



March 2019

The Christ Child Society
Naples, Florida

Joanne Halstead Award to Pat Limbach

Mary Henrikson, ably assisted by Karen Nally, Karen Eilers, Cheryl Grant and Chris Bonarrigo chaired the Founders Luncheon held February 12 at Royal Poinciana Golf Club. This annual event is designed to celebrate the work of members and their guests.

The Joanne Halstead Award is given to a member who has shown outstanding commitment to the mission of Christ Child Society and whose work has significantly improved the lives of the underprivileged children of Collier County. This year's recipient of this prestigious award was Pat Limbach. Pat is a major force in the Layette Program. She arranges for volunteers to

come together to assemble layettes a few times a year. She interfaces with the Marco Island Knitters who create many of the beautiful blankets for the layettes. She also delivers the layettes to facilities in Naples and Immokalee to be given to needy new mothers. The nurses there call her *Mama!* In addition to this work, Pat is also active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society in her parish.

Following The Reverend Dr. Kathleen Kircher's blessing, President Colleen Mayes presented a recently commissioned video about the four missions of the Christ Child Society of Naples. She then introduced our

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General Meeting April 16

The final General Meeting of the 2018-19 season will be held at Northern Trust Bank from 3-4 pm. Food for Grace Place will be collected. See article on Page 3 for more information and suggested food items.

Red Wagon Gala April 6 at Royal Poinciana

The Red Wagon Gala is the main fundraiser of the Christ Child Society of Naples. Now held every other year, funds received from the Gala must stretch to support our programs for two years. Invitations have been mailed. If you have not received yours, please contact Maureen Kincaid at makincai88@gmail.com. Please plan to attend. If you cannot attend, please consider a donation.

The Red Wagon Gala planned for April 6 at Royal Poinciana Golf Club is fast approaching. Chair Janis Morrisroe has been working with her committees to make this gala the best ever. In addition to a Fund-the-Need, there will be silent and live auctions.

Included in the live auction will be seven nights in a seaside home in Ireland, a Chicago

Red Wagon Gala



Cubs Dream Day, two dinners for eight in beautiful Naples homes, golf opportunities at six Naples golf courses, an Atlanta Braves package and original signed art by Naples artists.

The 2019 Red Wagon Gala promises to be a lovely evening! Remember that the beneficiaries are the underprivileged children of Collier County.



Founders Luncheon

Board of Directors

Colleen Mayes
President

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Past President

Kathy Clark
First Vice President

TBD
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Basic Needs VP

Mary Polizzotto
Literacy VP

Gail Garratt
Arlene Rossi
Ellen Spencer
Members at Large

The Rev. Kathleen Kircher
Spiritual Advisor

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speaker, The Reverend Lisa Lefkow, the Chief Executive Officer of Habitat for Humanity of Collier County.

Reverend Lefkow began with a brief history of Habitat for Humanity. Founded in September 1976 by Millard Fuller, Habitat is a non-profit organization that helps people build a place they can call home. Mr. Fuller felt that loans should be interest-free for the working poor. The owners of habitat homes

work along with volunteers to create their homes. Since its inception in 1978, more than 2,200 homes have been built by Habitat for Humanity of Collier County. The Habitat organization has grown to 1,200 affiliates in the United States and 70 countries. We were reminded that housing is the cornerstone on which all human development is built.

Christ Child Society donates beds, bedding, a collection of books and a bookcase for the children of Habitat homes.



Kathy Clark, Colleen Mayes, Janis Morrisroe.

Founders Luncheon



Pat Limbach, right, is congratulated on winning the Joanne Halstead Award by Joanne Halstead, Kathy Clark and Pat's husband, Dick.



Stephanie Lohri, Bobbi Rossi, Cathie Gallante, Linda Stavropoulos.



Founders Luncheon Committee.



Previous winners Joanne Halstead Award.

Food for Grace Place

As our season winds down, it is important to remember the children we will be leaving behind. Many rely on school lunches and weekend backpacks for their sustenance. At our remaining General Meeting in April, we will collect non-perishable foods and necessities for the Grace Place Food Pantry. A representative from Grace Place will be present at the parking lot entrance of the Northern Trust Bank to collect any items that you bring. Please do not bring them upstairs, because they may be left behind.

Suggested food items are as follows: breakfast cereals, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, canned soup, corn tortilla flour, dried beans, pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, powdered milk, Spam, sugar, tuna, and vegetable oil. Other necessities include paper products, diapers and baby wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, laundry detergent, and bar soap.

Harry Chapin Food Bank

Miriam Periera, the Director of Development at the Harry Chapin Food Bank, spoke at our March 12 meeting. Before joining the food bank, Ms. Periera spent almost 20 years as a print journalist. It was while covering stories on SWFL's neediest residents that she was



inspired to change careers and enter the non-profit world.

Harry Chapin Food Bank is named after the popular folk/rock musician who donated proceeds from every other concert to end hunger. He co-founded the organization *Why Hunger* and received the Congressional Gold

Medal for his humanitarian efforts. After he died in a car accident in 1981 at the age of 39, his wife gave permission for his name to be used by the food bank.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank covers a five county area including Lee and Collier Counties. The premise is to collect food that would otherwise go to waste. They pick up food from such stores as Publix, Wal-Mart and Target, as well as from growers as far away as Canada. Publix is the largest of the donors. In addition to providing grants for the purchase of trucks, which cost in the neighborhood of \$250,000, they have donated 24 billion pounds of food.

In Collier County, the food bank delivers regularly to St. Matthew's House and Grace Place. They also go into communities with mobile pantries where they can feed 250 families one day a month. Most of these pantries are used by the working poor. But there are exceptions. For example, during the government shutdown, they set up a mobile pantry at the airport for the TSA workers. During the algae bloom, they set up mobile pantries for workers laid off from their restaurant and hospitality jobs. During the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, they distributed MRE's (meals ready to eat) to those hardest hit.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank also has developed a Senior Feeding Campaign: the *Care and Share*. This program assists seniors who otherwise may have to choose between eating and paying the rent. The diets of qualifying low-income seniors in Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties are supplemented with food such as canned fruits and vegetables, protein, grains, cereal, and other food each month. Presently 2,350 seniors are part of this program.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is part of the Feeding America Network. The main warehouse is in Ft. Myers, where 80,000 pounds of food passes through daily. The Collier County Center is located at 3940 Prospect Avenue, Naples.

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings:

Northern Trust Bank
Liggett Room (formerly
Keewaydin Room) 3 pm

April 11, 2019

General Meetings:

Northern Trust Bank
Fourth Floor
Larson Room 3-5 pm

April 16, 2019

Save the Date:

April 6, 2019
Red Wagon Gala



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www.christchildnaples.org

New Member Tea

New Member Tea

The New Member Tea was held at Moorings Park at Grey Oaks on January 15. Hostesses for the event were Lynne Deal, Joanne Powers and Jerry Risk. The 57 women in attendance viewed the video describing the four missions of the Christ Child Society of Naples. The leaders of each of these areas also spoke and answered questions, resulting in 28 women joining to become new members.



Tea Hostesses: Jerry Risk, Joanne Powers and Lynne Deal.



Barbara Ross, Betsy Corman, Kathryn Wagner and Colleen Mayes.



Sharon Todd and Pat Limbach demo Layettes.



Arlene Rossi, Kathryn Grant and Kathryn Wagner.