



CONNECTIONS

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CCST Officers (2021-2023):

President:

Deborah Auclair

Immediate Past President:

Nancy Thorpe

Vice President:

Vita Balsino

Vice Pres. Membership Chair & Chapter

Liaison:

Dianna Balsamo

Treasurer:

Nancy Thorpe

Board Members at Large:

Bonnie Alberts, Frances Smith &

Pat Lunsford

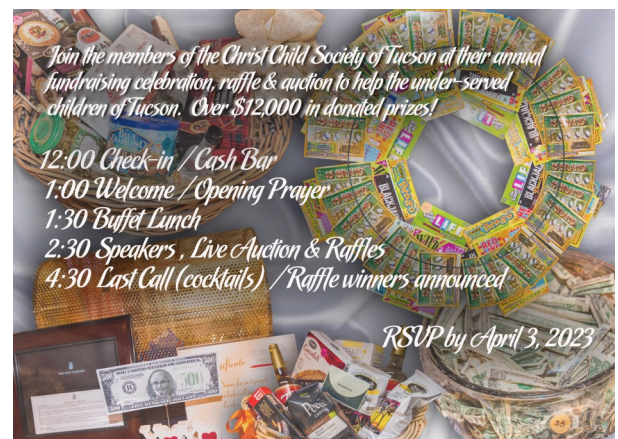
Message from the President

The Christ Child Society of Tucson (CCST) is hosting a fundraising luncheon at The Highlands Clubhouse Ballroom on Sunday, April 23, 2023 beginning at noon. You are invited! It is \$85.00 and there will be a live auction and raffles to win over \$12,000.00 in donated items.

We believe that there is joy wherever you find children. In today's changing world, the joys are sometimes diminished by poverty, neglect, abuse or disability.

Our Tucson Chapter exists to help restore happiness and basic needs through personal services to God's children in need.

Please contact
Nancy Thorpe at
(520)256-9576
for details.



Deb, Vita, Dianna, Nancy and Judy hip deep in collating invitations

Christmas Party and a Christmas Thank You

CCST had another other special Christmas celebration that missed the publication deadline for our last newsletter. On December 14, 2022 there was a Christmas party at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School. School Principal, Shakenya Gholson, is a DC Christ Child Member. CCST members, Bernie & Judy Vanderlin served as the



celebration's Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus. The children were excited and even the adults were touched by the magic they shared! When Santa Bernie asked a little girl if she had been good, she said "Kinda – I'll do better next year."

NCCS President & CCST's own, Angela Schneider, was dressed as Santa's Elf and read to the delightful children. Another highlight of the day was Our Lady of the Desert's Knights of Columbus who were present and gave coats to the children.



CCST member, Judy Chuinard, passed out homemade Christmas stockings filled with books, crayons, school supplies and candy canes. The children were over the moon with joy. God is Good!



CCST members helped Catholic Community Services under-served families in Tucson. As was reported in our last issue, we helped twenty families (including 21 children) buy making drawstring bags filled with fun activities. The families were very appreciative and sent us several thank you notes describing their happiness.

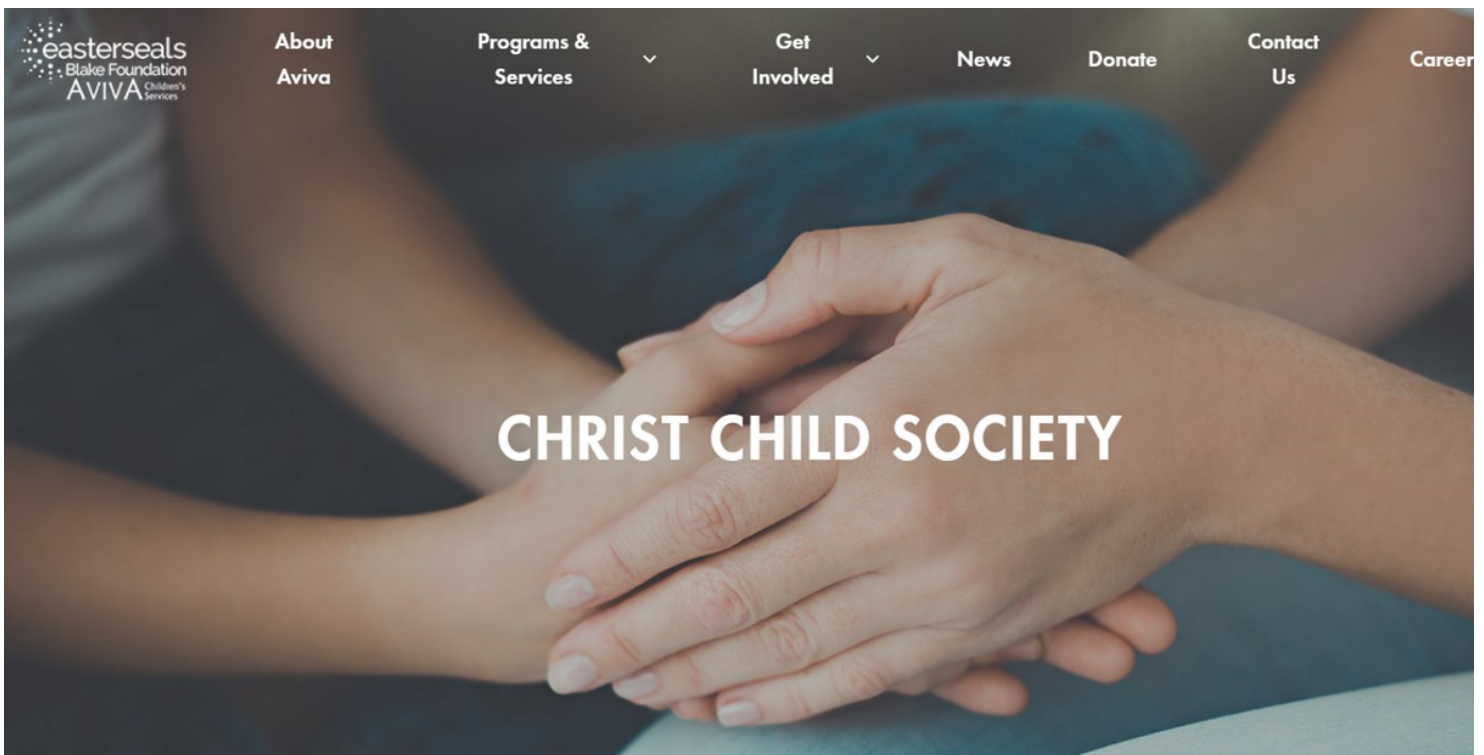
Layettes Program (Dianna Balsamo)



