



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

Second Quarter April – June 2015

BOARD NEWS

Your Board met in February to begin planning for the TLL-a-Thon. We will also be celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of Touching Little Lives! Many great ideas were discussed for both the TLL-a-Thon work day and the birthday party. Look for more information later in this newsletter.

Our annual report has been compiled for 2014. A total of 36,075 items were delivered to premature and needy babies in Ohio. Volunteers worked almost 56,000 hours to create these items. What a fantastic group of volunteers!!! By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have reached our 1 millionth item donated!! That's quite a lot of sewing, knitting and crocheting in 15 years! Thank you to everyone for helping us reach this milestone.

Volunteer Recognition

In this edition of the newsletter we would like to recognize those of you that may never attend a meeting but work from home to help us fulfill our mission. Even though we are recognizing only a few of you today, we appreciate all of our "silent partners" and the beautiful work you do. You all are an essential part of our ability to meet the needs of Ohio babies.

Mary Ann K. knits matching afghans, sweaters and hats and turns them in at our Moose meeting. Mary Ann is a retired teacher and has been knitting for TLL for over 15 years. At last count she had turned in over 600 sets. Each month we look forward to seeing what she created.

Jill H. works from her home to make the most beautiful quilts. We receive around 30 each quarter. Jill makes a trip to Marshall Drygoods in Arkansas each year to buy a years worth of fabric to make into these gorgeous quilts. Last year she even brought back fabric that we had purchased so we could avoid the shipping costs. Thanks Jill for all you do!

The Delaware workgroup would like to recognize **Vicky H.** She turns in crochet papooses, crochet sweaters, and bibs. She is always willing to help and is a long standing, dedicated volunteer to TLL.

Again this year we were blessed to receive booties from **Linda R.** Linda creates at home and turned in 600 booties at year end-just in time to help us through the remainder of these cold winter months.

The Grove City TLL group would like to recognize **Ginny S.** and **Ruth W.** for their faithful and fruitful contribution each month to TLL. They do not stay at the monthly meetings but faithfully stop by with many crocheted and knitted hats, sweaters, and afghans for the babies. They are an important asset to our group. We thank them very much.

Sue R. from the Westerville group spends endless hours cutting out squares for quilts and other similar jobs. Due to her hard work, other volunteers are able to sew more quilts. We'd also like to thank **Jackie M.** for sewing stuffed animals for us. We are able to pass out her "critters" to other volunteers who like to stuff them.

Thank you to **Marian A.** for all the wonderful hats that she donated this past year. Marian has a knitting machine that makes the perfect hat!

TLL-a-THON

Please join us for our 3rd annual TLL-a-THON

June 27, 2015 from 10am – 4pm.

Parson's Baptist Church

3930 Parsons Ave. Columbus, Oh 43207

We will also be celebrating TLL's 15th anniversary at the event! Activities will include sewing bibs, onesies, and sleep sacks. We will also work on sewing quilt tops and

sandwiched quilts as well as tying quilts, stuffing animals, completing infant loss items and several other activities. You can also bring your crochet or knitting projects to work on if you wish. There will be something to do for all skill levels. We will be supplying the materials so just bring your sewing machine, serger, needles or just yourself.

During this event we will kicking off our Buckeye Babies project and will have red, gray, white and black fabric for volunteers to take to get started on their quilts. We will also have fabric, yarn and other supplies available for volunteers to take home.

Come meet other volunteers and try out different projects. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult. We will have coffee cake and coffee in the morning and water available as well. Please bring a covered dish for our potluck. We will have special cake as part of our celebration.

Some special activities and prizes to celebrate our 15th anniversary have been planned. Our theme is "15" and we're asking you to take part in our celebration by donating 15 pennies, 15 quarters, 15 dollars, etc. Bring what you can afford to donate. Anyone who participates in this fundraiser (no matter the amount) will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. We are planning a trivia contest and will be raffling off some items made especially for you by our board members

Directions from I-270. Exit north on 23 North/High St. Turn right at first traffic light (Obetz Road). Continue on Obetz Road to the next traffic light. Parsons Baptist Church is right in front of you. Turn right on to Parsons Avenue and then left into the parking lot. We will have signs marking the entrance to our meeting room.

THIS AND THAT

Our sincere sympathy to Peggy W. and her family on the loss of her husband Lee. Lee was also the father of volunteer Susan S. We also offer our condolences to Rosalie L. on the loss of her husband, Bill and to Jean R. and Nina M. at the loss of their sons.

We are planning a trip to Connecting Threads on Wednesday, June 10th. If you are interested in participating and picking out fabric for quilts, please RSVP to Sally Bricker at sag55tll@sbcglobal.net or call 614-653-5335 by June 1.

If you are making holiday quilts or other items, please remember we need to have them turned in to your work group coordinators at least 2 months prior to the holiday so that they can be processed and packed for distribution.



Touching Little Lives and Sally Bricker were featured in "Ohio Schools" February magazine in their Members Making a Difference section. You can read the article at: www.touchinglittlives.org/article Congratulations Sal!

