



March 2020

The Christ Child Society
Naples, Florida

Grace Place Adult Ed Director to speak in March

Tara Barrett, Adult Education Director at Grace Place, will be our guest speaker at the March 10 General Membership meeting. Tara is a graduate of Columbia University where she majored in Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species.



Following graduation, with hopes of returning to school for a master's degree in global health, she traveled to Ecuador. In Ecuador, she volunteered with the Boston-based nonprofit, *WorldTeach*, teaching English as a Foreign Language to adult learners. Following her one-year commitment, she extended her volunteer service and eventually moved on to working with the organization as an Assistant Field Director for the Ecuador program. Upon her return to the United States after

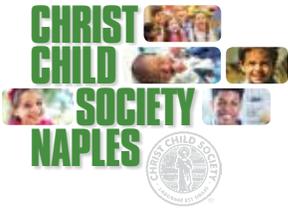
having lived in Ecuador for three years, she decided to change course. Based on her volunteer and professional experience abroad, she found her way to Grace Place for Children and Families. In 2013, she joined the organization as the Adult Education Program Manager. Now, after seven years at Grace Place, Tara is the Director of Adult Education. Her work at Grace Place also solidified her commitment to

working within the nonprofit sector. In 2017, she earned her master's degree in Nonprofit Management.

With Grace Place, she oversees adult programming. Her duties include the parental component of Bright Beginnings, English as a Second Language, U. S. Citizenship preparation, Digital Literacy as well as an annual Financial Literacy seminar.

Volunteer Hours

Please send volunteer hours to Martha Moore at indymarni@aol.com. You may also enter your hours on the Christ Child website, www.christchildnaples.org. Go to Member Forms, Online Volunteer Hours Form. It is important for our president to have accurate hours for her reports to the National Christ Child Society.



In Memoriam

Eileen Warburton,
member since 2013

Supplies for Grace Place

As at all of our General Meetings, we will collect non-perishable foods and necessities for the Grace Place Food Pantry. Grace Place is located in the heart of Golden Gate, and many families depend on the Food Pantry which is held every Saturday. A representative will be at the parking lot entrance of the Northern Trust Bank (in back) to collect items. **Please do not bring them upstairs to the meeting, as they may be missed.** Suggested food items are: breakfast cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soup, corn tortilla flour, dried beans, pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, powdered milk, rice, sugar, and vegetable oil. Other necessities are diapers and baby wipes, tooth brushes and toothpaste, laundry detergent, and bar soap.

Board of Directors

Kathy Clark
President

Colleen Mayes
Past President

Barbara Franks
First Vice President

Gloria Gaughan
Second Vice President

Cheryl Grant
Mary Henrickson
Co-Secretaries

Penny Parmelee
Treasurer

Bobbi Rossi
Finance Director

Maureen Kincaid
Colleen Kaminski
Co-Membership VPs

MaryAngela Smith
Communications VP

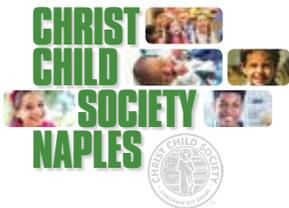
Sharon Prentice-Todd
Infant Care VP

Kathryn Wagner
Basic Needs VP

Mary Polizzotto
Literacy VP

Jane AusterMiller
Catherine Boltz
Arlene Rossi
Members at Large

The Rev. Kathleen Kircher
Spiritual Advisor



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF NAPLES IS A 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. OUR FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 59-3490810. OUR FLORIDA REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH12255. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

New Christ Child volunteer opportunities

The success of the Christ Child Society of Naples Habitat Scholarship initiative has created two new volunteer opportunities for Christ Child members!

The first is to be a Scholarship Application Tutor. This critical role is coordinated by Family Services at Habitat for Humanity of Collier County. It seeks Christ Child volunteers (as well as their spouses) to assist high school juniors and seniors living in Habitat for Humanity communities as they complete the Community Foundation of Collier County Scholarship Application form. Most, if not all of these students, will be the first in their families to attend post-secondary schools. The high school counselors have many students to guide, and their parents may not have the experience needed to assist their child through the process. Volunteers agree to participate in a one-hour training session with the students at the Habitat for Humanity Office. The students and tutors are assigned to each other, and the rest of the work goes on via email.

The first Scholarship Application Tutor

session was held in November, 2019. Eight tutors were assigned to 16 high school students who would like to go to college or trade school and need scholarships. This is an important, new volunteer opportunity for both Christ Child and Habitat.

The second volunteer opportunity is to be a Scholarship Application Judge. This essential work is administered by The Community Foundation of Collier County. It seeks Christ Child volunteers (as well as their spouses) to read and grade Scholarship Applications received by the Community Foundation. The Scholarship Application Judges grade approximately two dozen submission forms from all Collier County high school students who are applying for community scholarships, including those who are applying for The Christ Child Society of Naples Habitat Scholarship.

Volunteers are required to participate in a one-hour training session held at the Community Foundation.

The reading and the grading of the

Continued on Page 5

Ellen Ryan sponsors 2020 Habitat Scholarship

"When I first heard about the Christ Child Scholarships benefitting high-achieving high school students living in Habitat communities, I felt it was a good match for David and me," said Ellen Ryan, past co-president of Christ Child Society. "David and I have been focusing our philanthropic efforts in the area of education. This combination of efforts by these two well-respected organizations is critical in raising the income levels of working families in our Collier County community."



Ellen was co-president of Christ Child Society Naples with Judy Fahey in 2005. She had also been president of Christ Child Society in Columbus, Ohio in 1992. "I am well aware of the long-term good that comes from Christ Child women volunteering together to help kids and their families exit out of poverty. This newest effort of Christ Child Naples to provide scholarships to deserving Habitat high school seniors will not only help the students and their families but will help future generations, too." Because of Ellen and David Ryan's generosity to fully fund a scholarship, Christ Child Society of Naples will present a scholarship named in her honor in May of 2020. One deserving Habitat senior will receive the Ellen Ryan Christ Child Society of Naples Habitat Scholarship.

