



CONNECTIONS

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CCST Officers (2025-27):

President:

Deborah Auclair

Immediate Past President:

Nancy Thorpe

1st Vice President:

Vita Balsino

2nd Vice Pres. & Membership Chair:

Dianna Balsamo

Treasurer:

Nancy Thorpe

Recording Secretary:

Pat Lunsford

Board Members at Large:

Bonnie Alberts, Ann MacDonald, Liz McCandlish

2026 Red Wagon Award Honoree: Nancy Thorpe

The Christ Child Society of Tucson proudly honors Nancy Thorpe as the 2026 Red Wagon Award recipient. A past president, Nancy guided the organization through the challenging COVID years with calm leadership, faith, and a steadfast commitment to serving children in need. After her presidency, she continued her service as Treasurer, faithfully stewarding the Society's resources. A retired teacher with a passion for literacy, Nancy also led the effort to place five book vending machines in low-income Catholic schools,



A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION WITH A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES IN HAND, NANCY RECEIVES A HEARTFELT SYMBOL OF GRATITUDE FOR HER QUIET STRENGTH, DEVOTION, AND UNWAVERING

giving children books of their own. Through humility, dedication, and heart, Nancy has strengthened the Society's mission and touched countless young lives. †



CHRISTMAS JOY IN EVERY

A Christmas Smile, A Child's Wonder

A child at Immaculate Heart School beams with delight as he receives his Christmas gift, his wide-eyed joy and sweet spirit of belief capturing the magic of the season. This moment reflects the Christ Child Society's mission—bringing love, hope, and happiness to children in need. †

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Spreading Holiday Cheer at St. Ambrose Catholic School December 5

This December, the Christ Child Society of Tucson brought holiday joy to the students of St. Ambrose Catholic School, thanks to the generosity and



dedication of Bernie and Judy Chuinard. The children eagerly awaited their turn to receive handmade stockings filled with toys, each carefully prepared to delight and inspire.

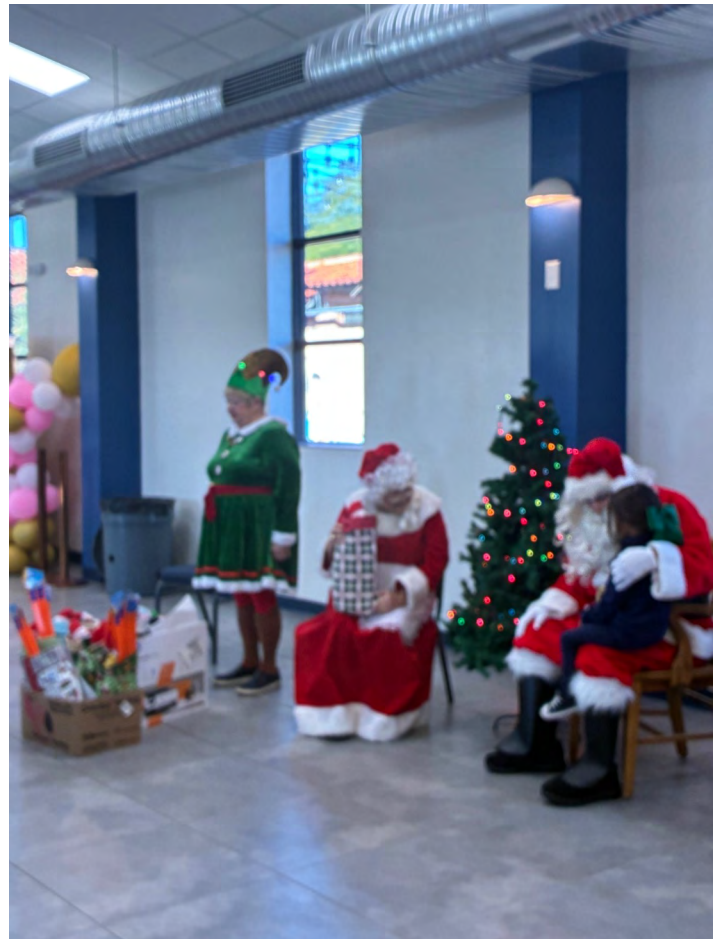
The excitement in the classroom was palpable as students opened their stockings, discovering small



toys, treats, and surprises. Laughter and smiles filled the room, creating a festive atmosphere that captured the true spirit of giving. Bernie and Judy personally

ensured that each child felt special and celebrated, sharing not just gifts but also warmth and attention that made the day unforgettable.

