



# The Red Wagon News

Winter 2024

Hello Christ Child Society Members and Benefactors,

We are off to a strong start with layette distribution in 2024. In January we distributed 31 large layettes to Women's Choice Center in Bettendorf. An additional 26 large layettes were delivered to local hospitals in the first few days of February placing us well ahead of this time last year. Our work may seem small, but the impact can be huge for those we serve. This sentiment was recently expressed by a hospital nurse manager who said the following about our work of constructing and distributing large layettes to families of newborns in need:

*"Small gestures make large ripples. The layettes you provide for our families may seem like a small gesture; however, I have witnessed the huge impact they have. Your generosity and hard work make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families. These precious blue bags also give great comfort to me and my staff. By offering these bags, it helps us as healthcare workers to feel like we have sent our love home with them."*

Over the years, our thousands of small acts of service to children in need has truly sent ripples of comfort, love and hope throughout our community. As this new year begins let us resolve to continue our many small acts of service with great love for the Christ Child. God bless.

Mary Anne Dockery-Jackson, Chapter President



## Shower of Love

Members and friends are invited to a Shower of Love. Honor the Christ Child with layette gifts and enjoy lunch with friends. Check out our Facebook page to link to our Amazon list with gift suggestions or our organization registry at Target.

**Date:** February 24, 2024

**Time:** 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Dockery-Jackson home 2600 31<sup>st</sup>. Ave Rock Island, IL

**RSVP:** Phone or text Mary Anne at 309-738-4679 by February 21, 2024

## Upcoming Events

**February 20, 2024, 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Silvis, IL.

**February 22, 2024, Head Start Choosy Event**, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Rock Island Academy, Rock Island, IL.

**February 24, 2024, Shower of Love** 12 noon to 2 p.m.

**February 29, 2024, Layette Assembly**, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Our Lady of Guadalupe, Silvis, IL.

**March 19, 2024, Board Meeting**, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Silvis, IL

**April 16, 2024, Membership Meet and Greet**, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Butterworth Center, Moline, IL

**May 4, 2024, Day of Reflection with Franciscan Sisters**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Pius X, Rock Island, IL, Farrell Hall.

**May 9, 2024, Mass for Members and Benefactors of the Christ Child Society of the Quad Cities**, 7:00 a.m. St. Pius X Church, Rock Island, IL

## Save the Date

All members are invited to attend our April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at Butterworth Center, 1105 8<sup>th</sup> St. Moline, IL. 6:30 p.m.

## Making An Impact

### Head Start

#### Choosy



Each school year, our chapter participates in three family fairs hosted by Head Start. We provide an activity for the children and give them high quality picture books to promote early childhood literacy. The winter fair is called the Choosy Event and will be held February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Rock Island Academy, 930 14<sup>th</sup> St. Rock Island, IL.

Choosy, the event mascot, is a very special furry friend who loves to have fun and knows a lot about being healthy. His name stands for **Choose Healthy Options Often & Start Young**.

Christ Child Society volunteers will host a table at the Choosy Event at which Head Start students may participate in an activity helping them make safe choices to protect their eyesight. After the activity, the children will be able to select a pair of child-sized sunglasses with UV protection. Each child attending will also receive a book to take home. Head Start events provide a great opportunity for volunteers to meet the children we serve. Please respond to the poll we sent if you would like to volunteer for this event.

### Layette and Clothing Report 2023

**226 Large Layettes** were distributed to the following agencies:

- Women's Choice Center - 86
- UnityPoint Hospital Moline - 51
- Genesis Hospital Davenport - 30
- Terrace Park Hospital Bettendorf - 22
- Genesis Hospital Silvis - 20
- Every Child Moline - 15
- Individual Requests per member - 2

**281 Mini-Layettes** were distributed to Women's Choice Center.

**70 Infant buntings and toddler jackets** were distributed to Women's Choice Center.

**30 Pairs of snow boots and \$1500** worth of socks, underwear, and slacks were given to Head Start for their students most in need.

## Thank You

Participants, staff and volunteers in youth and education ministries at St. Malachy Church, Geneseo, IL, who collected and donated an abundant supply of diapers, wipes, clothing and other baby supplies for our layette program.

Members of St. Anne Circle, St. Patrick Church, Colona, IL, who bought and donated many lovely, as well as practical layette gifts for the Christ Child at their Christmas party.

Members of St. Ann Circle, St. John Vianney Church, Bettendorf, IA, who donated children's books to the Christ Child in lieu of a gift exchange at their Christmas party.

Blessed Father Men's Club, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Silvis, IL, for a donation of \$200.

Altar and Rosary Society of Our Lady of the River Church, Le Claire, IA, for a donation of \$500.

Parishioners of Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, and St. Pius X parishes in Rock Island, IL who raised over \$3600 in a recent baby bottle fundraising drive.

**Below:** Christ Child member and Sacred Heart parishioner, Amelia VanLandegen, assisting with the baby bottle drive at Sacred Heart Parish, Rock Island, IL.