A group of us meet almost every Wednesday to assemble items for layettes and pack them.

I am proud to say that we have given out at least 130 layettes since the last printing of this newsletter.

Below is a lovely article from Aviva Children's Protective Services' web site from 2021 about their partnership with CCST.



May 19, 2021

By August of 2020, it was clear the Covid-19 pandemic was taking its toll on families all over Pima County; families involved with the Department of Child safety included. The Christ Child Society saw this need and reached out to us here at Aviva with an offer of layettes for babies. With diapers, clothing, blankets, and even toys, each bag was filled with items a baby needs to feel wrapped in love.

As the year progressed, our partnership with Christ Child Society continued to grow. They continued to provide us with their lovely layettes, and later joined us in our efforts to provide the children and families we serve with a happier holiday. This March, they've added teen bags to their gifts. Oft forgotten, teens can now receive a handmade bag full of essential items like socks and hygiene items. With so much of what they've had being taken away, giving teens something to call their own is so important.

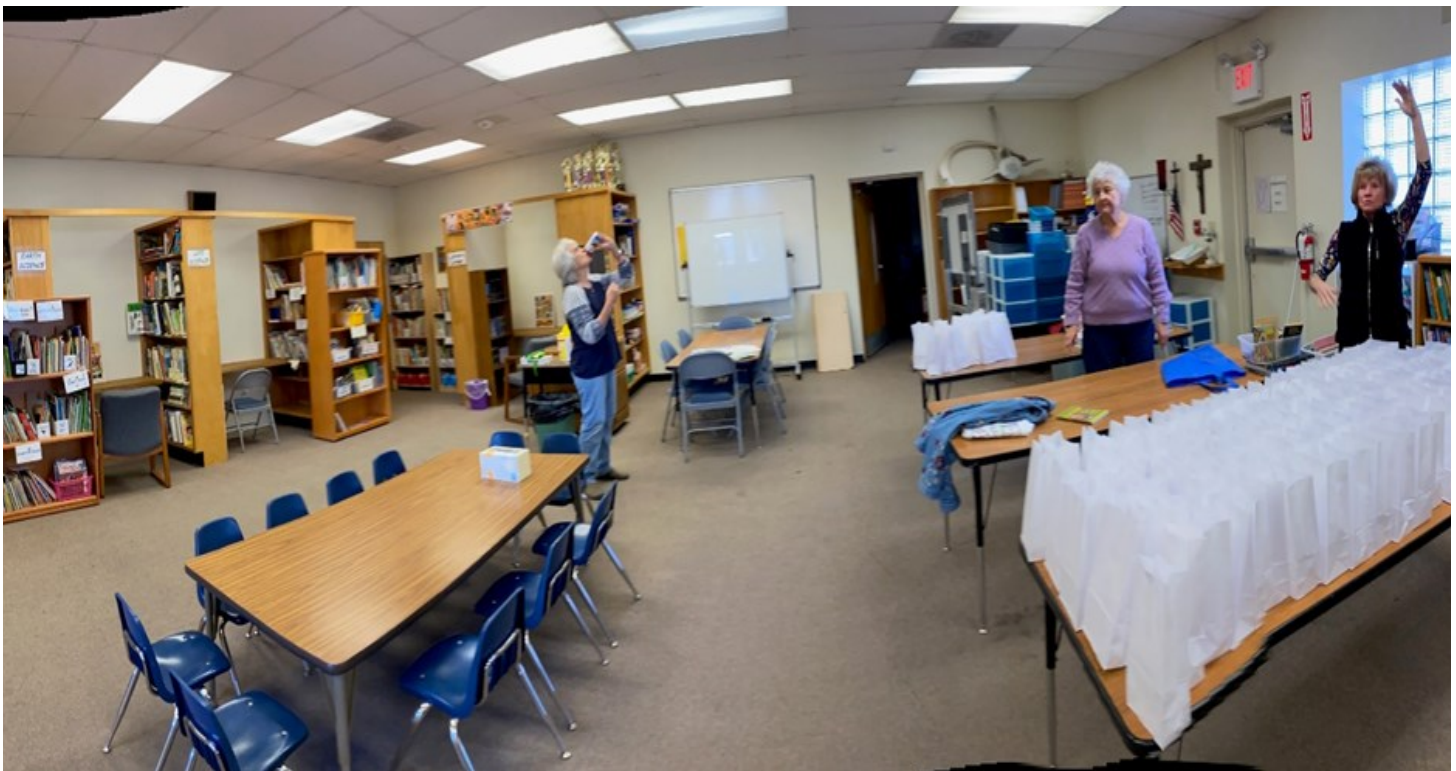
We at Aviva are so grateful for everything Christ Child Society does for us, and look forward to this continued partnership. Together we can help ensure foster children feel they do indeed matter.

