

MS 329

Christ Child Society

Wright State University Special Collections and Archives

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March 2004

Introduction

The Christ Child Society manuscript collection dates from 1887 to 2003. However, most of the records cover the organization's activities from the 1970's onward. Barbara Boose, former president of the Christ Child Society (CCS) donated the records to Wright State University August 13, 2003. The collection is arranged in seven Hollinger boxes, two folders in the oversize collection and one flat box containing a scrapbook, which comes to 3.5 linear feet. The collection provides information on the origin and development of the Dayton chapter of the CCS. It provides an overview of the organizational structure of the society, but focuses most heavily on two committees during the last three decades of the 20th century. These committees are the Layette Assembly committee and Red Wagon Luncheon, Boutique and Fashion Show Committee. There are no restrictions on the use of the material. Series include:

- I. History
- II. Board Meetings
- III. General Meetings
- IV. Financial Statements
- V. Newsletters
- VI. Layette Assembly
- VII. Cabaret
- VIII. Red Wagon
 - A. Committee
 - B. Luncheon
- IX. Scrapbook

Organizational Sketch

Mary Virginia Merrick founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 in Washington, D.C. to aid poor children. On October 11, 1911 Marie and Helen Rotterman founded the Dayton Chapter of the Christ Child Society. The society began with fewer than 200, primarily Catholic, women, yet grew steadily throughout the century and was organized into various committees and subcommittees governed by a board of directors, later called the executive board. Throughout its life, the Christ Child Society has maintained a roll of about 200 active members.

When it started, CCS gave Christmas presents, shoes, clothes, and layettes to needy children. From the 1970's to the 1990's the CCS focused primarily on fundraising to aid women and children in need. An early fundraiser was a Shrove Tuesday card party held from the 1920's to the 1960's. This was followed by the Red Wagon Luncheon, Boutique and Fashion Show, which was held once a year. In addition to this, a Cabaret was held for a short time from the 50's to the 70's.

One of their main service projects was the Layette Assembly, which was held twice a year for the making of infant layettes to be distributed through various Dayton social services and organizations. The Christ Child Society also participated in eleven other social projects. CCS frequently worked with other organizations including Womanline, Green County Combined Health District, Catholic Social Services, Elizabeth New Life Center, Franciscan Family Practice, Miami Valley Hospital, and Miami Valley Women's Center. CCS was in existence as late as March 2004.

Scope and Content Note

Although the Dayton Chapter of the Christ Child Society began in 1911, most of the records here are from the 1970's to the early 2000's, with a few records from the 1920's, 1930's and 1950's. Although the Society had a variety of programs including infant grieving gowns, ABC's for Babies, and the Learning Tree Farm, nearly all of the records in the collection focus on the Layette Assembly program and the Red Wagon fundraiser.

Series I: History is composed of copies of typed accounts describing the organization, member statistics and projects of the society. The photographs in this series are of the founders of the National and Dayton Christ Child Societies. There is a folder of a few newspaper clippings that fall between 1920 and 2001, but most are from the 1990's. These discuss the founders, fashion shows and other events. Some photographs from the 1998 Kettering Parade are unlabeled, but an article in the news clippings file describes the event. There are also documents from the 1994 Christ Child Society National Convention, which was hosted in Dayton. Finally, there are also samples of letterheads, envelopes, and brochures used by the Dayton Chapter of the Christ Child Societies in the 1980's and 1990's.

Series II: Board Meeting Minutes and **Series III:** General Meeting Minutes are in chronological order. The Christ Child Society's year began in July rather than January.

Series IV: Financial Statements contains records that document the Christ Child Societies' status as an incorporated non-profit organization from 1955, 1975, and 1983. Along with these are treasury reports and budgets starting in 1971 up to 2001. Some treasury reports may be difficult to read, because the Christ Child Society year typically begins July 1.

Series V: Christ Child Society Newsletter underwent three name changes and several changes in layout design throughout the years. This publication kept the members informed about upcoming events.

