



## Diapers, Blankets & Hope:

### Christ Child Delivers Hope for Holidays with the help of new partner, Skutt High School



*(Photos:) Janet Nichting instructs Skutt students on how to pack more than 16,000 items into 500 layettes. Thanks to members who held unpacking parties, we minimized garbage and dramatically sped up this assembly's process.*



*(Photo:) Never before have we had so many hand-made baby blankets! Ses Enfants sewed up a storm during the pandemic.*

Youthful energy, hearts for service – and lots of diapers – combined for a bundle of impact in December for hundreds of new moms and their babies.

About four dozen students from Skutt Catholic High School assisted Christ Child Society of Omaha in assembling our latest round of layettes on December 11 – 500 diaper bags in all.

“There will be dozens and dozens of moms getting a little bit of hope before Christmas,” said Janet Nichting, Christ Child Society of Omaha’s Vice President-elect.

The layettes, as usual, were packed with plenty of essentials – from diapers, pacifiers and wash cloths to footed sleepers, hooded towels and storybooks. This round also included our sewing volunteers’ always-appreciated hand-made baby blankets and new additions of digital thermometers and nail clippers, suggestions from our agency partners.



“We hope the layettes give new moms a sense of hope; for them to know there are people who care about them and want them to have the resources they need to support their families. We’ve been told the moms who receive our bags feel just that way – it gives them a spark and a lift,” Janet said.



Typically, an assembly of 500 layettes takes about 3-4 hours. With the swarm of support from Skutt, including members of the freshmen boys' football team and officers from Skyhawks for Life (Skutt's pro-life group), this pack wrapped up in about an hour.

"It was unbelievable," Janet said. "The kids were great. They were resourceful. They were thoughtful, and they had ideas on how to make the process run even smoother."

Christine French, Skutt's campus minister, said partnering with Christ Child Society of Omaha was a gift.

"Here, we want to form and educate Christian leaders to empower others, promote justice and initiate change – that's part of our mission statement," Christine said. "We see doing service and encountering people as an opportunity for our students to grow to encounter Christ. The more they're involved in these types of efforts the better."

Thanks to our generous donors, Christ Child Society of Omaha distributes 1,500 layettes each year. This latest batch of 500 will be delivered to 22 agencies in Omaha, Council Bluffs, Fremont and Lincoln, including OneWorld Community Health Centers, Bergan Mercy, Open Door Mission and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Christ Child Society of Omaha would also like to thank Skutt Assistant Principal Michael Bailey, Christine French, the student volunteers, and the rest of the Skutt community for their incredible assistance with this year's project, which included COVID-era precautions.

Those interested in donating toward future layette assemblies should visit [www.christchildomaha.com](http://www.christchildomaha.com).

If you need a layette, [please visit our website to find a list of agencies](#) that have bags available.

*(Photo:) Denise Snodgrass and Shannon Herink at the Christ Child Assembly*



*(Photo:) 50+ Skutt students packed 500 bags in 1 hour 12 minutes.*

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## Introducing our New Administrative Assistant!

Please welcome Shannon Herink to Christ Child Omaha!



Shannon and her husband, Adam, are parents to four boys. They are active members of St. Margaret Mary's Parish.

Shannon grew up in Houston and Pegosa Springs, Colorado, graduated from Colorado State, then moved to Omaha where her cousin, Fr. Tom Fangman, introduced her to a nice young man named Adam. It so happens that Adam was a former student of Fr. Tom's, from Father's high school teaching days in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Shannon has honed her nonprofit skills, working on big events/fundraisers for her parish, the Omaha Children's Museum and Duchesne Preschool. She loves the Christ Child mission and

looks forward to helping us build our membership base and achieve future goals.

*(Photo:) Adam and Shannon Herink*

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## Paying your Dues just got Easier!

**A new option for 2021:** Pay your \$50 dues online. Go to [christchildomaha.com](http://christchildomaha.com) This is available to both board members and members of L'Esprit, Cest L'Amour and Les Anges. The National Christ Child Office is awarding \$\$\$ prizes to the chapters who have the most growth in 2020. With our newest group, Les Anges, led by Michelle Stephens, we have a real shot at winning! Please respond by January 15. Thanks for supporting Christ Child Society of Omaha.

