



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

First Quarter

January-March 2015

BOARD NEWS

Officer elections were held at our December Board meeting. Your Board members will remain the same holding their current positions for 2015.

Sally presented the 2014 budget information. She advised that TLL had taken in more than expected due to the Honor Trust Grant. We had spent close to our designated planned expenditures. It was noted that individual donations were down from last year.

The proposed 2015 budget was based on the actual 2014 budget with additional funds allotted for printing and postage. We still have some stamps left from the Save Our Stamps promotion but will need to buy more this year. We also will need to reprint brochures this year. The 2015 proposed budget was approved by the Board.

We would like to wish all of volunteers the very best for 2015 and send a big thank you for all your volunteer hours. Official numbers are not yet tabulated, however we estimate close to 33,000 items were delivered in 2014 to Ohio babies.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Linda Marshall- Chairperson

Linda has been a member of TLL since her retirement from Nationwide Insurance in 2005. Her career as an Occupational Health Nurse with Nationwide spanned 33 years. Once retired she was looking for an outlet for her sewing talents and felt a need to connect with people. She started attending meetings in Lancaster and sewing for TLL. Linda not only serves as chairperson but is the WGC for the Moose meeting and serves the COOL and Chillicothe work groups. She is also the newsletter editor. Her basement holds half of the supplies and finished items for TLL. Her interests are crocheting, reading, gardening and traveling with her husband Ken.



Jan Kiiikka- Vice-Chairperson

Jan attends the Westerville work group where she knits, serges, stuffs animals, and cuts quilt squares. Jan has been married to her husband Niel for 34 years. They live in Zanesville with their 5 dogs and one cat. She is a retired high school media specialist. Jan is active in community theatre, has served on the board of Muskingum Behavioral Health for 30 years, and is a member of National Trails Knitters Guild. Her hobbies include reading, sewing, knitting and jewelry-making.



Sally Bricker - Treasurer

Sally has been a special education teacher in Groveport for the last 27 years. She has been a part of Touching Little Lives since its start in 2000. She started out sewing stuffed animals and one year sewed 5000 of them. Now Sally runs the Westerville workgroup and is currently treasurer of TLL. Her home is the corporate address of TLL and her basement is overflowing with supplies and finished items which are packed into deliveries every month. She has been married for 7 years to her husband, Jim and has 4 stepchildren. She enjoys crocheting, sewing, crosswords, puzzles, music, movies, and computers and is a hopeless chocoholic.



Teresa Ballatyne - Secretary

Teresa attends the Moose work group where she snaps, sews sleep sacks, knits hats and booties, and delivers. Teresa has been married to Doug for 47 years. They have 2 children and 4 teen-aged grandchildren. Teresa is retired from Ohio Gastroenterology Associates. Her other hobbies include watercolor painting, nature photography, knitting and crocheting.



Joyce Parlette - TLL Infant Loss Coordinator

Joyce attends both the Westerville and Moose work groups where she snaps and sews or whatever she is asked to do. She has been married to her husband Steve for 41 years has two children and four grandchildren. Her favorite saying: "they come and go and multiply!" She runs a sewing contract business from her home. In her "spare" time she likes to read, sew, knit, crochet and cross stitch and loves making things for others.



Nancy Coho- Trustee

Nancy is a member of the Moose group. She sews bibs, blankets and quilt tops and loves to add cute appliques to her work. She is a retired RN with four generations of nurses in the family. Nancy is originally from the east coast, but a Buckeye for 34 years. She has two daughters and 4 grandchildren. Nancy enjoys traveling, sewing, reading and her Sheltie, Lexi.

TLL- A –THON

SAVE THE DATE: June 27th from 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

We will again be holding our TLL-A-Thon this year. 2015 is the 15th anniversary of TLL. We are planning a special celebration at the same time. Watch the newsletter, Facebook and our web page for more detail later in the year.