Series VI: Layette Assembly includes reports, sign up sheets, financial records, order forms, and correspondence that describe the biannual Layette Assembly. Some of the documents are hand-written on scraps of paper and may be difficult to read. The documents pertaining to each year are ordered chronologically. The photographs in these series are not labeled, but seem to have been taken on three different days between 1995 and 1997. This series demonstrates the CCS's cooperation with other organizations, because their layettes were typically distributed through other social service groups.

Series VII: Cabaret was a fundraiser held roughly once every two or three years during the 1970's. Records here include two programs as well as records, manuals, and correspondence showing how the Cabaret was put on and why it came to an abrupt end.

Series VIII: Red Wagon is the most complicated and largest series of records. It is divided into two subseries pertaining to the Red Wagon Committee and the Red Wagon Luncheon, Boutique and Fashion Show. The Red Wagon Committee records are in this order: membership lists, calendars, meeting minutes, chairman reports, and committee reports in alphabetical order. The next section's order is: correspondence with the Mandalay Banquet Center, correspondence and contracts with the department store or people who did the fashion show, correspondence with other donors, thank you letters, treasury reports, inventories, and sign up sheets, surveys or ballots. The correspondence is in alphabetical order by the store, or person's last name. Diagrams of seating layouts for the banquet are kept in a folder in the

oversize collection. The records from 1986 are absent and the committee began keeping much more extensive records in 1996. Again, some of the reports and correspondence are handwritten.

The Red Wagon Luncheon, Boutique, and Fashion Show is the Christ Child Society's largest annual fundraiser. The Red Wagon Luncheon records include invitations, raffle tickets, and programs. The only record from 1974 is a speech given by the society president. Posters advertising the luncheon are in the oversize collection.

Series IX: Scrapbook series is composed of one scrapbook from the 1920's and 1930's. Currently, the scrapbook has been loosely tied together with string and acid-free paper has been interleaved in its pages. Most of the pages have come loose from their bindings. Reports and news clippings have been pasted into the scrap book in an overlapping style. Therefore, pieces of paper must be lifted up in order to read what is beneath, although a few have become detached from the adhesive. The paper suffers from acid burn and the entire scrapbook should be handled by the researcher with extreme caution, for it is very fragile. Topics covered in the scrapbook include the Shrove Tuesday Card Party, members, treasury reports, and reports on their social service projects. The scrapbook has only been filled halfway.

Container Listing

Series I: History

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Overview	1887-2003
	2	Photographs of Founders	ca. 1890s, 1904, ca. 1930s, ca. 1950s
	3	Highlights	1911-1979
	4	Highlights	1980-2003
	5	News Clippings	Dec 19, 1920-Nov. 25, 2001
	6	Kettering Parade Photographs	1998
	7	National Convention	1994
	8	Stationery and Brochures	n.d.

Series II: Board Meeting Minutes

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	9	Board Meeting Minutes	Oct.1, 1976-Dec. 6, 1979
	10	Board Meeting Minutes	Feb. 7, 1980-Nov. 15, 1989
	11	Board Meeting Minutes	Feb. 21, 1990-Oct. 5, 1994
	12	Board Meeting Minutes	Feb. 18, 1995-Oct. 13, 1999
	13	Board Meeting Minutes	Feb. 16, 2000-Jan. 8, 2003

Series III: General Meeting Minutes

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	14	General Meeting Minutes	Sept. 8, 1976-March 7, 1979
2	1	General Meeting Minutes	March 5, 1980-Sept. 20, 1989
	2	General Meeting Minutes	Jan. 17, 1990-Nov. 16, 1994
	3	General Meeting Minutes	Jan. 11, 1995-Nov. 17, 1999
	4	General Meeting Minutes	Jan. 12, 2000-Nov. 13, 2002

Series IV: Financial Statements

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	5	Tax Exemption Documents	Oct. 25, 1955; Oct. 23, 1975; ca. 1983
	6	Financial Statements	Aug. 31, 1971-June 30, 1980
	7	Financial Statements	June 30, 1980-June 30, 1989
	8	Financial Statements	June 30, 1990-2001

