### 2017 MEMBERS

\*member since 2003

Our Membership has steadily gorwn over the past 15 years to 84 members, with 16 new members joining in 2017. Members of our organization are the key to our impact in Atlanta. They voluteer in our outreach organizations, serve on the board, assemble layettes, sew quilts, participate in our fundraising and social events and pray for the work of the Christ Child. Each member is highly valued and contributes in some way, large or small, to continue the work begun by our founder over 100 years ago.

Christine Aleem Sarah Alvarez Patricia Anhut\* Barbara Arkedis Katy Asip\* Stacy Bean Cutia Blunt Annemarie Boehnlein Virginia Bowers Deb Brewer Claire F. Brown Zoraida Cardoza Kathy Cayce Claire Conarro Kathy Cox Casey Crayne Mary Pat Davis Patty Decraene Cathy C. DeLaney Patricia Diego\* Mimi Dukes\*

Jennifer Durkin Chardell A. Fredd Tracy A. Giglio Donna Gilli\* Susanne Greenwood Suzanne Hartigan Beth Hazy Tara Hebert Jeanne Heekin Patricia K Hene Trudy Hene Kathy Herald Cecilia Holman Margie Jameson LaRhonda Julien Diane Kelly Maura Kelly Gerry King Christine Kratzenberg

Carolyn LaMonaca

Diana Langhorne

Melanie Lauder Sue Lienhard Casey Long\* Patrice Montovani Amy Mathes Daphne Miller Barbara Miller Patsy Moeller Karen Morakis Christy Moran Sheila Moriarty Julie Moyers\* Kay Muething Louise Mulherin Anne Marie Newman\* Anne Olson Julie Pardo Jean Parker Barbara Poole\* Mary Porter Alessandra Saccaggi

Hendie Salton\* Nancy Schrage Dodie Snider Donna Soper Elise Spina Toni Stoughton Susan Summers Magy Tadros Mary Tapp\* Robyn Taylor Anne Teddlie Amy Terrell Kathy Thompson Susan Trzaska Leslie Vaughan Jan Wagner Nancy Wanzer Kathleen Wild Kathy Wilson\* Terri Wortham\* Kathleen Zamer

# **Christ Child Society** of Atlanta AT A GLANCE

Since our founding in 2003, the Atlanta chapter has accomplished so much! Many children throughout the city have been helped as a result. Have a look at the numbers

#### **OUR VOLUNTEER EFFORTS INCLUDE:**

- Rocking Babies in the Grady Hospital NICU
- Summer Reading Enrichment Program at St. Peter Claver School
- Two organic gardens
- · Cooking classes at Elaine Clark
- Assembling newborn layettes for new mothers
- Sewing play quilts for the layettes
- · Collecting and distributing used children's books
- Serving lunch at Cristo Rey High School
- Assisting in the Baby Boutique at Pregnancy Aid Clinic
- Reading Buddies & ongoing support at St. Peter Claver throughout the school year

















# Christ Child Society of Atlanta

NEWSLETTER 2017



### A note from our President Casey Long

Thank you to all of you who have helped to make the Christ Child Society grow and be represent ed strongly on the national level! Patti and I returned from the National Christ Child Convention in Bethesda, Maryland this October feeling inspired and energized to serve and participate in our many Outreaches. The focus of the convention was literacy and poverty. We are one of the young (loving that!) national chapters with fresh ideas and growth.

Our chapter has expanded our own reading program this year to include a summer reading program at St. Peter Claver Regional School where we had been serving as reading buddies and

library support twice a month. We hope to continue to develop these reading support programs. We also collected and distributed over 3,000 used children's books to various agencies, reading programs and waiting rooms this year.

We continue to assemble and distribute up to 300 layettes of newborn clothing for the Atlanta community. Our layettes are distributed to five Outreaches in the Atlanta area. Literacy has also been incorporated into our layettes with a 'Read to Me Card' and a baby book of 'The First 100 Words'.

