

## Christ Child Society offers strong support for St. Augustine students



Russhelle Sockwell

If there's one embodiment of the strong support that Christ Child Society of Washington, D.C., shows to St. Augustine Catholic School, it's the school's counselor, Russhelle Sockwell, MSW. A licensed clinical social worker employed by Christ Child Society, she has been assigned to St. Augustine School for seven years.

Founded in 1885 by Mary Virginia Merrick, the Christ Child Society is a nonprofit volunteer and member organization serving the material, educational and emotional needs of children regardless of race or creed. Mary Virginia Merrick has an active cause for canonization in the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Sockwell, who works at St. Augustine School four days each week, offers individual and group counseling sessions for students. She is a native Washingtonian who attended St. Francis de Sales School and Georgetown Visitation Preparatory.

Christ Child Society's two guilds that are involved at St. Augustine School have purchased \$2,000 in lab equipment, purchased new chairs, sponsored hot lunches for a day for the entire school, donated school supplies and assisted families with uniform and summer camp expenses, purchase televisions and VCRs and ensured that each child at the school had multiple Christmas presents.

The Tulmulty Guild sends a handful of tutors to St. Augustine School each week for two hours. The Posey Guild had served lunch at St. Augustine, read high school admissions essays for eighth graders and proctored for the Terra Nova standardized test. The Christ Child Society holds an annual fundraiser to pay for much of its assistance, which has included giving 27 winter coats to St. Augustine School students this year, sponsoring camp scholarships for up to \$400 per family and providing uniform assistance of \$160 per child to 17 families.