



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

Second Quarter 2016

Editor: Linda Marshall

April - June

BOARD NEWS

Our annual report is now complete for 2015. We are pleased to announce that we were able to donate 33, 733 items to premature and needy newborns in Ohio through the approximately 50 hospitals and health facilities that we serve. Volunteers worked a total of 52, 554 hours to allow us to serve those in need. Touching Little Lives is fiscally sound thanks to the donations, grants and in-kind donations that we have received. For a complete look at what was accomplished please refer to our web page at www.touchinglittlelives.org under Financials for the full report. Thank you to all that have worked so faithfully and to those that have donated time, funds and materials to help us have another great year!

TLL-a-THON

We are excited to announce our fourth annual TLL-a-Thon.

Please plan to join us.

June 25, 2016 from 10am – 4pm

Parson's Baptist Church

3930 Parsons Ave. Columbus, Oh 43207

Activities will include sewing bibs, onesies, and sleep sacks, sewing quilt tops, 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!

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 be taking donations (any amount) for Touching Little Lives which will enter you into a drawing for a gift card. We will also have door prizes to give a way. So come join us for a fun and productive day!

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.

If you have any questions, please contact us at info@touchinglittlelives.org

CROCHETED & KNITTED HATS

Unfortunately we have been getting a large volume of hats that we are unable to use. We have received many hats that are much too small and do not have enough stretch. Also, some hats that are too big (toddler to adult sizes). We are mainly in need of NEWBORN size hats. Our guidelines take into account what the hospitals want and need and it is disheartening to know that volunteers are spending time and materials on items that are not able to be used to serve our newborn babies. When we can we donate the larger hats on, but many times the smallest ones are just not useable.

There is only a small need for preemie hats and booties, since many preemies in the NICU are in isolettes, where the temperature is maintained. Clothing is not necessary and often gets in the way of wires and tubes. By the time these preemies graduate to an open crib and must maintain their own body heat, smaller preemie sizes will no longer fit. Preemie items should fit a four to five pound baby.

GUIDELINES FOR HATS

MATERIALS: *Use sport weight, fingering yarn or baby yarn ONLY.* Since hats will be in contact with baby's skin, worsted weight or wool yarn is too "rough" for their delicate skin.

SIZE : Hats should have at least an 11" circumference (BEFORE stretched) and stretch to approximately 13" to fit the baby's head. It is better that they are SLIGHTLY larger rather than too small since a cuff can be turned up to make the hat smaller if necessary. The length of the hat should be at least 6 - 6 1/2" long. Again, hats can be turned up if necessary. If you are making preemie hats

they should have a circumference of 9 inches with a stretch to 10-10 1/2 inches and be at least 5 1/2 inches long.

If you put pom-poms on your hats, please tie them tightly using at least 2 strands of yarn so they will not come loose when washed. Finished hats need to be washed before being turned in. Do not use fabric softener in the dryer when drying them. After washing them, check for loose yarn that needs to be woven in.

THIS AND THAT

The Sew N Save store in Westerville has moved. Their new address is at the Glengary Shopping Center, 5900 Westerville Road, Westerville. Items can be dropped off at that location.

Because of meeting cancellations this winter, we are in need of finished quilts and NB booties. We would appreciate your help to help restock our supply.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Thank you to Becky H. from Waverly, OH for the donation of her beautiful wedding dress. We have repurposed it into this lovely infant loss gown. I'm sure it will bring comfort to a grieving family.



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! It's as simple as registering 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 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! Currently this program raises \$1000-\$1200 a year for us. Only through the generosity of caring members of the community are we able to make a positive impact on the lives of the newborns we assist.

In February, Touching Little Lives submitted a grant proposal to the City of Groveport for funds to buy batting. We have learned that we will be receiving a \$500 grant from the city! We are certainly appreciative of their support.



Thank You Groveport Madison Middle School!

This is what 1,335 stuffed animals look like!

Sally B. arranged for the students at Groveport Madison Middle School to stuff animals for TLL during their half hour enrichment period. The students and teachers were

really excited to take part in this activity that wrapped up their quarter long focus on community service. Each grade level stuffed over 425 animals for a school wide total of 1,335 completed. Great job Middle School South students!

Thank you to Jan K. and Linda G. who came and helped Sally. It was fun but exhausting. We're going to have plenty of critters for our ERs!

THANK YOU LETTERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Last November my son and his wife lost their first baby boy at 5 months along in a much sought after (through every test, trial and surgery known to infertile couples) pregnancy. He was SO wanted but he died 1 minute after a much too early birth. The doctors had no explanation. His tiny 1 lb. body was placed in a tiny knitted blue bunting that was a precious gift to his parents. We were all blessed by it, not knowing anything like that even existed. We are so thankful for the caring ladies (groups) who labor over them and donate them.