The year will close at Elaine Clark with the reinstallation of Elizabeth's Garden and the addition of a toddler playground from our chapter. The new building is receiving finishing touches and the gardens are now divided and surrounded by paved cement walkways to make it easier for young walkers and wheelchairs to navigate the garden terrain!

I have loved serving as your president of the Atlanta chapter for the last two years. But alas, the chapter is now a teenager! It is in good hands, on steady footing and grew from the efforts of "our village" along the way! We will be 15 in the spring and now have 84 members, 2 gardens, 9 outreaches, 5 grants, 3 endowment funds, provide 1500 volunteer hours annually and so much more!

I challenge all of you to find your niche, bring a friend (or meet a new one!) and serve "Where Love Leads to Action". How blessed we all are in our lives and in the opportunities of growth given to us through service to others. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Casey Long, President 2016-2018 Christ Child Society Atlanta

### **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.

Visit our website: www.christchildatlanta.org



#### 2017 **Executive Board**

Casev Long

Patti Anhut

Barbara Miller

Gerry King

Mary Tapp Dodie Snyder C0-Outreach

Katy Asip

Ginger Bowers Kathy Cayce



Our Red Wagon Event this year, "A Night in Memphis" was not only great fun, but it created the funds to start a pilot summer literacy program at St. Peter Claver School in support of our efforts to increase literacy. Members and guests enjoyed Southern fare and drinks at The Roswell Ensemble Theatre while being transported back in time with the musical, *Million Dollar Quartet*, featuring the music of Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins! Christ Child once again benefitted from generous chapter support!

### SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY SERVICE AND SOCIAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 6 PM AT BARBARA MILLER'S HOME



Our chapter is thrilled to welcome

**Father Daniel Ketter** 

as our new Spiritual Advisor.

## Changing Little Lives

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Margaret Fuller's words are true, but sadly, many children in our city read below grade level, and much skill is lost over the summer months. Our Summer Enrichment Program at St. Peter Claver Regional School aims to help with this issue. As a result of strong community support, including a grant from the St. Ann's Women group, each Wednesday for 8 weeks from June through July, certified teachers worked with students, strengthening and reinforcing reading and math skills. Students took a mid-morning break during each 3 hour session where Christ Child volunteers provided a snack and encouragement! Used books were also offered each week to students attending to encourage reading at home. The program was beneficial to all students who attended and we hope to increase this effort in future years. We are so grateful to all who support our chapter so that we can provide valuable programs to deserving children.







## **OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT:**



## Grady Rockers

Physical contact and nurturing are essential for a newborn baby's physical and psychological development. In 2004, our chapter starting holding and rocking the babies at Grady Hospital under the supervision of their nursing staff. Every Friday our Grady Rockers feed, rock, cuddle and sing to the fragile babies born in the NICU but are not yet able to go home. Some of the families may live too far away to visit every day, so our volunteers are able to fill in some of the nurturing and love so critical to their development.

In addition to rocking, our chapter supplies used children's books and coloring books for the waiting room for siblings who come to visit, and every December we host a preemie baby shower whick provides baby clothes, blankets and other newborn essentials.

This outreach is one our most popular and is currently coordinated by Margie Jameson. Patti Decraene and Sue Traszka had been our Grady coordinators in the past. This month as we feature Grady NICU, we want to thank Sue for her years of service to this Outreach.

"I find it to be an honor and privilege to be able to be a Grady rocker. The doctors and nurses that work in the NICU are absolute angels here on earth. Their hands are very full caring for these sweet little baby's medical needs, and they do not always have time to simply hold them, which is an important part of the babies health and development That is when the rockers step in. As a volunteer rocker, I am able to experience the power of touch. To be able to hold and rock these sweet little ones is amazing. Often times there are babies who are in the NICU for several weeks and months. To see them get stronger and strive each time I'm there amazes me. I'd like to think that holding, talking, singing and rocking them is an important part of their progress. My heart always feels full after rocking some of God's most incredible miracles."

Sue Trzaska, Grady Rocker Extraordinaire

