



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES NEWSLETTER

First Quarter 2014 January - March

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

The Board of TLL wishes all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. TLL has had a very productive year! We are well on our way to delivering approximately 35,000 items to Ohio babies. Last quarters totals were 6,697 items received and 8,148 items delivered!! That is a lot of crocheting, knitting, sewing and quilting! Thank you to all of our volunteers, our delivery people and those of you in the community that continue to support the mission of TLL. We couldn't do it without you. This year we created our Facebook page, completely revamped our web page, had two very successful fundraisers (Project 25 and S.O.S.), and secured significant grant funding from the Kiwanis, Nationwide Insurance and GE Aviation as well as donations from other groups and individuals. We've added three new Trustee positions to the Board and I believe the highlight of the year was the very successful TLL-a-Thon! Of course the most important accomplishment was assisting needy babies and their families throughout the year.

BOARD NEWS

The TLL Board met in December and held elections. All current Board members were re-elected to the general Board. New positions on the Executive Board are: Linda Marshall - Chair, Jan Kiiikka- Vice Chair, Teresa Ballatyne – Secretary and Sally Bricker remains treasurer. The Board voted to hold the TLL-a-Thon again in 2014 and we will make the OSU quilt project a yearly event, starting that project earlier in the year. We approved discontinuing the

message board on our website since we are now on Facebook. Board members have completed contact with our facilities to gather information on their needs and update our contact information.

S.O.S -SAVE OUR STAMPS

SOS was a HUGE success! We collected **1265 stamps or over 63 books!!** This is enough stamps to send out EVERY newsletter in 2014 with plenty of stamps to spare. We will also be able to use the rest of the stamps to mail ALL of our delivery sheets that we use to keep track of our 30 or so deliveries to each hospital or facilities every month. This will also cover mailing out tax receipts and thank you notes. We also had \$309.87 in cash donated to S.O.S., which we will use to purchase additional stamps and to mail out special layettes throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser! You may not think donating a book of stamps is much of a contribution to help the babies, but with every cent we save on postage, we are able to use our available money to buy supplies for making things FOR the babies. SOS donations will pay for ALL of our postage costs for 2014!

WE LOVE FREE !!!

We are always striving to find simple and free ways for our volunteers to raise money for TLL. Here are 2 ways that you can help without spending a dime!

Cash for Cartridges:

If you have used printer cartridges, you can donate them to TLL. Several office supply stores that we do business with will give us \$2-3 per used cartridge.

So, if you just throw them out, give them to your Work Group Coordinator instead and we will be able to turn them in for \$\$\$.

Goodsearch.com:

We've mentioned Goodsearch in our last newsletter. We've had a handful of people take advantage of this site. That may not seem like much, but those several people have managed to raise over \$137.24 in the first 4 months we've been using this site. They send us a check on a yearly basis for what we've raised by September of the year. We received our first check from them in November for \$ 33.42. So even though this first check seems small, the rest of the money we've raised (about \$103.78) will carry over into our earnings for next September. We can hardly wait to see what that check will be after a full year of using Goodsearch. If you want to participate, go to www.goodsearch.com , sign up, and select TLL as your charity. Then you can take surveys, watch TV ads, and use their search engine to earn FREE money for TLL. The pennies they give for these things add up quickly and the more people that participate, the faster our earnings will accumulate. So, give it a try and you can help serve the babies of Ohio, penny by penny.

BUCKEYE BABIES

On October 28th we had a call from Jeannie, a nurse at the OSU NICU, asking if we could provide OSU themed quilts for all the babies in the NICU during OSU/Michigan week. Our goal was 50 quilts which is the maximum capacity of the NICU. We didn't have much time to accomplish the task but we are happy to report that on November 17th (less than 3 weeks later) we delivered 69 quilts and 6 fleece blankets, all with OSU colors or themes, to the OSU NICU. We want to thank and congratulate our volunteers for stepping up and helping us complete this seemingly impossible task. Many volunteers committed to making a quilt or two. Workgroups sandwiched, sewed and tied quilts to help us meet our deadline. This was an exciting and fun project for us all. We plan to make this a yearly event. We will officially begin working on project Buckeye Baby this summer. In the meantime, you can still make OSU quilts which we will distribute to OSU as they come in.

Here are pictures of just a few of the many beautiful

quilts that were turned in!