Christ Child Society of Naples Habitat Scholars Fund is administered by The Community Foundation of Collier County. It is a renewable, annual scholarship of up to \$5,000 per year for four years.

2020 Founders Luncheon attracts 180 guests

Some 180 members and guests attended this year's Founders Luncheon at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club. Our President Kathy Clark greeted the audience with some of the highlights of this year.

It has been a record year for the layette program, with some 650 prepared and delivered.

Habitat for Humanity plans 90 to 100 homes this year. That means a bed and character bedding for each child in the new home, as well as a bookshelf holding 15 books.

In addition to literacy volunteers working in the schools, Christ Child purchased 20 iPads for use in the classrooms of Golden Gate Elementary where 93% of the children live in non-English-speaking homes.

Kathy reminded the group that the motto of the Christ Child Society is, "Laborare est orare – to work is to pray."

Kathleen Flynn Fox followed with a lovely blessing, "As

beautiful as the weather is outside, it cannot come close to the radiant sunshine in this room!

May we, the women and friends of Christ Child, bear witness to the power of caring not only for all of God's children, but also for each other as we bow our heads in prayer.

Good and Gracious God, Thank you for this day of celebration, for this meal which nurtures our bodies, and the Amazing Friendships which feed our souls.

Please bless and protect the hands of the people who serve us, and always lead us to serve you, though the work of our hands, in the Name of the Christ Child. Amen."

Following a delicious lunch, Donna Eskra, who with Jane Austermiller and Lynn Koffel chaired the event, introduced our speaker, Dr. Marcia Eaton, who discussed *The Four R's: Reading, Riting, Rithmetic and Rap*.

Founders Luncheon



2020 Founders Luncheon



The first CCSN Family Dinner and Movie Night at Fun Time



Family Dinner and Movie Night at Fun Time Academy was a special event. Mary Henrikson and Karen Nally were in attendance to help and represent CCSN. There were many very excited 3- and 4-year-old movie goers enjoying this fun event. Many were accompanied by Mom, Dad and siblings. Providing such fun and a dose of pop culture for the children we serve truly was heartwarming. Thanks to you all for making it happen.

Blessings,
Kathy



Intentional Membership Growth

The start of a new year is a great time to evaluate your membership! Can you state in a few words why someone should join your chapter? Have you been spreading the word about Christ Child Society and inviting people you know to join? 135 years ago, Mary Virginia Merrick knew that the best method of recruitment was word of mouth. That hasn't changed! The best way to attract new members is to spread the word with

a personal invitation about who we are, how enjoyable the work is for our volunteers and how important our programs are in the communities we serve.

® Invite friends,

family members and acquaintances to join our mission! Be all-inclusive when asking friends and acquaintances to join. We've heard from many parents at catholic schools who said they were never asked to join their local Christ Child Society. Sometimes your potential new member is sitting right next to you. Don't presume they are too busy or already know about us. You won't know until you ask.

New volunteer opportunities

Continued from page 2

scholarship applications are accomplished via email. The first training session was held in December, 2019 and ten Christ Child members participated. This is a new and very interesting volunteer opportunity for Christ Child members and spouses.

Please consider sharing your time and talents in one of Christ Child's two new volunteer opportunities. There will be signup sheets at the General Meetings and on the Membership Renewal Forms.

Thank you,
Kathleen Flynn Fox

When you have new members interested, make sure they always feel welcome and needed. Get and keep them involved as soon as possible! CCS of Columbus has an eight-person membership team to grow their chapter. New members are invited to an informational meeting in February and by May, at the chapter's Founders Day Celebration, they are made full, active members! Julie Smerdel, membership co-chair of the Columbus chapter, says, "New members want to feel connected, like they have a relationship with the chapter and chapter members." For that reason, their membership team makes sure to keep in contact with the new members on a regular basis by inviting them to events or reminding them about upcoming project opportunities.

If you are a chapter leader, try to find new ways to get your membership excited and intentional about bringing in new members. Challenge members to bring a friend to a general business meetings or fund-raising event. Do you have a Day of Reflection? This is a great opportunity to invite someone new. Do you have a new program or want to increase a program? You have a concrete reason to increase your membership. Maybe hold a membership contest – saying that any member who brings in a new person (potential member) gets a chance to win half priced dues for that year.

Let's challenge ourselves to be intentional! Don't let another year slide by. Evaluate your chapter's committees and plan for what you can do to attract even more members. As Mary Virginia Merrick has said, "Since our Lord has promised his blessings on small beginnings, I believe our organization is destined to further and greater development." Let us live up to her words and work to make our organization even greater and more impactful in 2020!

For more information on growing and retaining membership, visit www.nationalchristchild.org, and look under the Member Resources tab.

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings:

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

March 5, 2020

April 2, 2020

General Meetings:

Northern Trust Bank
Fourth Floor
Larson Room 3-5 pm

March 10, 2020

April 7, 2020

Spotlight article shines light on Christ Child

DK Christi has written an informative article about Christ Child Society of Naples and our many initiatives in the February 14, 2020 edition of *The Spotlight*. We hope our members will feel great pride in our organization which does so much for the underserved children of Naples.

Find us on
**Facebook and
Instagram at
Christ Child
Society Naples.**



www.christchildnaples.org

Fun Time Valentine's Day Party



Our members staged the annual party for the children of Fun Time. The children played games, enjoyed a story, feasted on strawberries and special cookies, and went home with a special treat. All in all, a wonderful Valentine's Day!