



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

Second Quarter – April – June 2018

Editor: Linda Marshall

BOARD NEWS

Our 2017 annual report is now complete. We are pleased to announce that we were able to donate 40,006 items to premature and needy newborns in Ohio through the approximately 50 hospitals and health facilities that we serve. This increased our output by approximately 2,600 items over 2016! 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!

Linda M. has officially passed the baton and as of March 1, has resigned as Chair of TLL. She will also no longer serve as work group leader for the MOOSE meeting. Jan Kiikka, our new chairperson and Charlotte Oliver our vice-chair have been briefed on their new responsibilities and are ready to lead this new chapter of TLL. Jill Hawse will serve as work group leader for the MOOSE meeting. Volunteers from MOOSE should now contact Jill H. and copy Sally with requests. COOL and Chillicothe volunteers should contact Sally directly. If you have in the past contacted Linda for questions and supplies due to working from home, please now contact Sally.

Sally B. info@touchinglittlelives.org 614- 653-3352

Sag55tll@gmail.com

Jill H. jhawse@att.net 614- 531-5237

We are looking for candidates to fill our open trustee positions. Candidate must be an active volunteer and live in Ohio and also have access to a computer for on-line board meetings. You do not necessarily have had to attend work group meetings. If you are interested in further information please contact Sally

or one of our Board members,

A NOTE FROM LINDA

I would like to take a moment to reflect on what Touching Little Lives has meant to me. My journey began around 2006 after my retirement as the Director of Employee and Occupational Health at Nationwide Insurance for 33 years. Like many new retirees I wasn't in any hurry to start anything new. There was cleaning to do, organizing the household, enjoying time with my husband and just relaxing. At some point the relaxing got very boring and I began looking for something meaningful to do that involved getting out of the house and meeting new people. I joined the Baltimore, OH. TLL group and learned how to serge - I was hooked. Eventually I began attending the Moose meetings with Marianne and then offered to help her at her home doing precuts and packing layettes. I also served on the Board as secretary. The rest is history! Marianne left and I was asked by the Board to become the chairperson, the work group leader for Moose and to write the newsletter!! OH MY – what did I get myself into? At some point my basement was taken over by TLL supplies and an outbuilding was necessary to hold all of the fabric! It was sometimes a challenge, but mostly a very special and gratifying experience. I am sad to leave this wonderful group of volunteers. I have made many friends and have had many meaningful experiences. I will always treasure this time in my life. I do plan to continue to be a part of TLL by continuing to write the newsletter and doing some sewing. I hope to attend a meeting or two when I return to Ohio to visit family. I wish this organization the very best and the utmost success in serving the babies of Ohio.



TLL-A-THON

It's TLL-A-THON time again!!!

June 23th from 10a.m. -4p.m.

Parson's Baptist Church

3930 Parson's Ave, Columbus, OH 43207

We will be tracing and sewing bibs, tying quilts, sewing onesies and sleep sacs, sewing quilts tops, sandwiching and sewing quilts, stuffing animals, precutting nursing covers 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 machines, serger, needles or just yourself. Stay for the day or just a few hours. We will kicking off our "Buckeye Babies" project and 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. Please bring a covered dish for our potluck. As always, we will have several raffles to participate in. Bring a monetary donation (no matter the amount) and you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

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.



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

Kroger will donate funds to Touching Little Lives, Inc. based on the purchases you make every day! Kroger requires re-registration on a yearly basis in April. If you have previously registered, please remember to re-register as soon as possible. If you haven't yet registered IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3. Go online to www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Just by shopping at KROGER and using your PLUS card and registering on line at Kroger Community Rewards, supporters can earn funds for our organization on almost everything, every time you shop, even on gift cards and gasoline.

SCRIP® FUNDRAISING

As prices increase and we continue to increase the amounts of items that are sent out, it is necessary to always consider our bottom line budget. We are always looking for easy ways to earn additional money for the materials that we need to purchase. We have recently enrolled in the Great Lake Scrip program.

What is Scrip Fundraising? Scrip is fundraising while you shop! You buy gift cards for places where you already shop and we earn a rebate on every gift card you purchase. That rebate goes directly to TLL. The scrip program is run through ShopWithScrip.com, who has worked with over 30,000 nonprofit organizations over the course of 23 years. Go to www.ShopWithScrip.com and click "Join a Program" to sign up. Enter the enrollment code 7EBF9CF259582. which will link your account to TLL. Next click register. Select two challenge questions and provide answers. Then you'll be ready to order online and earn.

IMPORTANT: Touching Little Lives will only be participating in the **Scrip Now** option of the program. ScripNow is an eCard that you can buy and receive instantly. You can print off ScripNow, or redeem it on your mobile device for certain retailers. They are immediately available when you pay with PrestoPay.

PrestoPay is ShopWithScrip's online payment system that you can use for a convenience fee of \$0.15 per order. When you use PrestoPay, your order payment is transferred securely via the electronic debit of your checking or savings account, and your orders will process faster than if you paid by check. You can't link PrestoPay to a credit card as credit cards charge costly fees that would take a portion of earnings away from our organization.