This visit is part of CCST's broader holiday outreach, which this season included seven school locations, handmade stockings, and special gifts tailored to each



child's age and interests. Volunteers like Bernie and Judy bring the magic of Christmas to life, reminding children that they are loved, remembered, and valued.

Through these thoughtful efforts, CCST not only delivers gifts but also creates lasting memories, spreading joy, hope, and community spirit throughout Tucson's children during the holiday season. †

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

The Christ Child Society of Tucson would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Dave Scordato and the entire Scordato staff for their outstanding support of our fundraising efforts over the years. Your generosity in providing a welcoming and beautifully maintained meeting venue has made it possible for our members to gather, plan, and celebrate our mission with comfort and ease.

We would also like to give a special shout-out to Taylor, our dependable server, whose attentiveness, professionalism, and cheerful presence never fail to make each meeting a pleasant and memorable experience.

It is through the dedication and kindness of community partners like Dave, the Scordato team, and Taylor that the Christ Child Society can continue its work supporting children in need. We are truly grateful for your continued friendship, generosity, and unwavering support. †



DEB GAVE DAVE A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION ON 12/8/25.



CHRIST CHILD LADIES CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH LITTLE GIFTS.



CCST POOLED OUR MONEY AND GAVE OUR SERVER, TAYLOR, \$200 GIFT ALONG WITH A BACKPACK FILLED WITH ITEMS.

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Holiday Cheer for Kinship Families Catholic Community Services

The holiday season came alive at the Catholic Community Services—Kinship Families Center thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus at St. Mark the Evangelist Church. This year, they provided 50 warm coats for boys and girls, ensuring each child stayed cozy and cared for during the winter months. Special recognition goes to Marcia and her husband, Chris, whose dedication and hard work were key to making this gift possible.

Molly Careaga, B.S., Program Supervisor for Kinship Services and Foster Care in Pima and Pinal Counties, expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the agency. She carefully selected 28 children, ages 6 to 14,



CHRIS & MARCIA WELLS UNLOAD THE 50 COATS FROM ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST'S KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS.



EACH HOLDING A KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS COAT, MARCIA & CHRIS WELLS FLANK MOLLY QUALE FROM KINSHIP FAMILIES CENTER.



MOLLY QUALE FROM KINSHIP FAMILIES CENTER ENTHUSIASTICALLY LISTENS TO MARCHI WELLS TELL HER ABOUT THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY.



providing gifts suited to each child's age and interests. Girls received items such as potholder looms, while boys received Lego cars. Every child also received a handmade drawstring bag containing a blanket and other small toys.

The joy on the children's faces was priceless. Their excitement and gratitude were a reminder of the true spirit of the season—warmth, generosity, and the knowledge that they are valued and remembered. Through gifts like these, the community shows that every child matters, and that holiday magic can come to life through simple acts of kindness and care. ✝

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Thank You From Santa Cruz on December 10



Thank you from Pio Decimo on December 12



CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

CCST Brings Holiday Warmth to Pio Decimo Senior Center

On December 12th, the Christ Child Society of Tucson brought warmth and holiday cheer to the residents of the Pio Decimo Senior Center with the gift of cozy blankets. The seniors' faces lit up with wide, heartfelt smiles, a touching reminder that they are valued and remembered during the holiday season. Many expressed their happiness and gratitude, thrilled to be thought of and celebrated.

Pio Decimo Senior Center provides a safe, vibrant, and welcoming community for low-income seniors. Residents enjoy life among friends and activities at two housing complexes: **Barrio Viejo Elderly Housing** and **Casitas on East Broadway**. Barrio Viejo, located just across the street from the center, features 62 bright, single-story casitas with desert landscaping, while Casitas on East Broadway, at Broadway and Plumer, is a two-story building with 57 apartments. As part of the HUD 202 program, residents must be 62 or older, with rent set at 30% of adjusted monthly income.

