



January/February 2010
The Newsletter of
The Christ Child Society
Naples, Florida

David Tetzlaff new luncheon speaker

There is a change of speakers for our Founder's Luncheon on February 16 at the Naples Yacht Club. Our previous speaker was unable to join us at the last moment but we have a wonderful substitute, Naples Zoo Director David Tetzlaff.

Born the son of Jungle Larry and Safari Jane, David Tetzlaff was always destined for a life among wild animals. As a child, Tetzlaff accompanied his parents on trips to Africa. There he encountered many animals in the wild that most children would see only in zoos. However, the trips were not all play. One time he witnessed stacks of leopard skins confiscated from poachers. Tetzlaff became one of the country's most accomplished big cat trainers while working at Cedar Point and later at Naples Zoo. Now, as director of the Naples Zoo, he has spearheaded the creation of many new exhibits in addition to improving the zoo's existing facilities and methodologies. A visit to the new bear habitat reveals the effect of his efforts. Join us as he entertains and informs us with tales of

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Naples Zoo Director David Tetzlaff.

Field trips planned to Funtime, Golden Gate

A visit to Funtime Academy (a day care facility for the working poor) is scheduled for Thursday, January 21. Details will be available at the January general meeting. Visits will also be scheduled during the season to Golden Gate School and St. Matthew's House. These visits are excellent opportunities to assess the needs of children in Collier County and to see how the Christ Child Society might help.



Jacqueline House.

Jacqueline House to speak at January meeting

Jacqueline House, Development Director of Children's Home Society of Florida, will be the speaker at the January 12 General Meeting of the Christ Child Society. The Children's Home Society is a statewide agency with 14 different divisions providing services unique to their communities in the state of Florida. Serving more than 5000 children and families in Southwest Florida alone, the Children's Home Society's activities in Collier County include

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Board of Directors

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The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Kircher
Spiritual Advisor



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David Tetzlaff

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training big cats and the work he is doing to enlarge and enhance the Naples Zoo.

The Founder's Luncheon is always a great way to meet and socialize with old and new Christ Child Society friends in a beautiful setting. Invitations should be in the mail by the time you get this newsletter. We urge everyone to join us for this fun and interesting event. Tuesday, February 16, 12 noon, at the Naples Yacht Club. ■

Jacqueline House

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programs for healthy families, independent living for teens in foster care and early learning services.

Jacqueline House, a native Floridian, has worked for the State of Florida and various non-profit institutions including the Girl Scouts and Child Support Enforcement. She opened a small private school in Lee County and served as its head for the first two years. Ms. House has held her present position for the past 3 1/2 years.

The General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, at 3:30 p.m. at Northern Trust Bank. ■

New Member Tea February 2

New members are invited to a tea at the home of Marge Gormley on Tuesday, February 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. Those new to the Christ Child Society will learn more about the group, its activities and the volunteer opportunities they afford, while meeting new friends and fellow members.

We have added several new members this year. We would like to recognize Kathleen Bindley, Sandra Buxton, Maureen Ehrmentraut, D. Nancy Hoey, Jan Keefer, Carol Kemski, Nancy Kramer, Katie Leonard, Ruth Milton, Kay Negri, Maureen O'Gorman, Bette O'Malley, Lou Ann Ransom, Judy Ringler, Joan Volanti, Terry Schrantz, Barbara Duda, Lynda Paul and Dr. Kathleen Kircher.

Please RSVP to Marge at 239-593-1572 or email margegormley@comcast.net.

Volunteer Hours Alert

Please keep a record of your volunteer hours and send them to Judy Bahman at jbirmingh@msn.com. Our year begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30. Time spent at General Meetings, the Tea, the luncheon, etc. all counts, as well as volunteer jobs and events. Count travel time, too. These hours are essential for keeping our 501(c)(3) status. This enables us to avoid paying taxes on the money we work so hard to earn for the children.

Send volunteer hours to Judy Bahman at jbirmingh@msn.com

2010 The April Affaire

A CASINO NIGHT AT THE RITZ

Mark your calendar for April 6, the date for Christ Child Society's annual fundraiser, *April Affaire*. Held at the Ritz Carlton on the Beach, the event provides an elegant evening of Monte Carlo Casino fun, great food and fabulous auction items. *April Affaire* is the highlight of our season. Plan to be there!



Barbara Jordan selects toys for the children at the Shelter for Abused Women and Children at the Christ Child Naples Christmas Tea. More Christmas Tea photos on back cover.

Christmas Tea a big success

A huge thank you to all who attended the Christmas Tea, to those who weren't able to attend but sent gifts, to those who underwrote the event and to Betty O'Brien, Bonnie McMicken and Kathy Pezzuti who made it all happen. Many lovely toys were collected, and the Old Collier Golf Club provided an elegant setting for a most enjoyable afternoon. Representatives from Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, The Shelter for Abused Women, and the Redlands Christian Migrant Association came away from the event with large bags of toys and even larger smiles. Thank you all for bringing a happy Christmas to so many children.

My Stuff Bags toiletries needed

The volunteers who help with My Stuff Bags have an ongoing need for toothbrushes, tooth paste, children's combs, hotel-size shampoo and hand soap. If you can help, please bring the items to the next General Meeting. Our volunteers ease the trauma of children living in shelters by providing these reusable bags filled with clothing

and personal items, as well as a book and a stuffed animal. Contact Andy Johannsen or Connie Messner for more information.

Golden Gate pantry needs

Patty Schimpf collects your food donations for the Golden Gate pantry at every General Meeting. There is an even greater need this year. Can you help?

ELLM off to a fast start

This year's ELLM (Early Literacy and Learning Model) program is off to a great start. About forty ELLM Seeds volunteers have been working in the Head Start pre-kindergarten classrooms since the first of November. Many more will come on board after the first of the year when the "snow-angels" arrive back in paradise. If you have a few hours a week to give to some young children, there are books and other materials that can be used to help build their language skills. Please contact Mary Polizzoto at Bob_Polizzotto@Prodigy.net or call her at 596-7429. You can make the difference in the academic career of a young child. Do you have the time?

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings:

January 7, 2010
February 4, 2010
March 4, 2010
April 1, 2010
April 15, 2010

General Meetings:

January 12, 2010
March 9, 2010
April 13, 2010

Save the Dates:

February 16, 2010
Founders Luncheon
April 6, 2010
April Affaire

All General Membership Meetings are held at 3:30 pm at the Northern Trust Bank, Fourth Floor.

Board Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the Month at 3 pm at the Trieste in Bay Colony.

www.ChristChildNaples.org

Christ Child Christmas Tea

Clockwise from top left:
Redlands Christian Migrant Association representatives select toys for their children;
Christmas Tea Co-chairs Betty O'Brien and Bonnie McMicken with Society Co-presidents Kathy Pezzuti and Nancy Deakins;
Doris Barrett, Sherry Ramsey, Judy Brown, Sally Wildner and Mary Ellen Clements in foreground;
Joanne Halstead, Director of Fun time Early Childhood Academy Franny Kain and Sue Manion select toys.