The following web site will provide you with a list of retailers that participate in Scrip Now https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/N2Upload/promo_to_ols/sws_flyers/ScripNow_Retailer_List.pdf

Please check out the program and consider helping us raise \$\$\$ to "serve the babies of Ohio". If you have any questions, please contact Sally Bricker at info@touchinglittlelives.org

THIS AND THAT

Our condolences to family of Carla Reed. Carla was a longtime volunteer for TLL attending meetings with the Moose work group and then later working from home when she could no longer attend the meetings. She completed great quantities of serged items as well as

knitted and crochet booties. We will miss her help in serving the babies of Ohio.

<http://www.burrellfuneralservices.com/no.../FlorenceCarla-Reed>

Sal has made a lot of updates to the website. You can now find a volunteer sign in sheet on the "workgroup" page. The crochet, knitting and sewing pattern pages are complete. Please check out the "how you can help" page to find out about Amazon Smile and iGive. Let Sal know if you find any broken links or if you have any suggestions of things you would like to see on our website. www.touchinglittlelives.org

For our TLL volunteers: We currently have several sergers and sewing machines that are available for loan if you sew for TLL. Priority for sergers will be for volunteers willing to make onesies and sleepers for us. If you don't know how, we can teach you and provide cut outs ready to sew. If you are interested in borrowing either kind of machine, please email Sal directly and provide your phone number and a good time to call. Sag55tll@gmail.com



Sal has been working so very hard to organize her home to accommodate all of the TLL supplies. Alas, things just keeps pouring in and the mess continues!!

Thanks to everyone who has helped Sal at her home in the past months to accomplish the various tasks that need to be done. She will certainly need this type of continued support in order to keep TLL running smoothly. She is scheduling two monthly work days at her house (corporate address) to help pack quilts, layettes, and deliveries as well as complete other tasks that help us get prepared for work group meetings. Usually, these two days will be scheduled on the Monday and Tuesday after the Westerville workgroup meeting from 10am to approximately 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Here are the days for the next few months:

April 23-24 (Monday/Tuesday)

May 22-23 (Tuesday/Wednesday)

June 18-19 (Monday/Tuesday)

Sally will schedule additional work days on some Tuesdays throughout the month. If you'd like to take the opportunity to help "behind the scenes", please let Sally know and she will add you to her email "help" group and let you know about upcoming work days. It is a real eye opener to see what happens to get everything ready for deliveries each month.

Even if you can't physically help in the "baby basement" there are things everyone can do to make her job easier. Here are just a few.....

- Please put your finished items in a bag that can be tied shut so that items will not fall out. When unpacking at Sally's house, bags are thrown down the stairs into the basement, so if the bag is partially open, things will fall out. If you are in need of bags, please ask your work group coordinator as we reuse bags that are turned in.
- If your finished items need to be washed, please put a note **INSIDE** your bag so that it will be seen when we unpack. The sign in sheets do not stay with the individual donations so many times it can't be determined what item needs laundered.
- If you are turning in finished quilts that still need tags, please bag them separately and put a note for us **INSIDE** the bag.
- If you are turning in items that needs snaps, please bag them separately and include a note **INSIDE** the bag.
- When serging blankets at the meetings, please do not refold them. Just throw them in a bag. It takes a lot of extra time to unfold them to put in the washing machine.
- Do not pack items individually in ziplock bags. However, if something is a "set" (sweater, hat, booties), those may be packed together in one bag.
- Please tie booties together or place one inside the other to keep them together. (Do not use pins)
- If you attend a meeting and fill out a sign-in sheet indicating the number of items you have finished, you do not need to fill out a second sheet at the meeting to say you were there. You only get counted once!! Reminder we no longer need you to record hours worked.

- For those of you that volunteer with a church or sewing group. We do need to know how many volunteers participated in making what was turned in.
- If you bring something to Sally's house, please fill out a volunteer sheet and include it in the bag. These items will be counted by her so do not put these same items on a volunteer sheet you turn in at a workgroup meeting
- PLEASE check your items for quality control. (ie: ripped seams on a quilt top, afghans with the tails are not weaved in, stuffed animals that rip open or aren't sewn shut securely, sleepers when the front panel isn't topstitched, items that don't follow our size guidelines). These small issues must be fixed by another volunteer and slow down the packing process as well as delay your finished item getting to a baby.

The TLL Board voted recently to accept used clothing donations. We have several facilities that serve low income populations and they will accept any clothing we can provide. We specifically want clothing for 0-6 months. However we will take larger sizes up to 4T as we do have facilities that will accept these larger sizes. PLEASE check any clothing for rips, stains, and excessive wear and wash the clothing before you turn it in. We will only accept and donate gently used clothing. If it doesn't look good enough for you to give to a friend or relative, it's not good enough to donate to anyone else. Record your donation on your volunteer sheet just as you would anything else you turn in.

Sal's recent purchase of used clothing!



