

May | 2024

## Upcoming Events

- **May chapter mtg:** Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Fugett M.S., West Chester (***This is our last monthly chapter meeting until September!***)
- **End-of-year potluck picnic:** Sunday, June 2, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., East Goshen Park, West Chester PA (***Current and past members are invited!***)

(See our full calendar [here.](#))

**We are now on Instagram!**

<https://www.instagram.com/cisvbrandywinevalley>

**Connect with us on Facebook!**

<https://www.facebook.com/CISVBV>

**JB recruitment campaign**

Anyone who brings a new person to a JB meeting or event will get a prize! (Just let Marsha know!)

## Spring Mosaic and National Service Project

For this year's spring Mosaic and National Service Project, we will be partnering with the MLK Day Knitting Group to knit child and infant hats for the [Chester County Maternal and Child Health Consortium](#).



This event will take place on Tuesday, May 7, 6–8 p.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church (1 Hagerty Blvd, West Chester, PA 19382). There is no limit to the number of BVerS who can participate! Click on the button below to sign up:

[Register for Mosaic/NSP](#)

No experience or materials are necessary, but if you have materials for knitting or crocheting feel free to bring them.

We'll see you there!

## All Hands on Deck!



Plans are well underway for the Youth Meeting program (camp for 12- and 13-year-olds) that we are hosting this summer during June 22 to July 6 in the Chester Springs area. We have a great staff and a super campsite—now we just need YOU!

[YM Task List](#)

Please take a look at our SignUp Genius page and sign up for whatever you can. Note that this year the camp start and end dates—*when we need the most help (for camp setup/cleanup and delegation transportation)*—are both **Saturdays!**

*JB can help with many of these activities too, so consider making volunteering to help BV a fun family event!*

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**CISV Thrifted** is our JB-led effort to raise funds for program scholarships. Check out our gently used and vintage CISV merch from around the world!



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BV is hosting two programs this summer, and we'll soon be reaching out to our members to ask for your help. Mark your calendars now!

- Passport Village day camp, 6/17 to 6/21, Exton
- Youth Meeting, 6/22 to 7/6, Chester Springs area



## Last Call for Village

**We have one spot left in our Village program!**

If you know anyone who's interested in this life-changing opportunity, please send them our way.

**VILLAGE: MEXICO (GUADALAJARA)**  
7/5 to 8/1  
*(Must turn 11 on or in the 12 months before 8/31)*

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## Member Profile: Catherine Clinton

I first learned about CISV in 2011 when I started a new job where I met Jean Bitner. She told me her daughter was heading to Italy for a month with a program called CISV. I thought to myself "Wow, that's cool (and a little crazy)." My son, Wes, was 5 at the time.

The years went by and I heard more about CISV from Jean. After all, she was the recruitment chair at the time! When Wes was 10, Jean convinced us to host two German boys for a weekend before our chapter's Village. It was an amazing experience for the entire family! We were hooked! Wes started going to meetings and a year later, he went to a Village in Stockholm. Honestly, it was a difficult and scary decision. However, it was one of the best decisions we ever made as parents. I am eternally grateful to Jean for introducing us to CISV.



Currently, I'm on the board as a member at large and co-chair of fundraising. I enjoy the monthly meeting with the adult board and love helping out where I can. I've helped out with the gala

(our big annual fundraising event), chaperoned events, and helped with camps that our chapter has hosted.

The travel opportunities for our children are amazing, but what I really love about CISV are the values and global perspective instilled in my children. I also love how CISV encourages children to speak up and lead. My son is now 18, and his CISV mindset is present every day. My daughter is 11 and now participates in CISV. I can already see the positive impact on the way she thinks.

As a parent, I would encourage other parents to get involved! While it's a great program for children, it's an incredibly rewarding program for parents. Witnessing these children of different ages lead, work, and play together is inspiring and gives me hope for the future.

## Junior Branch (JB) Report



*(The April JB meeting activity was based on the CISA USA national service project.)*

This year's NSP themes are youth empowerment and uplifting youth voices. In the April meeting activity, JBers were split into four groups: sea levels rising, education, immigration, and food and water insecurity. Each group had to create a presentation (to present to the government) with solutions to solve one of these issues.

They were given bonus points for creativity and inclusion

while presenting. The debrief focused on why it is important for youth to have a say in government.

—summary by Sydney M.

For JB-specific news and updates, be sure to follow [the BV JB account on Instagram!](#)



*CISV is a worldwide, nonreligious, nonpolitical, nonprofit organization that enables participants age 10+ to build global friendships through local chapter meetings and international and domestic camps.*



**CISV USA**  
Brandywine Valley  
Building global friendship

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