Through this annual tradition, CCST hopes to continue building connections, spreading warmth, and reminding residents that they are cherished. These visits are about more than blankets—they are about community, care, and the joy of the season. ✚



A SENIOR HUGS HER GIFT OUTSIDE THE BARRIO VIEJO ELDERLY HOUSING.

THE SENIORS AT BARRIO VIEJO ENJOY RECEIVING A GIFT OF A COZY BLANKET.



CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Immaculate Heart Academy December 19

The holiday season is a time of joy, generosity, and community—and in 2025, the Christ Child Society of Tucson brought all three to life. Volunteers Angela Schneider, Bernie & Judy Chuinard went above and beyond, visiting seven different locations to spread holiday cheer to children throughout the community.

At each school, Elves Angela Schneider and Judy Vander Linde welcomed the students with delightful Christmas stories, sparking laughter, excitement, and wide-eyed wonder.

They were the perfect warm-up act for Santa and Mrs. Claus, Bernie and Judy Chuinard, who arrived carrying stockings overflowing with toys for both girls and boys. The boys were thrilled to receive racing tracks and cars, complete with the large orange pieces shown in the accompanying photos.



A CHILD AT IMMACULATE HEART SCHOOL BEAMS WITH DELIGHT AS HE RECEIVES HIS GIFT.



ALL THE CHILDREN ARE THRILLED WITH THEIR GIFTS AND PATIENTLY WAIT TO OPEN THEM.

One young boy in particular captured the true spirit of Christmas—the pure joy on his face was unforgettable, reminding everyone that the season is about love, generosity, and the happiness of giving.

Through these visits, CCST volunteers created more



SANTA AND Ms. CLAUS LISTEN TO A STUDENT'S CHRISTMAS WISHES. JUDY VANDER LINDE AND ANGELA SCHNEIDER OBSERVE.



Sr. VERONICA, PRINCIPAL AT IMMACULATE HEART ACADEMY, ALSO ENJOYS SANTA VISITING.

than just gifts; they created lasting memories and shared the magic of the holidays. Their dedication ensures that every child feels celebrated, cared for, and remembered this Christmas season.

Prayer for Humility (at IHA): Dear Jesus, You said, "Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart!" (Matt. 11:29). You are God, yet You became little out of love for me. I desire to become little for love of You. Help me to be honest about my strengths and weaknesses. May You be glorified in everything that I do! Amen ☩

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Our Mother of Sorrow's Catholic School December 17



A SANTA'S ARRIVAL BRINGS HOLIDAY MAGIC TO THE STUDENTS OF OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL.



EXCITEMENT FILLS THE CLASSROOM AS SANTA SPREADS FESTIVE CHEER AT OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

CCST CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Spreading Holiday Cheer at St. Ambrose Catholic School December 5



OUR LADY OF THE DESERT BABY SHOWER TREE IS COVERED WITH TAGS FOR PARISHIONERS TO TAKE TO PURCHASE GIFTS FOR WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY PROGRAM.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS COMES ALIVE AT ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL WITH A VISIT FROM SANTA.



DR. ANN SANGUINETI, A FRIEND OF CCST, VISITS TEENAGE PREGNANCY CENTER WITH SANTA AND STANDS IN FRONT OF GIFTS FOR THE GIRLS.



A CHILD AT ST AMBROSE LISTENS INTENTLY TO SANTA.

CCST HELPS FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On February 7, 2026, five members of the Christ Child Society of Tucson volunteered at a *Feed My Starving Children* packing event held at Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene, the home parish of our member Nancy Thorpe.

Feed My Starving Children is dedicated to turning hunger into hope. Over six days, volunteers worked together to produce an incredible 1.6 million meals. Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene shared the sobering reality that every four seconds a child dies from starvation—more than 200,000 children each year worldwide.

At our station, children worked alongside us to complete 11 boxes, each containing 36 meals. Our single shift will provide a year's worth of meals for 156 children.



DICK AND BETTY RYAN, CCST MEMBERS, ARE REALLY INTO THIS ACTIVITY.

