



Newsletter

Issue

#01

Coming Full Circle

Sierra was a resident at Mater Filius when Christ Child Society met her. Mater Filius recommended her for a Christ Child scholarship to help get her on her feet so she could support herself and her newborn son. A 2020 article said, "Sierra was Christ Child Society of Omaha's first ever scholarship recipient in 2015. She's received the award every year since.

"They had the faith in me that I would continue. They never doubted me," Sierra said. "That scholarship was there because they believed in me, and now it's my turn to say thank you."

Sierra gave birth, at age 17, to her son. Her dream of becoming a nurse was born then too.

"Being in the hospital and being taken care of in a way that was non-judgmental, I wanted to provide that for someone else," she said."

Mater Filius found tutors for Sierra and provided essential support and



Then



Wow!

encouragement to help her succeed. Following her stay at Mater Filius, Sierra moved into the "Mothers Living and Learning" community at College of Saint Mary where she became a leader and mentor to other single mothers. She graduated in May of 2020, having completed her Bachelor's degree in nursing.

Recently, another single, young mom and resident of Mater Filius was taken to the hospital by a doula. Her newborn son had RSV and needed critical care. Who do you think her nurse was in this scary situation? That's right! Sierra, who is now a pediatric nurse. It was Sierra's turn to provide the kind of care she had so appreciated and to prove to this new mom what was possible. She has come full circle.

Scholarship News!

Thanks to our generous donors, we are helping more single parents reach their academic dreams! In 2021, we provided scholarships to more moms than ever and celebrated a record 15 graduates from our partner schools this spring. Here are the statistics:

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY —
1 Bachelor's Degree graduate

NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE —
3 Bachelor's Degree graduates

COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY —
5 Bachelor's Degree graduates and
6 Certificate graduates

Of these women, 12 graduated from nursing degree programs, helping to fill the shortage of healthcare workers in our community. We congratulate all graduates for achieving job placements enabling them to support their young families!

For the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, of a record 68 applicants, Christ Child Omaha has renewed 7 scholarships and awarded scholarships to 20 new scholars seeking Bachelor's degrees and 4 scholars pursuing PNC certificates.





The first Omaha Auxiliary Group

Christ Child Society has an incredible history!

It was founded in Washington, D.C. in 1887 by a wheelchair-bound young woman, Mary Virginia Merrick, who saw the need to help underprivileged children. It was brought to Omaha at the start of the 20th century by Stella Hamilton, who recognized the needs of children and families in our own community.

Christ Child's Rich History – 115 Years in Omaha

Over the past 115 years, Christ Child has evolved to meet the changing needs of families and neighborhoods in Omaha. It has served infants and children, immigrants, single mothers, and the elderly. It has taught children catechism, sewing, swimming and dancing; it has operated child care centers, after-school programs, summer camps and senior citizens' programs out of facilities in north, south and east Omaha. Women volunteers used to gather to sew the baby clothes for layettes given to the families they served. Christ Child history files include lists from the 1930s of every single mom who received a layette.

The list of women and men who have served as volunteers and leaders, or benefited from Christ Child programs is long. If you look through our history files, chances are you'll recognize family members or neighbors who have been involved over the years. Two Omaha women have even served as Presidents of the National Christ Child Society! We can feel very proud of our heritage as the Christ Child Society of Omaha.

Today, our auxiliary members still sew beautiful, flannel blankets that go into our layettes. Volunteers now assemble 2000 layettes a year that are distributed to families in need through over 35 community agencies. We also raise funds to support significant scholarships to young parents and provide car seats to new moms. The Christ Child programs are improving the lives of families, building independence, stability and hope every day in Omaha!

Save the Dates!

L'ESPRIT AUXILIARY MEETING ~ June 8, 1:00 p.m. at the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center

LES ANGES AUXILIARY MEETING ~ June 23, 6:00 p.m., at the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center

SES ENFANTS AUXILIARY MEETING ~ 2nd or 3rd Sunday in September. Brunch and mass at Judy Harvey's farm. Stay tuned!

LAYETTE ASSEMBLY AND DELIVERY ~ Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver layettes to agencies. October 12 at Duchesne Academy

SOIREE! ~ An evening benefitting all Christ Child programs. October 13, 6:00 p.m. at Happy Hollow Club

MEMORIAL MASS & ANNUAL MEETING ~ November 29, 5:30 p.m., St Patrick's Catholic Church, Elkhorn



Layette Assembly, Duchesne Academy 2021 Event



Welcome to the newly revamped Christ Child Society of Omaha's Newsletter 2022!

To say Christ Child Society of Omaha is "alive and kicking" would be an understatement. This has been a year of growing, adapting, and thriving for the Omaha chapter. I am humbled and beyond grateful for the dedication of our auxiliary and board members who have spent countless hours devoting their time to the Christ Child mission, "To see Christ in Every Child".

This has also been a year of new beginnings. Our certified scholarship agencies now include the University Of Nebraska at Omaha, Carole's House of Hope, and Bethlehem House. In addition, we have begun a collaboration with Notre Dame Sisters of Omaha who have generously provided an additional annual academic scholarship to support single mothers in need. These partnerships will enhance our goal to provide educational scholarships for young parents which can result in long-term, multigenerational change.