Series V: Newsletters

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	9	Newsletter	Jan 1970-April 1975
	10	Bulletin Board	Apr/May 1976-July/Aug 1980
	11	Newsletter	Sept/Oct. 1980-Sept. 1986
	12	Communique	Aug. 1990-Dec. 1994
	13	Communique	June/July 1995-Nov/Dec 1999
	14	Communique	Feb/March 2000-July/Aug 2003

Series VI: Layette Assembly

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Layette Assembly	1984-1985
	2	Layette Assembly	1986
	3	Layette Assembly	1987
	4	Layette Assembly	1988
	5	Layette Assembly	1989
	6	Layette Assembly	1990
	7	Layette Assembly	1991
	8	Layette Assembly	1992
	9	Layette Assembly	1993
	10	Layette Assembly	1994
	11	Layette Assembly	1995
	12	Photographs	Nov. 2, 1996; ca. 1995-1997
	13	Layette Assembly	1996
	14	Layette Assembly	1997
	15	Layette Assembly	1998
	16	Layette Assembly	1999
	17	Layette Assembly	2000
	18	Layette Assembly	2001
	19	Layette Assembly	2002
	20	Thank You Cards	n.d.
	21	National CCS Guidelines	April 1997
	22	“Old” Layette Bag	April 1997
	23	National CCS Guidelines	October 1997
	24	“New” Layette Bag	October 1997
	25	Certificate of Appreciation	October 2002

Series VII: Cabaret

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	26	Cabaret	1971

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	27	Cabaret	1974
	28	Cabaret program	1976
4	1	Cabaret	1978
	2	Cabaret program	1978

Series VIII: Red Wagon

Sub-series A Red Wagon Committee

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	3	Red Wagon Committee	1985
	4	Red Wagon Committee	1987
	5	Red Wagon Committee	1988
	6	Red Wagon Committee	1989
	7	Red Wagon Committee	1990
	8	Red Wagon Committee	1991
	9	Red Wagon Committee	1992
	10	Red Wagon Committee	1993
	11	Red Wagon Committee	1994
	12	Red Wagon Committee	1995
	13	Red Wagon Committee Members, Meetings, Reports	1996
	14	Red Wagon Committee Mandalay, Fashion Show, Other Donors, Finances, Inventory	1996
	15	Red Wagon Committee Members, Meetings, Reports	1997
5	1	Red Wagon Committee Mandalay, Fashion Show, Other Donors, Finances, Inventory, Forms	1997
	2	Red Wagon Committee Members, Meetings	1998
	3	Red Wagon Committee Reports	1998
	4	Red Wagon Committee Mandalay, Fashion Show, Other Donors, Finances, Inventory, Forms	1998
	5	Red Wagon Committee Members, Meetings, Reports	1999
	6	Red Wagon Committee Mandalay, Fashion Show, Other Donors, Finances, Inventory, Forms	1999

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	7	Red Wagon Committee Members, Meetings, Reports	2000
	8	Red Wagon Committee Mandalay, Fashion Show, Other Donors, Finances, Inventory, Forms	2000
		Oversized Collection, Mandalay Diagrams	1996-1997

Sub-series B Red Wagon Luncheon, Boutique, and Fashion Show

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	9	Red Wagon Luncheon Speech	1974
	10	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 6, 1986
	11	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 4, 1987
	12	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 2, 1988
	13	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 3, 1989
6	1	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 2, 1990
	2	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 1, 1991
	3	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 6, 1992
	4	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 5, 1993
	5	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 4, 1994
	6	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 3, 1995
	7	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 8, 1996
7	1	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 7, 1997
	2	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 6, 1998
	3	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 5, 1999
	4	Red Wagon Luncheon Nametags	Nov. 5, 1999
	5	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 3, 2000
	6	Red Wagon Luncheon Program	Nov. 2, 2001
		Oversized Collection Red Wagon Luncheon posters (Loc. 78, Folder 2)	1987-1988, 1990-1992

Series IX: Scrapbook

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8		Scrapbook	Feb. 28 1922-Feb. 9, 1937