DEB AUCLAIR STANDS OUTSIDE WHERE THE FMSC TRUCK IS BEING LOADED WITH OUR ASSEMBLY THIS AFTERNOON.



ANGELA POSES WITH A VOLUNTEER. THE BEST WORK YOU CAN DO IN A HAIRNET IS FMSC.



NANCY THORPE KICKS OFF EACH MEAL WITH THE ADDITION OF SOY. IT ALL BEGINS WITH GLOVES ON!

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PHOENIX—RED WAGON FARE

Visiting Our Sister Chapter: Christ Child Society of Phoenix

The day before our own fundraiser, members of the Christ Child Society of Tucson had the pleasure of attending the Christ Child Society-Phoenix fundraiser in Chandler, Arizona. The event was wonderful, with over 170 attendees, an excellent lunch, and a red raffle featuring enticing gift baskets. Angela and Deb were thrilled to each win two beautifully curated baskets, adding to the joy of the day.

The Phoenix Chapter has a rich history that reflects dedication and community spirit. In 1984, Emily Byrne was approached by her friend Natalie Brown about starting a Phoenix chapter. Kathleen Henes and JoAnn Donnelly, friends with ties to the Detroit Christ Child Chapter and experience organizing other chapters, provided guidance and support. With Emily's group of Phoenix friends, and Kathleen and JoAnn's help, the chapter was officially founded in 1985, chartered in 1988, and incorporated in 1992. From its early beginnings, the Phoenix Chapter has carried forward the Christ Child Society's mission of



THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY-PHOENIX WARMLY INVITED US TO THEIR CELEBRATION — AN INSPIRING GATHERING IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN IN NEED.

serving children in need, building a lasting legacy in Arizona.

Attending the Phoenix fundraiser was not only a delightful experience but also a reminder of the shared mission and strong bonds among Christ Child chapters across the state. †



DEB AUCLAIR, ANGELA SCHNEIDER AND NANCY THORPE REPRESENT CCST AT THE EVENT.



CCSP PLACE SETTING WITH TRADITIONAL RED WAGON AND SILHOUETTE OF THE BOY PULLING IT.

CCST 55th ANNIVERSARY LUAU FUNDRAISER, MARCH 1ST

The Christ Child Society of Tucson is thrilled to recognize Katrina Berg and her amazing team for their exceptional support of the Christ Child Society's 55th Anniversary Luau Fundraiser at The Highlands at Dove Mountain. From planning to execution, Katrina ensured every detail—from coordinating the PowerPoint and music for the Hawaiian dancers to overseeing beautiful decorations—ran smoothly. Her professionalism, calm leadership, and genuine care created a joyful, memorable evening that exceeded our fundraising goals, helping us serve more under-resourced children in Tucson. Katrina's dedication and spirit of service truly made a lasting difference!

- Angela Schneider, National Christ Child Board Immediate Past President
- Deb Auclair, President Christ Child Society of Tucson
- Bernie and Judy Chuinard, Committee Chairs and Acquisitions
- Nancy Thorpe, Treasurer, Christ Child Society of Tucson
- Karen Baker, Committee Event Co-Coordinator



KATRINA BERG, HIGHLAND'S EVENT MANAGER, PAUSES FOR A MOMENT WITH CCST MEMBER, NANCY THORPE, BOTH ARE HAPPY AFTER A WE'LL ORGANIZED LUAU EVENT.



The Highlands at Dove Mountain

Nestled in the foothills of the Tortolita Mountains in Marana, Arizona, the Highlands at Dove Mountain was established in 1998 as a master-planned community for active adults. Known for low-maintenance homes and stunning

views, it offers golf courses, a clubhouse, and a variety of clubs and activities for residents. The area has deep roots, with evidence of Hohokam Indian habitation from 300®B.C. to 1450®A.D., and the nearby Tortolita

Mountains ("tortolita" means "little turtle dove") inspired the community's name. From its early days as the T Bench Bar Ranch, the Highlands has become a vibrant hub for relaxation, recreation, and community life. †

CCST 55th ANNIVERSARY LUAU FUNDRAISER, MARCH 1ST



CCST 55th ANNIVERSARY LUAU FUNDRAISER, MARCH 1ST



ANGELA SCHNEIDER AND RJ SAAVEDRA FROM REACHOUT



FR. PAUL, CCST SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, ENJOYS THE CCST LUAU WITH FRIENDS AT HIS TABLE.



