

## Why Become a Member of the Christ Child Society?

The Christ Child Society is one of Washington DC's oldest and most generous charitable organizations supporting children and families in need, and your membership is critical to its continued success. As a member, you make a difference in children's lives by supporting its many programs and by volunteering. However, your membership also begins a meaningful personal journey unique to the Society's members. A member truly both gives and receives. Since its founding in 1887, the Society has fostered lifelong friendships for members who connect not only to the mission but to each other.

The Christ Child Society of Washington DC (the DC Chapter) is the first and founding Chapter of the National Christ Child Society and the second oldest non-profit in Washington, DC. It has 400 members and assists over 5,000 children and families annually. The DC Chapter programs provide layettes to babies, learning and counseling support services for children, and after school and summer camp programs at the Merrick Center in Southeast DC. The DC Chapter also owns and operates the Opportunity Shop in Georgetown. The National Christ Child Society is our national network supporting 44 Chapters and 6,000 members nationwide

Most of the DC Chapter members join through a Guild. Guilds, primarily composed of women, are formed when groups of friends, co-workers, or family members come together with a shared interest in supporting the mission of the Society and a desire to enrich their connection with each other. Our founder, Mary Virginia Merrick, initiated this tradition by bringing together a group of her friends to sew a layette for a mother who had no clothing for her newborn. One hundred and thirty years later, the 'circle of friends' providing assistance to needy children and families continues through a vibrant, dedicated and generous membership.