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list please let us know by sending an email to info@touchinglittlives.org or call 614-653-3352 and leave a message.

TLL is scheduled to share our story during the Children's Miracle Network telethon which supports Nationwide Children's Hospital. The segment will be designed to fit into their "Butterfly Effect" theme which they describe as the ripple, or flutter effect of what we are doing for the little ones at Nationwide Children's. The segment will be taped during the Grove City work group meeting in April. The program is scheduled to air on WBNS (10 TV) on May 30-31. Although the segment will be very brief we hope it will make a big impact on the community.

For a future newsletter, we would like to publish pictures of our volunteers displaying their work. Please send us a picture holding something that you have made. Please give us your name, your workgroup (if applicable) and perhaps a few lines about how long you have volunteered or why you became a volunteer. Pictures can be email to info@touchinglittlives.org or mailed to our corporate address. If you would like your picture returned please let us know. Deadline for pictures is June 15th.

Please continue to save your ink cartridges for us. By recycling these at Staples we receive credits of \$20-\$40 monthly. This helps defray the cost of printing supplies.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A big thank you goes out to the congregation of the **Church of Our Lady** on Refugee Rd. Again this year they made TLL a part of their Giving Tree Christmas event. Pictured are the items we received plus a large monetary donation. Your help is certainly appreciated! We also appreciate the use of your wonderful facility for our meetings.



the burp cloths to turn and top stitch. They all seemed to have enjoyed the event.

Judy M. presented at the **Worthington Linworth Kiwanis** meeting where they held a baby shower for TLL. Along with purchased items, their members contributed fleece and actually pre-cut sleep sacks, hats and booties for us!! We certainly appreciate all that the Kiwanis does for TLL.



Thank you to **Connie** in Powell for the fantastic fabric donation. This is only a small part of what she brought us. There was tons of knit fabric, cotton for quilts, some flannel and fleece as well as muslin and batting.



We received a wonderful donation of afghans, receiving blankets, sweaters, hats and booties from the **First United Methodist Church Outreach Sewing Ministry** in Lancaster, OH. Thank you ladies for all of your lovely work.



Look what the ladies from **St. Philips Church** in Circleville turned in this quarter!! Quilts, car seat afghans, booties, hats and IV shirts! Thank you ladies.

11 members of the Columbus Chapter of the American Sewing Guild met to do a charity sew for TLL. In two hours they made 8 onesies, 8 burp cloths, 13 bibs. 4 members took 37 onesie pre-cuts to sew and return and the rest of



A big, big thank you to Jennifer from Florida and also Sheila T. for the wonderful donations of yarn that they donated. Volunteers will have fun knitting and crocheting it into much needed baby items.

Thank you to the **Heath Church of Christ** for hosting a baby shower for TLL. We received many beautiful



handmade items as well as purchased goodies for the babies. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.



Thank you for the items we received in the hospital. Lily was born on Monday, January 19th at Berger Hospital. We love and appreciate everything you've given us. This is a picture of Lily in one of the outfits we received. Thank you again!



To the volunteers at Touching Little Lives: We received an OSU bundle gift for our new little addition on 12/5/14. Garrison is the new little fellow's name and we absolutely loved the blanket as we are huge OSU fans. We thank you for the work you do. *Krystal and Garrison B.*

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Baby Champion says "thank you!"

Thank you so much for the beautiful handmade blanket! I am currently a patient at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and was the recipient of one of your gifts last month. I've had a complicated pregnancy – I've been hospitalized since November 1st and will be until my daughter is born next month. Christmas was very difficult – I really missed being home to celebrate with my husband and our young son. Your gift helped to cheer me and I felt so blessed by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

My grandson was delivered on December 30th, 12 weeks premature, to save our daughter's life. He is currently in the NICU at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. He is doing well and has been receiving unbelievable care. I was admiring his lovely, hand-quilted isolette cover the other day and noticed the label with the information for your organization. I am a quilter, and have made quilts for My Very Own Blanket, an organization that provides blankets for foster children, for several years. Having first-hand experience with the impact your quilts have on fragile little preemies and their families, I would love to make quilts for this purpose. Thank you for providing all the items you do for both babies in NICUs as well as families in need. The fact that someone lovingly made the quilt that is covering my grandson's isolette is somehow comforting to our family in this difficult time. Best regards, *Pat B.*



Genesis Health Care System's OB/Nursery Department would like to thank you very much for your dedication in providing much needed baby items to the newborns and their families. Your donations are greatly appreciated! Happy New Year, *Bethesda Nursery*

I would like to thank you for the very nice care package that was given to my premature baby at Marion General Hospital. I am very touched that all the items are handmade. She loves all her blankets and hats that your company made. It was a scary time in our lives because she was 4 weeks early, but it is nice to know that there are people who do nice things like this to make people feel better in a time of need. Thank you so much. Love, *Alisha and Baby Reagan*

This family sent a request after the loss of their newborn to provide something for the siblings as a remembrance and to help them with their grief.