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS AND THEIR LEADER HAVE A MOMENT TO REST AFTER ALL THEIR HARD WORK AT THE LUAU.



DIANNA BALSAMO GREET'S JOHANNA WARNER, A MEMBER OF CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY-PHOENIX.



PAT LUNSFORD,
NANCY JONES
(SEATED).

CCST 55th ANNIVERSARY LUAU FUNDRAISER, MARCH 1ST

Halau Hula O Ualani (performers) Bring the Spirit of Aloha to Tucson

A special highlight of our recent fundraiser was a delightful performance by a local group of Hawaiian hula dancers who brought the spirit of the islands right into the room. Tucson is home to several hula groups that keep Polynesian dance traditions alive in the desert Southwest, sharing music, culture, and the joyful “Aloha spirit” through performances and community events.

Our event featured a charming troupe made up of five talented women and three adorable young girls. Dressed in colorful island attire, they performed a series of traditional Hawaiian songs accompanied by graceful hula dancing. Each movement told a story, with flowing hand gestures and rhythmic steps that captured the beauty and culture of the Hawaiian Islands.

The dancers did more than perform—they engaged the audience throughout the program, inviting smiles, applause, and a sense of fun that filled the room. The youngest performers quickly became the stars of the evening. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and joyful expressions won over everyone in attendance. It was impossible not to smile watching them dance.

Hula is more than entertainment; it is a cultural art form that celebrates storytelling, nature, and community. By sharing their talents, these dancers brought warmth, color, and a little bit of Hawaii to our gathering.

Without question, the little girls were the hit of the event, reminding us that joy, culture, and generosity can come together in the most beautiful ways. †



BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA TO OUR FUNDRAISER, THE TALENTED HULA DANCERS AND THREE DELIGHTFUL YOUNG GIRLS SURROUND ANGELA SCHNEIDER AND CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE WITH GRACEFUL MOVEMENTS AND JOYFUL HAWAIIAN SONGS.



WITH GRACEFUL HAND MOVEMENTS AND RHYTHMIC STEPS, THE DANCERS SHARED THE BEAUTY AND STORYTELLING TRADITION OF HAWAIIAN HULA.

THE YOUNGEST HULA DANCERS STOLE THE SHOW, CHARMING THE AUDIENCE WITH THEIR SMILES, ENTHUSIASM, AND ISLAND SPIRIT.



RED WAGON AWARD WINNER MARCH

Today, we have the privilege of honoring someone who has quietly and faithfully shaped the heart of the Christ Child Society of Tucson — Nancy Thorpe.

Nancy Thorpe is a past president of the Christ Child and led us as President during the COVID years — a time filled with uncertainty, fear, and distance. When it would have been easy for us to drift apart, she held us together. With calm strength and deep faith, she reminded us that our mission did not pause just because the world felt uncertain. Children still needed us. Families still needed us. And love — especially Christ’s love — was still meant to be shared. When her presidency ended, Nancy did not step away. Instead, she humbly took on the role of Treasurer, serving these past four years with integrity, diligence, and quiet dedication. She has carefully safeguarded our resources so that every dollar reflects our mission: to express our love of Christ through personal service to God’s children in need, regardless of race or creed.

As a retired teacher, Nancy’s love for literacy is not just a project — it is a calling. Because of her devoted leadership, five book vending machines now stand in low-income Catholic schools, each filled annually with \$1,000 worth of books. Books that children can choose. Books they can take home. Books that say to a child, “You matter.”

In a world where so many homes have no books at all, Nancy is quietly changing futures — one story at a time. But perhaps Nancy’s greatest gift to us is her heart. She is patient with every personality. She refuses to let small differences divide us. She gently brings us back to what matters most: serving children in need, together.

Nancy, your leadership has strengthened our mission, our unity, and our faith.

For all you have given to the Christ Child, it is our honor to present you with the 2026 Red Wagon Award.