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## Welcome Our New Board Members

Brian Harr  
Liz Langan  
Doug Hegarty

## Slate of Officers for 2021

President Denise Snodgrass  
Vice President Janet Nichting  
Treasurer Brad Peal  
Recording Secretary Ann McGill  
Corresponding Secretary Jane Beerman

## Thank you to Retiring Board Members

Kathy O'Connor  
Fr. James Keiter

*When you see them, please thank them for their service!*

*We look forward to holding a Memorial Mass & Annual Meeting as soon as it is safe to do so!*

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## FREIDA ROTHMAN JEWELRY

If you buy FREIDA ROTHMAN JEWELRY from Christ Child friend **Mary Anne Vaccaro**, she will donate a percentage of your purchases to the Christ Child Society of Omaha.

This Jewelry is designed and highly crafted sterling silver with 14K gold, platinum, and Rhodium overlays. View and order at [www.freidarothman.com/maryannev](http://www.freidarothman.com/maryannev) then send your order number to Mary Anne or contact her to order for you: [maryannevaccaro@hotmail.com](mailto:maryannevaccaro@hotmail.com) 402-398-1234 cell 402-301-7996



## Would you like a scholarship named in your honor?

### Christ Child Omaha Launches Endowment Program

Christ Child Omaha is pleased to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged \$100,000 to endow a Christ Child scholarship. The donor is expected to name this award in someone's honor or memory, once it is fully funded.

Many thanks to the Investment Committee, led by Moe Shanley and Brad Peal, for developing an endowment policy which has been approved by the board of directors.

This policy opens the door for other donors to endow scholarships for amounts of at least \$50,000, which can be paid out over several years. For more information, please contact incoming treasurer Brad Peal at [bradley.peal@valmont.com](mailto:bradley.peal@valmont.com).

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## Soiree Campaign Sets Record

When the 2020 Fundraising Committee made the difficult decision to cancel our Soiree event at Happy Hollow and pursue a mail-in campaign instead, little did we realize that our donors were about to set a new record for generosity.

The team of Janet Nichting, Jill Petersen, Ann Tjaden, Brenda Langenberg, and Ann Marie Abboud re-tooled the process, refined our prospect list and developed a video that showcased our Christ Child scholars. They also made phone calls and wrote personal notes to more than 300 members of our community.

**Special thanks** goes out to our Honorary Chairs, Barbara Miskell Fitzgerald, Kathy Fitzgerald Grandsaert, Mary Miskell Honke and Fran Fitzgerald Root who supported this effort, despite this year's many twists and turns.

The campaign raised more than **\$150,000** and had strong support from first-time donors, many of whom valued the scholarship programs.

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## Please remember in your prayers our Christ Child friends who passed away in 2020

Mary Ann Belford  
Mary Virginia Rebensdorf  
Joanie Swan  
Babe Feeney  
Nancy Searl



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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your 2020 Christ Child Board

President Sue Seline, Vice President Denise Snodgrass, Treasurer Moe Shanley, Recording Secretary Ann McGill, Corresponding Secretary Jane Beerman, Board members Ann Marie Abboud, Mallory Anderl, Sharon DiBiase, Barb Greene, Tina LaFave, Brenda Langenberg, Janet Nichting/L'Esprit President, Kathy O'Connor, Brad Peal, Tim Reed, Chris Reilly, Tom Sanderson, Meghan Schlattmann, Sara Strattan, Andy Witt, Fr. Damian Zuerlein, Advisor: Fr. Jim Keiter, Ses Enfants Auxiliary President Nan Haske, Ses Amies Auxiliary President Joni Stevens, Les Anges Auxiliary President Michelle Stephens

## Your Donation Celebrates Newborns and Empowers Parents

If you make end-of-year donations, please consider a gift to Christ Child Omaha. Your tax deductible gifts are easily made [online at christchildomaha.com](https://www.christchildomaha.com) or by **mail**: Christ Child Society of Omaha, Box 45792, Omaha, NE. 68145.





*(Photo left:) Ann Tjaden picks up bags that will go to a new recipient, Family, Inc. of Council Bluffs. She is helped by a Skutt student, Teacher Christine French and Assistant Principal Michael Bailey.*

*(Photo right:) Gary and Molly Witt and Janet Nichting load up the car for a Christ Child delivery to Open Door Mission*



*(Photo left:) 22 agencies received layettes from Christ Child.*

*(Photo right:) Each bag is worth about \$60. This is a \$30,000 endeavor.*

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