We received our package this morning thank you so much! You're such an amazing organization! I'm praying that you continue to touch others' lives as you have ours! Our youngest 2 of our 5 kids are home and they're hugging their bears and so excited they have them to hug!! We had told the kids we'd buy them bears in honor of our son Shepherd but hadn't got around to it and they we're so excited to see the bears! Thanks again *Stacy*

Thank you so much for the lovely items you made and donated to our clinic. We are so blessed by your ongoing support and generosity. Our clients so appreciate the gifts so lovingly made for their babies as do we. May God bless you as you partner with us on this journey! Sincerely, *Patric L., RN and Staff of the clinic*

This is to say thank you for all the nice baby items we received from you for our precious lil' newborn! It's a

boy, named "Owen", born on Feb. 5, 2015. He weighed 6 pounds 6 oz and was 19" long. He is the 3rd in our family and is a very welcome lil' blessing. His bro and sis are all excited about him and like to hold him. Thanks again for everything! *Daniel and Barbara, Lizzie, Henry and Owen*

I just wanted to tell your organization thank you. It's been a month today since my son, Gabriel has passed away. The things your organization made for him are the only things, besides pictures that I have to remember him. I appreciate it more than I could explain. I hope every one of you are extremely blessed in life. Thank you so very much. *Katrina R.*



HELP TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES, INC. HELP THE BABIES OF OHIO

Kroger requires re-registration on a yearly basis in April. If you have previously registered, please remember to re-register as soon as possible.

IT'S EASY AS 1-2-3-

Just by shopping at **KROGER** and using your PLUS card as you always do, Kroger will donate funds to Touching Little Lives, Inc. based on the purchases you make every day! This program generally brings in around \$1000 a year to TLL. Registration is easy on line at *Kroger Community Rewards*. Supporters can earn rewards for our organization on almost everything, even gift cards and gasoline, every time you shop.

SO LET'S GET STARTED

Go online to.com www.krogercommunityrewards.com. You must have a valid on line account to participate. If you do not have one, follow the prompts at *Sign Up Today* to register. You will need your number from your Kroger Plus card. Once you complete the registration you will receive an email to activate your account. Once received, go back to the community rewards page and follow the prompts.

1. Select your state - OHIO
 2. Select option - ENROLL NOW
 3. Enter your email address and your personal password.
 4. *Find your organization* – type in Touching Little Lives and hit SEARCH
 5. *Select your organization*- click on the bubble in front of Touching Little Lives
 6. *Save Your Selection* - click on the save
- Within 7-10 business days after you register, you will see at the bottom of your Kroger receipt "At your request, Kroger is donating to Touching Little Lives, Inc.". TLL depends on this program to help fund

purchases for fabric, batting, muslin, yarn and other necessary items. So please consider signing up and encourage friends and neighbors who shop at Kroger's to select us also! Thank you on behalf of all the volunteers and staff of Touching Little Lives, Inc. It is only through the generosity of caring members of the community that we are able to make a positive impact on the lives of the newborns we assist.

A PATTERN FOR YOU

Knit Baby Booties

We've shared this pattern with you before but it's worth printing again. The pattern is being shared with you through the generosity of the designer, Beth Koskie from Bundles of Love and the AC4C internet group. Thanks Beth!

Sports weight or baby yarn, two colors (1 color and white)
Size 8 needles, Size G crochet hook

Cast on 28 stitches
k10 rows (5 ridges)

Decrease as follows:

Row 11: K12, K2tog twice, K12 (26 stitches)

Row 12, 14, 16 Knit across

Row 13: K11, K2tog twice, K11 (24 stitches)

Row 15: K10, K2tog twice, K10 (22 stitches)

Eyelet- Row 17, *YO, K2tog, repeat from * across, end K1 (22 stitches)

Row 18: Knit across, Knitting through back loop of all YO stitches.

Cut colored yarn (leave enough length to use for sewing bottom half of booties) and attach white. Work ribbing as follows:

K1, P1 repeat across row for 14 rows. Bind off, cutting enough yarn to sew top half of bootie.

Sew top half of bootie with white yarn, bottom half with colored yarn. Weave in ends, turn right side out fold down cuff.

Make second bootie the same.

Tie: Using G hook, ch2, work 8 sc in first ch, join to first sc; ch 52, work 8 sc in 2nd chain from hook, join to first sc, end off. Weave in ends in each "circle" end. Use hook to pull through eyelets of bootie and tie in front.

If you do not have crochet skills, use a piece of ribbon long enough to tie a bow on the front of the bootie. Secure the ribbon to the back of the bootie by weaving through

the middle eyelet at the back of the bootie twice. This will keep it from coming off and causing a choking hazard.



Tons of booties by Linda R. Infant Loss dresses by Angela V.



Hats by Sally B.



Beautiful quilts from Jill H.



A unique afghan

WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Columbus –MOOSE- 2nd. Thursday of each month (10-1) Our May meeting will be held at The Church of Our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd. Please check Facebook or our web page for future meeting locations.

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.

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