The CCST plaque has been newly inscribed with Nancy’s name and is a symbol of the gratitude we hold for her in our hearts.

Congratulations, Nancy! ✝



A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION WITH A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES IN HAND, NANCY RECEIVES A HEARTFELT SYMBOL OF GRATITUDE FOR HER QUIET STRENGTH, DEVOTION, AND UNWAVERING SERVICE TO THE MISSION OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY.



HONORING A LEGACY OF SERVICE THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TUCSON PLAQUE, NEWLY INSCRIBED WITH NANCY THORPE’S NAME, STANDS AS A LASTING TRIBUTE TO HER YEARS OF FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP AND LOVE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.

OUR PROGRAMS

Layettes : Supporting New Mothers with Love: CCST & Creative Giving

The Christ Child Society of Tucson (CCST) works tirelessly to support newborns and their families, and one of our most cherished programs is the distribution of layettes. Approximately 20 layettes are prepared for 11 local agencies four times each year, totaling over 700 layettes annually. Each bag contains everything a new mother needs as she begins her journey into motherhood – from clothing to blankets, and essential care items.

While CCST volunteers handle the hard work of assembling and organizing the layettes, we could not accomplish this mission without the generous support of Creative Giving at SaddleBrooke Ranch. On January 26, 2026, Dian Gowan delivered beautifully made layette items, continuing a tradition of care and generosity. In 2025, thanks to the dedication and contributions of Creative Giving members, Vita Balsino calculated that the total donations amounted to over \$48,000, making a tangible difference for hundreds of families. These layettes provide more than items; they offer comfort, dignity, and support to mothers in the early days of their child’s life. Through this partnership, CCST and Creative Giving are ensuring that every newborn has a warm welcome into the world. ✝



DIAN GOWAN FROM SADDLEBROOKE RANCH’S CREATIVE GIVING DROPS OFF LAYETTE ITEMS THIS JANUARY.



HERE ARE PICTURES OF THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE BEAUTIFUL ITEMS WE RECEIVE EACH MONTH FROM CREATIVE GIVING.

OUR PROGRAMS

Layettes : Bringing Love and Support to New Mothers

On January 27, 2026, Marsha of the Christ Child Society of Tucson (CCST) delivered a collection of carefully assembled layettes to Taiya at New Life Pregnancy Center. Each layette is thoughtfully prepared to provide everything a new mother needs as she begins her journey into motherhood — from clothing and blankets to essential care items.

New Life Pregnancy Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women facing unplanned pregnancies. Their mission is to provide practical assistance, emotional support, and education to help mothers and families make informed choices. The center offers prenatal support, parenting resources, and material assistance, creating a safe and nurturing environment for both mother and child.

CCST's layette program ensures that mothers served by New Life Pregnancy Center receive tangible help right when they need it most. By providing over 700 layettes each year to local agencies, CCST helps ease the challenges of a newborn's first days and demonstrates that the community is behind every mother and child.

The partnership between CCST and New Life Pregnancy Center is a powerful example of community support in action — combining volunteers' dedication, thoughtful gifts, and the center's compassionate care to make a meaningful difference in the lives of families. ✝



TAIYA RECEIVES THE LAYETTES WITH GRATITUDE, ENSURING THAT MOTHERS SERVED BY NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER HAVE THE SUPPORT AND ESSENTIALS THEY NEED FOR THEIR NEWBORNS.



MARSHA OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TUCSON DELIVERS 20 CAREFULLY PREPARED LAYETTES TO CASA DE LOS NIÑOS, PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO SUPPORT NEW MOTHERS AND THEIR NEWBORNS IN THE COMMUNITY.



MARSHA OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TUCSON DELIVERS CAREFULLY ASSEMBLED LAYETTES TO TAIYA AT NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER ON JANUARY 27, 2026, BRINGING ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR NEW MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES.

OUR PROGRAMS

Literacy : CCST Celebrates Dr. Seuss's Birthday! March 2, 2025

The Christ Child Society of Tucson joined the nationwide celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday on March 2—a day that brings kids, teens, and books together across the country. Schools, libraries, and community centers celebrate the joy of reading, and CCST was delighted to be part of the festivities.

