



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
OF MONTEREY BAY  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

## Service To Children, For Love of The Christ Child



Hello Anne,

***“It is love that moves the earth and stars in their orbits, and this same love will guide us and give us strength to equal our desire for the work that lies before us: to make Christ a living reality to the children of our country.”*** **Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God and Christ Child Society Founder**

The holiday season is upon us as we continue to share in the joys of love and family and give thanks for all the blessings in our lives. My heart is full after having family visit from Washington DC and Maryland for Thanksgiving. I hope yours was equally fulfilling.

Shower of Love last month was a big success, bringing in-kind donations totaling nearly \$5,000 in value. We had 34 members attend, with many more

friends and visitors stopping by. We received \$1875 in donations, including \$1,000 designated for our car seat program. We gained a couple of new memberships and heard testimonies from Natividad, Catholic Charities, and Siena House on the valuable, impactful work we do. There was great energy in the room as we knitted and joined together in conversation like old friends, all while sipping and nibbling on delicious homemade snacks. Thank you to Chair Anne Kelley and Co-Chair Marilyn Morgadinho for creating such a great Shower of Love. Of course, the event wouldn't have been successful without all of your help and participation, so special thanks go to our members!

In the spirit of giving, December brings us two meaningful events we will participate in. The first is Project Christmas Angels through Catholic Charities. We received a plea for help from them, asking if we could help with stockings and gift bags for the hundreds of children of Pajaro, who lost everything from the past winter storms. The Christ Child elves are already busy working to put together 50 gift bags comprised of infant and child clothing, books, knitted hats and booties, and small-sized toys and gifts. Here's the [link](#) for more information if you want to contribute personally. The revised due date is December 8th.

We are participating in the second event led by Jennifer Bodner and Kathy Gibbs, providing a much-needed assortment of developmentally appropriate toys for 70 children at our offshoot literacy program at the Monterey County Office of Education Early Start Program's Christmas party. This program services children ages one to three with developmental disabilities, including visual impairments, complex medical conditions, and/or orthopedic impairments. We believe our gifts will bring much joy and smiles to the kids during this holiday season.

As we head into December, I also want to give special acknowledgment to our member Rita Christensen, who turns 102 tomorrow! As she exemplifies, one is always young enough to care and make a difference in the life of the Christ Child.

Thank you all for joining us in this important mission to make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

**With gratitude,**

Sarah Hills, President









## Volunteering and Social Opportunities

### Yarns & Stitches Wednesday, December 13 from 10:30-noon

As usual, we meet in St. Angela's Small Hall in Pacific Grove. This will be our last meeting until January 17, 2024

Contact Joan with any  
questions



### Literacy 2024 Save the Dates

Jan. 24 - Craftorama in the

Small Hall at St. Angela's

Feb. 7 - Reading in Pacific Grove

Mar. 13 - Reading at MLK, Salinas

Let Ann know if you are interested . . .



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

**Rita Christensen(12/2)**

**Jeannine Crossland (12/6)**

**Fr. Rodrigo Paredes (12/9)**

**Ann Huston (12/14)**

**Gail Gourley (12/24)**

**Marna Wheeler (12/25)**



# Membership Dues

Membership dues are "due" no later than January 31, 2024. The amount for an individual is \$50 and for a couple is \$80. \$40 of each person's dues is paid to the National Christ Child Society to support that organization, which in turn benefits our chapter with grants, education and assistance. The remainder supports our limited administrative costs, including the roster, our e-newsletter subscription and the website.

The easiest way to pay your dues or make a donation is online on our Donations page: [CLICK HERE](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the Donations page to pay.



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