



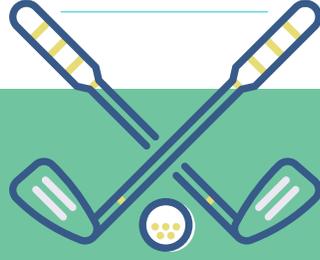
Newsletter

Issue

#03

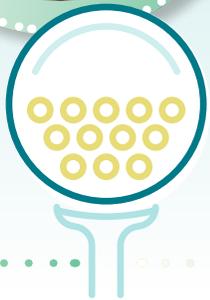
Spring 2023

Top Night "FORE" TopGolf!



Fun, fellowship, and raising funds! Over 150 guests filled the bays at TopGolf from 6-9pm on April 12th for Christ Child Society of Omaha's first TopGolf FUNdraining event. Dinner, drinks, and fun were had by all. Close to 30 generous sponsors and donors made Raising Funds "Fore" Families a success! Raffle tickets were available to purchase for a chance to win a 3-month TopGolf Premium Elite membership, and for those who wanted to give it a shot, a 150-yard Hole-in-One challenge carried a \$10,000 cash prize! The evening proved to be a fun opportunity to laugh and catch up

with colleagues and friends, as well as a chance to make new ones, all in support of vulnerable families. We appreciate all our supporters who came out and helped make the night a success! We couldn't do what we do without you!



Thank you to our sponsors!

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SAVE THE DATE

Soirée

Thursday, October 12, 2023
at Happy Hollow Club



Literacy Pilot Program

The Christ Child Society was born out of the desire of one woman, Mary Virginia Merrick, to serve poor children in her community. One of Mary’s early actions was to open a library. Mary understood in 1887 that reading is an essential skill that enhances education and creates opportunity. This remains true today.

To bolster reading skills, Christ Child Omaha kicked off a pilot literacy program in January. A brightly colored vending machine filled with books was installed at Westgate Elementary School. Students can earn shiny gold tokens to “purchase” a book. Many students only have access to books at the school library. The hope is that owning their own books will buoy their desire to read and improve reading skills.

In addition, volunteers from the C’est L’Amour auxiliary will host reading events at the school. Nine women read to classrooms in March and are anxious to return. Read alouds are fun for the students and volunteers, creating a shared experience and building important skills like vocabulary, comprehension and memory. Stories are powerful and Christ Child Omaha is delighted to promote reading for young learners in our community.

The Promise of Potential

Spring renews a sense of hope and expectancy, a glimpse of new potential. Just as flowers sprout from the earth, we are celebrating 20 new graduates entering careers where they will bloom with the potential to make better lives for themselves and their children.

Our talented team at Christ Child Omaha strives to offer the promise of potential to hundreds of children and families in need. Academic scholarships help parents fulfill their potential to create stable, healthy homes for their children. Literacy programs enable children to reach their potential in school. Layettes and car seats improve the health and safety of our youngest community members. In supporting these programs, Christ Child volunteers build meaningful relationships and fulfill our potential to serve.

We are grateful to you, the friends and supporters of Christ Child, for making our work possible. Our inaugural TopGolf event was a huge success, and we look forward to seeing you at Soiree on October 12. We are proud to announce the formation of a new auxiliary of volunteers and invite interested young moms to come aboard.

We hope you’ll join us as we work to improve the lives of everyone in our community. Together we can help light the paths by which all can achieve their God-given potential.

JANET NICHTING
Christ Child Omaha Board President

Newest Auxiliary Packs a Punch!

On Saturday, March 25th, our new auxiliary, Ses Amies, packed a punch, assembling and delivering 250 layettes to local community agencies. Ses Amies boasts 23 members and has held two working meetings since their formation earlier this year. Catherine Wieczorek commented, “The group has a lot of fun making connections

and building community while doing a task that feels rewarding and impactful. Members love that our meetings have been family friendly, bringing their infants and young children along as they participate in the volunteer work.” Recruitment continues for this vibrant new auxiliary. For more information, contact Ses Amies president, Ainsley Kumar at ainsleykumar@gmail.com.



Christ Child Scholarships offer Families and Children a Boost to finish Degrees

Adapted from Susan Szalewski's article in the Catholic Voice, March 7, 2023

Meet Jay Jay. He's five years old and dreams of being an artist, a chef — or a ninja!

Jay Jay likely picked up some of those traits from his mother, Hannah Elliot Peck, who studied baking and cake decorating before earning a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree (3.9 GPA) from Nebraska Methodist College.

Christ Child Society of Omaha helped, offering a \$5,000 scholarship her senior year. "Those were stressful times, and it was a tremendous help," she said. "I was able to pay for books, supplies, and tuition."

