

Supporting a good cause



**KATHY
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Have you ever heard of Christ Child Society of Atlanta? I hadn't until an informative email popped up in my mailbox. Christ Child Society of Atlanta was founded in June 2003 and is part of the National Christ Child Society founded to serve

underprivileged children. Currently, the organization has 113 members, many of whom reside in Dunwoody and Sandy Springs.

Open to people of all faiths, the Atlanta organization partners with local hospitals, clinics, schools and other organizations to provide support for needy children in the Atlanta community. Their outreach includes a layette program to provide impoverished mothers with the essentials needed to care for their newborn infants. In 2019, they distributed over 300 layettes or baby bundles as part of that program.

They also provide volunteers to hold, nurture and feed at-risk newborns in the Grady Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. This program has been in place since 2005 and is one of their most endearing.

Their support of Grady Hospital doesn't stop there. They've also participated in several special projects. Providing rocking chairs and wheelchairs to transport moms to and from the special needs nursery was one such project. They also decorated the NICU Family Waiting Room and added a bookshelf of coloring books for waiting siblings. In honor of National Preemie Month, they donated newborn items for a baby shower for new mothers. They also provide informational booklets outlining essential information for newborns being released from the NICU.

But, it's not only about Grady. When I read that Christ Child Society of Atlanta had established and now maintains an organic sensory garden and toddler playground at the Elaine Clark Center, I was prompted to learn what exactly the Elaine Clark Center was. I've been driving by there for years and never knew. Now, I know it's a school that provides an innovative model of education and therapeutic play for special needs children and has done so for 50 years.

The group's outreach programs are spread all around the metro area, and many of them promote children's literacy. They provide support to Bright



Futures Academy located on Atlanta's westside, St. Peter Claver Catholic School in Decatur, and several other schools. Additionally, they collect and distribute gently used books to clinics to put books in the hands of children who may not otherwise have access to them. Grant Park Clinic and Mercy Care Clinics in Chamblee and at City of Refuge are part of this program.

Board member Lizette Warren, a Dunwoody resident, reached out to me hoping I could help increase visibility for this growing organization, and I'm happy to do so. When she told me they had a fundraiser coming up that includes a fashion show, I couldn't help but think of the Dunwoody Garden Club, which held a similar fundraiser in February.

Christ Child Society of Atlanta's event will be held April 25th at Cherokee Town Club in Buckhead and will feature a fashion show, raffle and silent auction. They've partnered with Tootsie's boutique for the fashion show. Just as the Dunwoody Garden Club relies on their annual card party, luncheon and fashion show to fund beautification efforts around our community, CCSA relies on this event to fund their outreach programs.

Individual tickets for the "Serve in Style" luncheon, fashion show and silent auction are \$60 and can be reserved online. For information about this event and to learn more about Christ Child Society of Atlanta's mission, programs or to make a donation see their website at <https://www.christ-childatlanta.org>.

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