BUCKEYE BABIES

Thank you to everyone that contributed OSU quilts for our Buckeye Babies project. Our volunteers produced 115 Buckeye quilts. We were able to send 80 to the NICU at OSU hospital for their use at Beat Michigan week. The remainder were distributed to other hospitals. Thank you to Sally for pursuing an article with the Dispatch. If you haven't seen it, it can be accessed at: http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/life_and_entertainment/2014/11/25/tiny-treasures.html



Judy Martin- Trustee

Judy was raised in an Air Force family and lived in many places, but calls western South Dakota home. She retired as an administrator from Ohio State in 1988. About seven years ago she saw an article in the Dispatch showing a lady on a sofa surrounded by booties and a description of TLL. She liked handwork and was intrigued and went to a Westerville meeting. She found wonderful ladies and was enchanted by what they made. At work, she was required to give many speeches so is happy and proud to represent TLL by giving presentation to groups. She and her husband of 58 years love hunting and fishing. For 45 years they trained Labrador Retrievers for field trial competition and in 1981 won the National Retriever Championship.



Robin Hughes- Trustee

Robin is TLL's Delaware work group coordinator and actually started the Delaware group 7 years ago. Robin first found out about TLL from a customer, when she worked at the local yarn store. She started with knitting items for TLL and then through the years become more involved. Robin has been married to Gary for 30 years and they have 3 wonderful daughters and recently became a grandmother! Her youngest daughter is currently a senior in high school and is an equestrian athlete. Robin is also a certified handler for their therapy dog Rocky and takes him to the local nursing home to visit. Volunteering is a big part of her life and she says she has met so many wonderful people because of it.



Volunteers craft blankets, baby clothing to donate to Ohio newborns
www.dispatch.com

We were also privileged to meet the quads pictured below. It was quite heartwarming to know that our quilts and clothing helped them thrive while in the NICU as well as to provide a more home-like atmosphere for their parents.



From top left going clockwise: Mom Kacie with Owen, Grandma Carla with Millie, Dad Chris with Dylan and Jackson in a Buckeye sleep sack.

We purchased new snappers this past quarter. Our old ones were wearing out. These should last us a long, long time and snap many onesies and sleepers in the next years! Thank you to the GE Evendale Employee Community Service Fund Board for making this purchase possible with their donation.



THIS AND THAT

We have spent just over \$1,240 in the 4 months since we received the \$10,000 grant from the Honor Trust Fund, This was used to purchase knit fabric for our onesies and sleepers. At this rate we will be able to have enough money to buy fabric for all next year and perhaps even more.

Our Holiday Angels fundraiser has been a huge success! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who donated money on behalf of their healthy children. Our

final total collected was \$627. This money will support our infant loss program. Joyce, our infant loss coordinator, is beginning to purchase needed items at JoAnn's or through wholesalers.

Please keep saving your used ink cartridges for us. We have been turning them in at Staples and have been receiving at least \$2 credit per cartridge. By the end of 2014, we will have received over \$225 in rewards from Staples. Because of this, we've been able to get many needed supplies such as labels, envelopes, and print cartridges for free. Thank you so much for helping us get this FREE money!

We have gotten feedback from hospitals and chaplains asking us to change the style of infant loss gowns for boys. They are asking for something more "boyish" than the gowns. We have been experimenting with different patterns to try to come up with something more suitable. We are currently communicating with the hospitals to see if our new patterns are what they had in mind. If you have been sewing boy gowns, we are asking that you only sew girl gowns for now. If you are interested in the new patterns we will be using, please let us know and we can get those to you as soon as they become available. We also have had an increase in requests for new born size infant loss clothing. If you are interested in helping in this area please let us know so that we can share patterns with you.

The Grove City Clover Crew 4-H Club and TLL teamed up once again for the Central Ohio Walk & Serve-A-Palooza on Oct. 25, 2014. Club members manned a station where members of the community could stop by and stuff a toy animal. A total of 152 animals (toys) were completed.

LETTERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Hello! My name is Jennifer and I had my little girl on October 7th and received a beautiful blanket from your organization and I just wanted to say thank you so much! I use the blanket every day now, its light weight so I am able to cuddle her with it! I'm happy that everyone is going to get to see my note, I think it is amazing that there are volunteers who make these beautiful blankets. Much love, Jennifer B. ♥☐

I just wanted to reach out and tell you how thankful we are for your donated gifts for our Maternal Child Health Center patients. Our patients love it when they receive a

blanket, hat or outfit for their child when they bring them in for an appointment. It is especially helpful with this cold weather. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Atrium Medical Center , Middletown, OH



Just wanted to say thank you and send a picture of our little one. He was born on 11/5/2014 he weighed 8lbs 12oz and is 21 1/4 inches long. Again thank you and god bless. *Steven M.*

Thank you for all the hard work you put into making the adorable baby items we receive here at Memorial Hospital. We really appreciate you taking the time to do this for our patients and their families. Your gifts are the highlight of my shift when I select something for a new family



Thank you for the beautiful hand-made items your volunteers donated to my little Marnie. It really brightened our day and the items will go to excellent use. Thanks for doing what you do! It's such a great loving thing to do for the community and its newest members. *Chrissy C.*

Thank you for the layette to use while we were in the hospital with our new baby girl. We were brought together through adoption and really appreciate the handmade items to make her comfortable. Please accept our donation to help continue to reach those in need. We think that you do make a difference- keep up the good work. *A thankful family*

Thank you so much for your recent delivery of items for the Grant Outpatient Clinic. They are really appreciated. A patient and I were discussing the cute bibs the other day. This is her second baby. She was telling me her mom embroidered the baby's name on the first child's bib and framed it for a wall hanging. So all your hard work and dedication really does mean something special to many people you will never meet. *Grant Outpatient Clinic*

Just a few lines sent your way to say thank you for the blankets you made that we received from our midwife, after having a baby boy. *Ivan and Sara H.*

Thank you for your continued support of toys for our little patients and visitors. It certainly makes a tough time easier for them. We appreciate it. *Sonya H. Emergency and Outpatient Services, Mt. Carmel Hospital*



Thank you for all the time and love you all put into these items. All of the clothes fit and he loves his cowboy blanket. It's nice to know there are people who care. *Tabitha T.*

Thank you for the beautiful handmade baby clothes. I received them at the Teen Pregnancy Clinic at Children's Hospital. At Mt. Carmel East, when my baby was born, they gave me one of your quilts. I really love it because it looks like fall. Your gifts made me feel special. Someday I'd like to help out girls like me. I will always remember your gifts. *Hannah R.*

Thank you so much for the blankets, layettes, baby sacks and goodies. We have been so busy with deliveries since the cold winter. I don't know what we would do without your much needed baby supplies. God Bless you all! *Linda M. Southview Hospital*

Thank you for the quilt from the bottom of our hearts. That was so thoughtful and we are so grateful. Thank you for all y'all do! God Bless. *Brent, Hannah, Brian and Mary Jane*

Thank you so much for thinking of our family as we welcome Logan. I love all of the handmade blankets, bibs, booties and burp cloths. I truly appreciate how much time and energy goes into creating each item. Thank you! *Abigail, Adam, Audrey and Logan*

WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES

Chillicothe -4th Saturday of each month (10-2) Adena Hospital, Tecumseh Room.

Columbus –MOOSE- 2nd. Thursday of each month (10-1) at The Church of Our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd. through April.

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

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

Delaware- 1st. Friday of each month (9:30-11) at Willow Brook at Delaware Run, 100 Delaware Crossing.

Westerville- 3rd. Saturday of each month (12-2) 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 for March is cancelled. Please check with your work group coordinators for last minute cancellations due to weather.

TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES, INC.
4882 BIXBY RIDGE DR. EAST
GROVEPORT, OH 43125
614-653-3352

www.touchinglittlives.org email:info@touchinglittlives.org