeller
Karen Morakis
Christy Moran
Sheila Moriarty
Julie Moyers
Kay Muething
Louise Mulherin
Anne Marie Newman
Anne Olson
Julie Parks
Karen Phillips
Barbara Poole
Chelle Pope
Mary Porter
Dayna Royal
Alessandra Saccaggi
Hendie Salton

Nancy Schrage
Ana Shields
Bridget Snelling
Dodie Snider
Donna Soper
Gina Steers
Toni Stoughton
Susan Summers
Kathleen Swann
Carol Tally
Mary Tapp
Robyn Taylor
Anne Teddlie
Amy Terrell
Kathy Thompson
Carol Tiarsmith
Susan Trzaska
Carol Vaccaro
Doris Vander Wiele
Leslie Vaughan
Jan Wagner
Lizette Warren
Kathleen Wild
Kathy Wilson
Kathy Wolf
Carol Wood
Terri Wortham
Emily Wright
Kathleen Zamer

We are grateful for Community Support

Community Partners are vital to our chapters efforts! For over fifteen years Marist School cheerleaders have supported CCSA with a layette assembly and book collection. Each July as 70 cheerleaders gather for a week of camp, the girls bring donations of new-born diapers and used books. Chapter members meet with the group on Friday, sharing information about Mary Virginia Merrick and the Atlanta chapter's current efforts. Then working in pairs they assemble 35 layettes to be distributed to area clinics in the fall. Extra diaper packs are used for future assemblies. Used books that are collected are also distributed to our bookshelves for our Let's Read program. In addition, the cheerleaders collect donations to help cover the cost of the additional baby items included in the layettes.



We are so thankful that the group continues to support our layette effort year after year! It's inspiring to see these young women coming together to help others, just as Mary Virginia

Merrick did with her own circle of friends over 100 years ago!

St Jude the Apostle Catholic School and The Atlanta Academy are two more CCSA supporters. Each year both schools hold a book drive for our Let's Read! program, supplying hundreds of gently used children's books for our community book shelves. Others who have held book drives for our benefit include Blessed Trinity High School, Bernadette's Hair Salon and Wig Studio, and All Saints Catholic Church. These community book drives are vital to the support of our Let's Read! program. If you know of a school or business that would support us with a book drive, please contact us.

We would also like to thank Catholic Foundation of North Georgia and St Ann's Catholic Church Women's Group for awarding CCSA grants in 2019 for the support of our Summer Enrichment programs.



The E bed is a raised garden in the shape of an E which allows for wheelchair students to access the garden. The E bed - as well as Elizabeth's Garden- was named after Elizabeth Hufner, a past CCSA President who passed away in 2009. A big thank you to Michael Irlander who rebuilt our termite damaged E-bed for his eagle scout project.

