**The NCCS Approach to Challenging Poverty:**

*Direct and individualized service…”seeing the Christ Child in every child.”*

Mary Virginia Merrick encouraged volunteers to work with children in an intentionally positive way.

* **Reach out to children in our communities through proactive service.**
  + *“Find a need and fill it.”* Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God
* **Collaborate with social workers and educators to establish programs to meet critical needs.**
  + *“Volunteers will press forward to aid the specialized social workers to* 
    - *formulate a constructive program for the coming generation.”*
    - Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God
* **Provide members with meaningful volunteer opportunities through hands-on programs.**
  + - *“A personal love of Christ expressing itself in personal service for the*
    - *children of the poor.”*
    - Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God
* **Ensure we are meeting children’s needs by critically assessing our programs and their impact.**
  + *“In addition to the active participation in the program, Board members*
  + *and others have the unique responsibility of interpreting the needs of*
  + *the community.”*
    - Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God
* **Be ambitious.**
  + *“Nothing is ever too much to do for a child.”*
    - Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God
* **Change as needed to stay relevant.**
  + *“The guiding principle of the Society has always been personal service*

*rendered for the love of the Christ Child to the least of these little ones.*

*In developing this purpose the Society has widened and deepened its*

*activities to meet the exigencies of its time.”*

Mary Virginia Merrick, Servant of God