Elliot Peck is one of 70 people who have benefited from Christ Child Society Scholarships since 2019. Currently, 34 are on scholarship, the vast majority single mothers. Scholarships are \$5,000 a year (four-year degrees) and \$2,500 (two-year degrees).



Our mission is to support children and families in need," said Janet Nichting, president of Christ Child's board of directors. "We help them complete their program. They just need a little boost to finish."

The Christ Child Society receives scholarship nominations from several schools, including the College of Saint Mary, Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Bellevue University, and Clarkson College.

"The degrees truly change the trajectory of their lives," Nichting said. "Their children begin to recognize what is possible as they watch their mothers get degrees and good jobs. The children have a different vision for their own future at that point." After seeing his mom's success, it's likely Jay Jay's dreams will expand beyond being a Ninja!

Appreciating Our Layette Partners!

Includes excerpts from article by Jack Keenan, KETV Channel 7

Christ Child Omaha is proud to partner with area schools to bring Christ's love to communities through the layette program. During Catholic Schools Week, Mary Our Queen Catholic School held a school and parish-wide diaper and onesie drive culminating in an afternoon of service. The students learned about the Christ Child Society's work and history while bundling the diapers and onesies for future layettes. The generosity and commitment to service demonstrated by the students, parents, and staff at Mary Our Queen was amazing!

Skutt Catholic High School students took their turn serving others at a February assembly of 500 backpack-style layettes. Newborn necessities like handmade blankets, onesies, hooded towels, sleepers, pacifiers, and books filled tables in the Skutt Auditorium. The huge assembly ran smoothly, fueled by the energy and compassion the Skyhawks displayed for helping new mothers in need. For senior student, Kaden Weis, it's a cause that's close to his heart. "I have a single mom at home, so being here today helping out single moms just means a lot more to me. Baby stuff is really expensive, so with a single parent who only has one source of income, this would definitely help out a lot more than people think," Weis said.

Our fabulous volunteers delivered the baby backpacks to 30 agencies in Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, and Council Bluffs. The successful day of service at Skutt was covered by both KETV Channel 7 & KMTV Channel 3!

Students at St. Margaret Mary also supported Christ Child Omaha and local moms in need by collecting diapers during their annual food drive. Thanks to all of our student volunteers!



Check it Out! In collaboration with Omaha Rapid Response, Christ Child Omaha is **sending 100 layettes to Ukraine** this June. Rapid Response deploys to natural and man-made disasters — locally, nationally and around our world. As a faith-based organization, they provide compassionate relief and humanitarian aid in the midst of crisis and disaster. We are proud to participate in a small way to provide hope and support to a nation in need.

2022 Annual Report



The Christ Child Society strives to support people of all faiths and backgrounds through programs that serve children and families in need. This is what we did in 2022, supplying baby essentials to moms and newborns, and providing significant scholarships to single parents, giving hope to families in our community.

Thanks to you, our generous donors and tireless volunteers, here is what we accomplished in 2022:

- Celebrated 15 graduates whose new careers create opportunity, stability, independence, and generational change for their families.
- Pledged a record \$149,500 in scholarships to help 25 Christ Child scholars complete academic degrees.
- Provided scholarships to six students at College of Saint Mary to complete the Practical Nursing Certificate Program, and three students at Nebraska Methodist College to attend the 2-year Cardiovascular Sonography Program.
- Increased the reach of our scholarship program by adding UNO and Carole's House of Hope to our list of sponsoring agencies.
- Renewed our live Soiree event, after a two-year hiatus, hosting 179 guests and raising \$225,000.
- Continued to revitalize our membership with new volunteers across our auxiliaries.
- Invited young women interested in the fellowship and service opportunities of Christ Child Society to launch a new auxiliary.
- Strengthened our partnership with Skutt Catholic High School and Duchesne Academy where student volunteers at each school assembled 500 layettes.
- Joined forces with Marian High School and Saint Margaret Mary School to collect and bundle 6,000 diapers each.
- Negotiated affordable pricing on an attractive backpack-style diaper bag for layettes.
- Reduced fabric expenses by 30% through centralized purchasing of flannel needed to sew handmade blankets.
- Added to the list of agencies that receive our bags, widening our reach to Lincoln and Fremont, getting newborn essentials into the hands of more moms in need.
- Packed and delivered a record 2,000 layettes across the heartland.
- Provided 100 car seats to new and expectant moms through events at The Heart Ministry Center, A Mother's Love, and The Women's Care Center in Lincoln.
- Celebrated the grand opening of the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center in Rockbook Village thanks to the generous support of the Ryan Foundation. Improved operational efficiencies with this new centralized storage and volunteer work space.
- Invested in promotional materials to help tell the story of Christ Child Omaha.



Christ Child Omaha is committed to providing services to lift up children and families. We are enormously grateful to every one of our 2022 donors for your assistance in improving lives in our community. Your generous gifts inspire others to join in this important work.

THANK YOU!



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