I was fortunate enough this year to witness several of our scholarship recipients graduate from their respective colleges. The joy and confidence they radiate to their growing children is truly rewarding.

At the Grand Opening of the Eileen Ryan Christ Center, I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm of past, present, and new members connecting over their familial history with Christ Child (which spans over 115 years!). Our work is only made possible by your generous financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and prayers. On behalf of all the families we serve, thank you!

Christ Child Omaha Board President

A New Beginning – Grand Opening of the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center

On May 24, Christ Child Omaha turned a new page in our history book with the Grand Opening of the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center in Rockbrook Village.

The new Center will function as a hub for all of our activities. It is where we will store the supplies for our layettes – which previously have been scattered around town in the attics, garages and basements of our members. Here, we will unpack and assemble layettes, conduct auxiliary and board meetings, and once again, have a physical presence in Omaha that we hope will inspire support and participation in our mission. This new Center enables us to more efficiently and cost-effectively serve families in our community through layettes, car seats, scholarships and other programs.

Despite cool, rainy conditions, the Grand Opening was filled with celebration and gratitude for the many people and organizations who contributed to building out the new space. Special recognition was given to the children of Judy Kubat, who donated the furniture in her memory. Also recognized was Susan McMannama who served as



Christine Kubat Reilly

the volunteer designer and general contractor for the project. In attendance were Carol Ryan from the Ryan Foundation, Moira Lynch, Executive Director of the National Christ Child Society, Sue Seline, former Board President, and about 150 auxiliary members, board members, friends, neighbors and families. Beautiful charcuterie boards from Casanova's Butchery, wine from Corkscrew, flowers by A New Leaf, and balloons by Omaha Balloon made for a festive and enjoyable evening for those in attendance.

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for contributing generously of their time and resources to the buildout of the Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center of Omaha!

All Makes
Briggs, Inc.
Butch Simpson Electric
Carpet Land
Cheryl Zummach
Christine Reilly
Drew Compton
Emily Jetter
Kent Kubat
Kurt Beisch, Kurt's Remodeling, LLC
Kyle Harper, Ideal Home Works

Kyle Kubat
Larry Jensen, S.L. Jensen Construction
Marty Harter, Holstein Drywall
Mike Moylan, Shamrock Development
Mary Wong
Oliver Wong
Omaha Balloon
Paul Didwell Painting
Rob Gibson, R.G. Painting
Susan Marchese, Omaha Neon Sign
Susan McMannama, ASID



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DETACH CARD AND MAIL TO: Christ Child Society of Omaha | 2920 S 110th Court, Omaha, NE 68144



It's like a new home. The Eileen Ryan Christ Child Center shines with freshly painted walls and new carpet, yet some finishing touches will make it feel like home. "Fill Our Wagons" is a wish list of items like a coffee maker, a beverage server, serving utensils, office supplies, plastic bins, a label maker and all those things that will improve productivity and make it a comfortable place to meet and work.

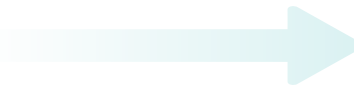
To help fill our wagons, donate today!



Visit our website christchildomaha.com



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Mail a check to: Christ Child Society of Omaha
2920 S 110th Court, Omaha, NE 68144



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CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF OMAHA
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



2021 Annual Report



The mission of Christ Child Society remains “to bring Christ’s love to the community through layettes and programs that serve children and families in need.” This is what we did in 2021, supplying baby essentials to moms and newborns, and providing significant scholarships to parents working to achieve stability and independence, giving hope to families in our community.

Thanks to you, our generous donors and tireless volunteers, here is what we accomplished in 2021:

- | Commemorated the 115th Anniversary of the Christ Child Society of Omaha, remembering that every small thing we do has the potential to impact a family.
- | Celebrated four new graduates whose new careers provide stability and generational change for their families.
- | Pledged a record \$140,000 in scholarships to help Christ Child scholars complete bachelor’s degrees.
- | Partnered with College of Saint Mary to provide six students with scholarships to complete the Practical Nursing Certificate Program.
- | Organized the most successful Soiree fundraising campaign in our 115-year history, raising \$185,000.
- | Continued to revitalize our membership base by welcoming new volunteers across our auxiliaries.
- | Launched a partnership with Skutt Catholic High School where student volunteers assembled 500 layettes.
- | Identified new suppliers and negotiated bulk purchasing to get better pricing on merchandise.
- | While keeping volunteers safe and healthy, packed and delivered 1,500 diaper bags across the heartland.
- | Conducted our first car seat giveaway, in partnership with Bethlehem House and Methodist Hospital, providing 22 car seats to new and expectant moms.
- | Secured a significant grant from the Ryan Foundation to create a central storage facility and invest in promotional materials while directing essential resources to serving families in need.
- | Continued to expand the agencies who receive our bags, including those in Lincoln and Fremont, getting newborn essentials into the hands of more moms in need.



Christ Child Omaha is committed to providing services to lift up children and families. We are enormously grateful to every one of our 2021 Soiree donors for your assistance in improving lives in our community. Your generous gifts inspire others to join in this important work. **THANK YOU!**



\$10,000 +

Judy Harvey
Ryan Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Thank You!