Under the leadership of Literacy Chairperson Nancy Thorpe, CCST volunteers spent three days at San Xavier Mission School sharing the fun of reading with students of all ages. On Favorite Character Day, Nancy delighted the younger students by dressing as Garfield and reading to the kindergarten and first-grade classes. One student even exclaimed, "I liked your movie!"—a heartwarming reminder that stories can spark imagination and joy.

Volunteers Deb, Karen, Bonnie (literacy co-chair), and Angela each took part over the three days, bringing enthusiasm and encouragement to the classrooms. Along with the readings, the volunteers also provided healthy fruit snacks, helping create a festive and welcoming atmosphere for the students.

The experience was a joyful success. The students were engaged, the volunteers had a wonderful time, and together they celebrated the love of reading. Through activities like this, the Christ Child Society of Tucson continues to inspire young minds, reminding children that books are not just lessons—they are adventures, laughter, and the beginning of a lifelong love of learning. †



OUR PROGRAMS

Literacy : Thank you from SXMS

San Xavier Mission School Volunteer Day January 20, 2026

A Warm Welcome at San Xavier Mission School

Recently, members of the Christ Child Society of Tucson (CCST) were honored to attend a special volunteer appreciation event during Catholic Schools Week at San Xavier Mission School. The school, which has recently reopened, now serves kindergarten and first-grade students from the nearby reservation community.

San Xavier Mission School serves young students from the nearby Tohono O'odham Nation community and continues the long tradition of education connected with the historic Mission San Xavier del Bac. Often called the "White Dove of the Desert," the mission has been an important spiritual and cultural landmark in the region for generations. Today, the school carries that tradition forward by nurturing the faith, education, and future of the children it serves.

The visit was a joyful reminder of the impact a caring community can have on young learners. As CCST members arrived, the children immediately recognized them and rushed forward with smiles and hugs. Their excitement and warmth made the moment unforgettable.

One of the ways CCST supports the students at the school is through a book vending machine, which rewards children with a brand-new book to take home and keep. CCST fills the machine with books twice each year, helping ensure that the children have access to stories that spark imagination and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

The gratitude from the students and staff was heartfelt. During the appreciation event, the children proudly shared how much they enjoy choosing books from the machine and bringing them home to read with their families.

The visit was a beautiful reminder that small acts of generosity—like providing books—can make a meaningful difference. For the members of CCST, the hugs from the children said it best: the gift of reading is truly a gift that keeps giving. †



THE CHILDREN OF SAN XAVIER MISSION SCHOOL PERFORMED A NATIVE DANCE FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.



THE WARM WELCOME FROM THE STUDENTS OF SAN XAVIER MISSION SCHOOL MADE THE VISIT ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL FOR CCST VOLUNTEERS.



MEMBERS OF THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF TUCSON VISIT SAN XAVIER MISSION SCHOOL DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE PARTNERSHIP THAT SUPPORTS YOUNG READERS.

OUR PROGRAMS

Wings: Handmade Comfort for Children and Foster Teens

Staff members at the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) proudly displayed the crocheted bears lovingly made by Anna Mae. These soft bears were created especially for children who come to CAC during difficult moments, offering them a small but meaningful source of comfort when they need it most.

At our April meeting, Renee, Director of Advocacy at the Children's Advocacy Center of

Southern Arizona, will join us to share more about the important work CAC does for vulnerable children in our community.

CCST volunteer Mary Livingston has also been hard at work supporting foster teens. Mary made many drawstring bags for the foster teen backpacks and generously donated additional fabric that can be used to create more bags in the future.

Through the Wings program, CCST now serves more than 730 foster teens each year. The backpacks provided include high-quality essentials, and supporters from other charitable organizations often remark that the items supplied to these teens exceed what is typically offered by many programs. This generosity ensures that teens facing difficult transitions receive items that are both practical and dignifying.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC) STAFF PROUDLY DISPLAYS THE CROCHETED BEARS THAT ANNA MAE MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR THEM. RENEE, PICTURED ON THE LEFT, WILL BE JOINING US AT OUR APRIL MEETING TO DISCUSS CAC.