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Last quarter we shared that we would be starting a volunteer recognition column in our newsletter. We of course value all of our volunteers but would like to give a special recognition to those who give extra special effort, add value to every contact they make on behalf of TLL or volunteer above and beyond expectations. This quarter's recognition is for those volunteers that work with our quilts.

The Westerville work group would like to recognize the Ark Spring Missionary women from Chandlersville, OH. They have been contributing to TLL for over 5 years. They donate all materials and make quilts and toys as part of their mission. Current members include Barbara R., Carol S., Shirley B. and Alice Jean H. They meet once a month and send their finished items to the Westerville work group.

The Delaware work group recognizes Ann H. Ann is a lifetime quilter and has won numerous awards at many quilt shows. She is truly a “quilt artist”. The quilts she donates to TLL are exceptionally well made.

The Grove City work group would like to recognize Pat B. who donated 150 quilt tops/bottoms this year from the most beautiful fabrics and designs. She also volunteers at the James Stitching Sisters group where she works regularly to construct lap quilts for those undergoing chemotherapy at the James Cancer Hospital at OSU. She is a special person

The Chillicothe work group wishes to recognize Mary A. Mary generally turns in more than 100 finished quilts on a monthly basis. She creates her own as well as sews sandwiched quilts brought to her from various meetings. She also ties them and washes them so they are ready to go!

The Moose work group recognizes Helen W. Helen sets a goal for herself to turn in 30- 40 finished quilts each month. Her creativity is amazing. Helen also is a go-between, taking sandwiched quilts to be sewn elsewhere and bringing finished quilts back to the work group meeting.

We wish to recognize the entire *COOL* group for their help in tying quilts. This small group is always ready, willing and able to accept quilts that need tied and washed. They are always willing to take on other projects also when needed.

We would also like to recognize Martha A. She hand sews each quilt top and sends them to us once a year from the Dayton area. We recently received 62 tops that she created over the past year.

THE DELAWARE WORK GROUP

The Delaware work group meets the first Friday of the month at Willow Brook at Delaware Run in the “Stitch, Piece, and Pur!” room. Willow Brook at Delaware Run is a retirement community that provides independent and assisted living options. The Delaware work group consists of about 20 talented, hard-working volunteers with the oldest, but very young of heart, at 102 years of age! We even have a mother-daughter team who love making TLL quilts. Many of

the volunteers in the Delaware work group are residents of Willow Brook. The non- resident volunteers of the group enjoy the relaxing atmosphere and camaraderie of the group. Nancy is the resident who helps with organizing this work group meeting. This group sure can keep Nancy and Robin hopping during the meeting! The group works on quilts, onesies, sleepers, booties, tag balls and tag quilts.



THIS AND THAT

Recently, TLL had an opportunity to visit Connecting Threads, a fabric distribution warehouse near Grove City. Connecting Threads allows non-profits such as TLL to come in and go through their boxes of fabric scraps and factory ends and take what they want for FREE. Sally spent over an hour digging through boxes and boxes of fabric and filled 20 bags of scraps, strips, remnants and some yardage of fabric. There were lots of bright prints, many of them perfect for sewing into strips or cutting and piecing together to make quilt tops. We've passed out about half of the bags so far. If you're interested in receiving a bag

(or 2), email or call us and we'll get it to you. Also, we have a large supply of cotton fabric in larger pieces (fat quarter-size and yardage) too if you need fabric for quilts.

We appreciate ALL donations made by our volunteers but in this tough economy, we are always looking for ways to spend our money wisely. We will continue to send tax receipts for ALL monetary donations unless you specifically tell us you do not want one. For any donation of goods (finished items or supplies), we will not send a tax receipt UNLESS you request one. If you send us a package in the mail, we will acknowledge receipt of the package by email, if possible or by mail if you do not have an email address. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sally Bricker at 614-653-3352 or sag55tll@sbcglobal.net

We would like to remind those of you that are still employed that many employers have programs to match monetary donations or give money based on volunteer hours. Please check with your employers to see if such a program exists in your company. Also you may not realize that you can designate your United Way contribution directly to TLL.

The Sew-n-Save in Westerville has been kind enough to allow our volunteers to drop off finished items at their store. If you drop off there, please indicate on the outside of your bag that it is a donation for TLL.

We have recently purchased 3 new sewing machines with money donated by GE Aviation. There are currently several sewing machines and sergers for loan if you are interested in having one to use please contact Sally at 614-653-3352.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The support of the community has been overwhelming this year. We thank everyone involved for helping us fulfill our important mission to serve babies in need in Ohio.