Literacy Program (Bonnie Alberts/Deb Auclair)

Our Mother of Sorrow's school library is coming along. Pat Lunsford, Liz McCandlish, Karen Klavetter and Deb Auclair were there in February and progress was made.

Principal Shakenya Gholson would like to have an opening and allow the children to begin to use it right after Easter, 4/9/23.

The CCST Board approved giving OMOS funds to purchase needed items (chairs, rugs, posters, etc.) for their new library.



WINGS Foster Teen Program (Deb Auclair)

First delivery to Children's Advocacy Center with bags made by Lourdes Rodriguez to Director Renee Hartje on January 11, 2023. Renee gave Lourdes and me a tour of the center – complete with rooms for debriefing children and families. It was eye opening.



Santa Catalina Parish comes through for Wings Foster Teens again this year.



Thank you so much for making the Christ Child Society Wing's collection a tremendous success! Throughout the weekend of February 18-19, 2023, we collected over 26 overflowing totes of the items that the foster teens need. We can continue to give our partners 600 handmade cloth drawstring bags. Because of your generosity the bags can be filled with the necessities you provided and purchased with the money you donated. This will allow foster teens to carry their personal belongings with dignity through placement changes.

Yours in the name of The Christ Child, Deb Auclair, President Tucson Chapter

A Donation from an Old Friend's Family...

Since our last newsletter we have received a donation and a nice letter from the family of Anna Marie Friend. She was a member of CCST and passed away in 2010. Her nephew sent us a very



Obituary for Anna Marie Friend

Anna Marie Friend, 94, passed away Saturday December 7, 2013. Born in Barrington, IL, Anna Marie was an accomplished and fiercely independent woman throughout her life. She was a pioneering professional woman in the Bell telephone system in Chicago Illinois, inspiring women in her family to achieve more than they might have imagined.

She studied language and music and travelled extensively throughout her retirement, seeing the world and studying with or helping people.

She settled in Tucson in 1990 after living in Guadalajara, Mexico for many years.

Anna Marie joins her family, including her sisters Elizabeth and Theresa and brother George in heaven, and is survived by her sister Rosemary, many nieces, nephews, and their families; and will be remembered by many friends.

Anna Marie, remained active in the community and the Catholic church touching many lives, giving generously of her time and resources, thus she would appreciate contributions be sent to The Christ Child Society of Tucson, c/o Sylvia Blount 6120 E. 5th St. #117B, Tucson AZ 85711 or Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services, 3024 E Fort Lowell Rd, Tucson, AZ 85716 in lieu of flowers.

In Closing...Litany of Lenten - Feasting and Fasting

To fast from judging others and feast on what makes them special, Lord help us.

To fast from unkind words and feast on kindness, Lord help us.

To fast from jealousy and feast on offering compliments, Lord help us.

To fast from getting angry and feast on being patient, Lord help us.

To fast from worry and feast on trusting God, Lord help us.

To fast from complaining and feast on gratitude, Lord help us.

To fast from negative thoughts and feast on positive ones, Lord help us.

To fast from nastiness and feast on friendliness, Lord help us.

To fast from greed and feast on giving, Lord help us.

To fast from being the center of attention and feast on giving attention to others, Lord help us.

To fast from envy and feast on congratulating, Lord help us.

To fast from conflict and feast on understanding, Lord help us.

To fast from selfishness and feast on helping others, Lord help us.

To fast from doubt and feast on faith, Lord help us.

To fast from holding grudges and feast on forgiveness, Lord help us.

To fast from gloominess and feast on happiness, Lord help us.

To fast from discouragement and feast on hope, Lord help us.



If you would like to donate, become a member or get more information about The Christ Child Society of Tucson, please visit our webpage:

www.christchildtucson.org

or call: 585-385-9064