Since then, my sisters and I have been making them also. Thank you for posting the pattern. Some of them have been given to a hospital in Walnut Creek, California where they were enthusiastically received and never had been seen before. They are all given in memory of my tiny grandson.

Thank you, *Mary Grand Rapids, Michigan*

I apologize for the long message. I have a wedding dress to donate. It was my moms and was used in 1986. This dress doesn't have a home that is suitable for the love my mom put into it and I would like it to go to helping families with their grief. My mom was diagnosed with cancer of unknown primary in 2009 and only got to spend a couple of years with her first grandson before passing away in 2012. I had spoken to her about this service I had heard about in Texas that makes burial gowns for infant loss and she started to cry. She told me that to make something like that was an amazing blessing. I know that she would be overjoyed for her dress to go toward making some family's loss a little easier. Please let me know if you can use this. Thank you very much for all that you do.

Thank you for the homemade clothes that I received when I was in the hospital. She just loves them. *Allison, Christopher and Elginn Marie*



Five weeks ago, our littlest daughter, Stella Kate, arrived seven weeks early and was admitted to the NICU at a Nationwide Children's Hospital at St. Ann's in Westerville. Because she was so early, I didn't get to see her for very long right after delivery so that treatment could get started in the NICU. My first time really seeing her came several hours later, after my recovery when I was finally allowed to be wheeled down to see her. I was not really prepared for the bright lights and beeping monitors that greeted me. When I was taken to her bed space, I was overwhelmed by all of the medical gear surrounding my sweet little girl, but then I saw the beautiful purple and floral quilt that was draped over her enclosed bassinette. When I looked around, I noticed many of the other babies had beautiful quilts too and it brought comfort and a sense of "home" to the sterile, technology filled space. I really wanted you all to know how special it is that you make blankets for babies that you will never know. It really was the first gift Stella was given! We will treasure her beautiful quilt forever and when she gets older, I will be sure that she knows where it came from and the organization of volunteers that stitched it for her. Thanks for all of the love and prayers that were offered as it was being created. *Stephanie and Stella S.*

Thank you so much for adding Heartbeats to your list of recipients! We are blessed by your beautiful handiwork. Thank you for blessing our babies (& moms & dads) with your talents. Many thanks.

This past summer, our family went through an amazing journey of faith, hope and love. We experienced God's joy and strength as we spent as much time as we could loving on our precious baby girl, River. On September 10th, we were excited to finally meet River face to face. We are saddened that we had to say goodbye to River the same day but we are overjoyed that we will see her again one day in Heaven. Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for remembering us in this difficult time. Your generosity has brought warmth to our hearts. We are so blessed to have so many people who have supported us and continue to support us throughout this journey, River was here for a reason and we pray her story continues to touch the lives of others. (TLL created a burial gown for River from her mother's wedding dress)



Thank you for the homemade items we received for our twin girls at Fairfield Medical Center. Our daughters were born a month and one day early. Both girls are doing well and were born healthy. We have been very blessed since they were early that they were healthy. My husband and I



thought it was very sweet that this group took the time to homemade items to give to newborns at our local hospital.

Lancaster, OH

EASY KNIT BOOTIE PATTERN

Created by Mary Ann K.



Size 8 needles
4 ply yarn

Cast on 27 stitches

Row 1: K4, P1, K17, P1, K4

Row 2: K10, P1, K5, P1, K10

Repeat until piece measures 2 1/2 inches

Bind off 4 stitches at beginning of next 2 rows

Toe: K each row until piece measures 4 inches

Cut yarn leaving a 12 inch tail. Thread needle, draw stitches through the last row and pull toe together. Sew together the toe section, then sew the heel edges together.

Crochet a chain (90 stitches) or use ribbon to weave through ankle area. Please secure the tie to the back of the bootie before weaving it to the front.

WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

Chillicothe -4th Saturday of each month (10-2)
Shawnee Room 1&2 Adena Hospital. **May meeting changed to Saturday May 21**

Columbus -MOOSE- 2nd. Thursday of each month (10 -1) Moose Lodge 220 Main St. Groveport, OH (Behind the Dairy Queen)

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

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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Hello! I wanted to say thank you for making a beautiful Christmas quilt for my baby girl! I know when she gets old enough to realize its beauty, she will love it! I wanted to send a picture of her with the quilt as a thank you. We received this quilt from SOMC Pediatrics in Portsmouth, Ohio in December 2015. *Adam, Caitlyn & Naomi*



I just wanted to take a minute and thank you for everything you do for the parents of infants of Ross County. The items that you make and donate are precious and something that our parents value greatly. From the burial layettes to the quilts, each one is very much appreciated. We also serve a very underprivileged population and sometimes receiving these donated items is a lifesaver for our patients. Again, we appreciate all that you do and could never thank you enough. *Jackie R. R.N. Adena Health Systems*



Quilts from our new volunteers in the Cleveland area.



Thanks Marianne!

A big box of hats from Sandy R.