Thank you to Bonnie P. and the ladies of Friendship Village for their lovely handmade afghans.



The ladies of the First United Methodist Church in Lancaster provided us with sweater sets, afghans and burial bunting. Thank you to all!



Again this year TLL was one of the recipients of "The Giving Tree" held by the Church of Our Lady in Columbus. We received 65 new items of clothing for our babies thanks to the wonderful generosity of the congregation there.



Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark recently recognized TLL for their donation of 840 baby items over the past year. There will be an article about TLL in their January newsletter. Pictured are Nancy C. ,Linda M. and President & CEO Rob Montagnese.



LETTERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all for the kind words, hugs and any expression that was given to me (on the death of her mother).

Mary B.

Thank you for the lovely gift. It was very thoughtful and much appreciated. They will be a special keepsake for my little man. Love. *Tatum*

Hello, I recently received a quilt from your organization made by Ruthann L. I had my son at Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, OH on October 3rd. and wanted to thank Ruthann for the beautiful quilt! Thank You. *Jessica E.*

Thank you so much for the handmade gifts such a sweet idea. Thanks again *Tim and Colleen W.*



Thank you for the beautiful embroidered receiving quilt. Our baby Rose received this lovely gift at Madison County Hospital. This picture was taken when she was 3 1/2 weeks old.



I'm a paramedic and my girlfriend is an EMT. Last night, she was taken to St. Rita's ER. We found out she was pregnant and we're thrilled. We weren't planning on having kids at this stage in our relationship, but neither of us were upset. Then we got the results to the ultrasound. It was ectopic. That was, and still is very hard. I now have a different look on life and how I treat my patients emotionally. I appreciated the baby blanket and lost infant awareness ribbon. I never thought losing something I didn't even know I had would be so hard. We have a long way to go to get over this obstacle, but with time and each other, I'm sure we'll get through it. Thank you. *Joel*

SHOPPING FUN

The confessions of a shop-a-holic by Sally B. . . .”My first time ever Black Friday shopping trip at JoAnn's today. Great bargain on flannel prints and solids. I filled one cart full of packaged bolts and had to get a second cart. Yarn was on sale too and then an extra 25% off the sale price. I brought a couple bags to put yarn in and was filling my second bag when a JoAnn's employee asked me if I needed another cart. So she took my first two carts and my bags of yarn in another cart and put them up front with my name on them. So I filled another cart with more yarn.... cart #4. She saw me again and gave me another cart and by that time they had brought out more flannel bolts so there's cart #5. Fiberfill on sale and then 25% off that so that's cart #6. I felt sorry for the lady who was checking me out... her arm was in a sling and she was doing all of this one-handed. She told me I "saved" over \$2000 on my purchase today....lol. I wish I had picture of the "convoy" of my 6 carts heading out to

my car in the parking lot. I did have a couple of people ask me why I was buying all the fabric and yarn so I had a chance to tell some people about TLL. It was so much fun! “

Bolts of flannel and Loads of yarn



WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES

Chillicothe _- 4th Saturday of each month (10 a.m.-2p.m.) Adena Hospital, Tecumseh room except for March – meeting will be in the Shawnee rooms.

Columbus (Southeast) – 2nd Thursday of each month (10a.m.-1p.m.) at the Moose Lodge, 2101 Noe Bixby Rd. entrance is in the back of the building

Columbus (Southeast) – 3rd. Tuesday of each month (6p.m.-8pm) at the Church of Our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd.

Grove City - 3rd. Friday of each month (10 a.m.-2p.m.) at the United Methodist Church 2684 Columbus St. Grove City, OH.

Delaware-1st Friday of each month (9:30-11a.m.) at Willow Brook at Delaware Run, 100 Delaware Crossing. West off us 36/west on William St.- less than 2 miles from downtown Delaware.

Westerville- 3rd. Saturday of each month (12n-2p.m.) at the Heritage Christian Church, 7413 Maxtown Rd. Room 102, Westerville, OH

Meeting Cancellations

The Grove City meeting is cancelled for January and February

The Moose meeting will be cancelled for March

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Linda Marshall – Chairperson
 Jan Kiikka – Vice Chairperson



...serving the babies of Ohio...

**TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES, INC.
NEWSLETTER
FIRST QUARTER 2014**

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