CCST HELPER, NANCY MIX STOPS BY WITH HAND MADE BAGS FROM HER FRIENDS. THEY HAVE AGREED TO TAKE MORE!

OUR PROGRAMS

Wings: Foster Teen Bag Program Collection at Santa Catalina

We sincerely thank the members of Santa Catalina Parish for your generous support of our Wings foster-teen collection weekend on February 14–15, 2026. Your donations—over \$4,000 in hygiene products, underwear, personal items, and monetary gifts—once again reflected the kindness and compassion that define our parish community.

Because of your generosity, we can continue meeting our monthly goal of providing 50 backpacks filled with essential items for foster teens. May God bless you for your faithful support and your enduring spirit of giving.



THE 4 PM PULPIT PITCH WAS DONE BY MARY BARRIOS AND SHE RECEIVED APPLAUSE!



SCCC Wings Collection February '26 amounted to over \$4,100



- Hygiene
- Socks & Uwear
- Cash
- Other
- School Supplies
- Water bottles
- Blankets / fabric
- Day Dev. / Journals



CCST MEETINGS THIS QUARTER

Christmas at CCST

Christmas is always a special time for the Christ Child Society of Tucson, a season when gratitude and generosity take center stage. This year, instead of our traditional gift exchange, members chose to pool their contributions and present a thoughtful gift to our wonderful server, Taylor. She was genuinely touched by the gesture and the care it represented.

At the same gathering, we also celebrated Dave and the staff at Scordato's for their long-standing support of our organization.

Their generosity in providing our meeting space and supporting our fundraising efforts over the years has been invaluable.

As always, the food was delicious, and the service was exceptional. Dave and his team truly have hearts for their

customers, and we are grateful for the friendship, generosity, and warm hospitality they continue to share with CCST.

2026 CCST Calendar March through May

Board Mtg. before each Member Mtg. beginning at 10:15AM. All interested can attend. Scordatos (Dave) to open at 10 AM for us.	Monthly	Cath. Comm. Svs. Pio Decimo Nutrition \$25
	2/18-4/2	St. Augustine Pack the Play Pen (Lent)
	March 1	CCST Gala 55th Year @ The Highlands 2-6PM
	March 9	CCST Retreat @ Santa Catalina 9 - 12 Saguaro Rm.
	April 13	CCST Mtg. Guest Speaker - Renee H. from Child. Advocacy Cntr.
	May 1	Cath. Comm. Svs. Kinship Conf.
	May TBD	Layette of Love at St. Mark
	May 16	Layette of Love at Dianna's-bring a friend!
Jun. 12	Get-on-the-Bus AZ Children Visit Incarcerated Dads	

Mar-26							Apr-26							May-26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28					24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
Wings bag assembly at Unit							Easter		Mtg. at Scordatos			Layette Assembly			Shower of Love					

Mel Robbins' "Let Them"

Encourage readers to release control of others and focus on personal empowerment.

Key Quotes

- “ Let them judge. Let them react. Let them doubt you. Let them question the decisions you are making. Instead of wasting your time worrying about them, start living your life in a way that makes you proud of yourself.”
- “ You cannot control what other people say, think, or do—you can only control yourself.
- “ The more you let other people live their lives, the better your life gets. The more control you give up, the more you gain.
- “ Acceptance of another person, as they are, is the foundation of a healthy and loving relationship. *Let them show you who they are.*
- “ Focusing on what you can't control makes you stressed. Focusing on what you can control makes you powerful.
- “ When you stop obsessing over what other people think, say, or do, you finally have the energy to focus on your own life.
- “ You don't need anyone else's permission to be happy, to pursue your passions, or to live the life you've always dreamed of.
- “ First, it's never your job to manage another adult's emotions. When someone gives you the silent treatment, plays the victim, or erupts in frustration—let them.
- “ The Let Them Theory is about freedom. Two simple words—“let them”—can free you from the burden of trying to manage other people.

These quotes capture the essence of Mel Robbins' *Let Them* philosophy: encouraging readers to release the need to control others, embrace personal responsibility, and focus their energy on living a fulfilling and authentic life.