Sal had the chance to meet the "Sew Silly Seniors" at Joann's in Pickerington. A wonderful group of ladies who make quilts and blankets for "our" babies. Keep up the great work!

Sally is going to Connecting Threads on April 25th. Although we no longer can take a group to "dig" through all the boxes, she could use some help bagging up the fabric they have for us. If you're interested in helping, please let her know.

Joyce P., our infant loss coordinator, shared with the Board that she and her husband are planning to join a volunteer traveling ministry. They plan to sell their home, and are "decluttering" to prepare. Joyce will continue to act as coordinator for now. Sally will be unable to assume the responsibility of this coordinator position, along with all the other things she does. We will need to have a volunteer to take on these responsibilities or we may need to discontinue supplying burial and/or memorial items. If you are interested in the position please contact Joyce for further information. sparlette@att.net 614-314-5894

Responsibilities:

Order supplies and keep an inventory of completed items and supplies. This includes preparing certain precuts for others to sew and supplying fabric and supplies to other volunteers as requested.

Fill requests from facilities. Requested items are made into a delivery package that is taken to a work group meeting, picked up at the coordinators house or shipped, depending on the urgency. The coordinator completes a delivery form and keeps a record of the delivery.

Correspond with hospital staff about infant loss needs as necessary. Correspondence is usually by phone or email.

Joyce has also been preparing precuts of nursing covers that are used by several facilities. We require 36 covers

every month and another twenty covers every other month. We will plan to process precuts at the TLL-a Thon to distribute for sewing. We hope to get several months to a years' worth distributed so that we can continue to provide these to our facilities. If anyone is interested in helping do pre-cuts on an on-going basis, please let us know.

Reminder: We no longer will be accepting wedding dresses for infant loss items.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We recently received a grant award from the City of Groveport. Funds will be used buy batting. Thank you Groveport! We'll get busy making those quilts!!!

Thank you to the Groveport Moose Lodge for your continued monetary support of TLL and also for allowing us to hold our meeting there.

Thank you to the Fairview United Methodist Church in Stoutsville, Oh and the Scioto Chapel WCF in Ashville. Both of these churches have made quarterly monetary donations to TLL for many years. Their continued support has enabled us to continue buying needed supplies to accomplish our missions to serve the babies of Ohio.

Sally Bricker and Linda Marshall were awarded a community service award for their work with TLL from the Elizabeth Sherman Reese chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Recognition



was also presented from both the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives!



Thank you to the Kiwanis for inviting Sally to speak at their recent meeting. After dinner, members had the opportunity to stuff some animals. TLL thanks them for their support in the past and for continued support in the future.

Please collect these items for the Kiwanis:

- empty pill bottles to make into sewing kits
- aluminum pop tabs for Ronald McDonald house
- box tops for Education for the schools

Please put the items in a separate bag labelled "Kiwanis" and turn them in at your meeting.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Allie and Brooklyn love their blankets from Touching Little Lives! They're perfect for tummy time, playtime and diaper changes 😊
😊 Thank you!

Our granddaughter was born on December 24th in Wilmington and received a beautiful Christmas quilt and hat! Thank you so much for this beautiful gift! *Mary O.*



To All of You at Touching Little Lives – Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued donations of baby blankets, clothing and other beautifully handmade items to the Teen and Pregnant Clinic here at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. We are beyond blessed to have such wonderful people supporting our patients – big and small! The new mothers truly appreciate the gifts that you provide as do we! *Kimberly D. Teen and Pregnant Clinic*

I wanted to contact you and thank you for your faithfulness to our facility and families. We daily provide hats and blankets to our families in our community during a celebration of birth or the unexpected loss of a little angel. I just would like to let you know your work is not taken for granted. Ohio Health Mansfield is thankful to partner with you in caring for our families. We are using hats most frequently and appreciate your donations. We average 1000 deliveries at our hospital and all of our parents are touched by your generosity. Thank you again. *Michelle M. Ohio Health Mansfield Hospital*

Thank you again so much for the generous donation. Your efforts do not go unnoticed as our families are overjoyed when we deliver them a new blanket. *Nationwide Children’s Nurse Family Partnership*

Thank you so much for your recent delivery of items to the Grant Outpatient Clinic. We truly appreciate your dedication to our patients here in downtown Columbus. The patients really brighten up when we give them a lovely handmade item for their new baby. We have had all kinds of fun with the holiday bibs!

Thank you for taking the time to make the beautiful blanket for my little girl Cora. It is obvious that you spent a lot of time on it. It was special to receive the blanket in the hospital. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness to us. *Luke, Tracy and Cora*

Thank you so much for your recent donation of bibs, booties, hats and nursing covers. We sincerely appreciate the care and effort that goes into creating these items for moms and babies. These handmade items are truly appreciated by our new mothers and their babies. *Licking Memorial Health Foundation*

Thank you so much for your generous donation of items for our center. Our clients love and need them and we are

tremendously grateful for your labor of love. Blessings, *Else M., Stowe Pregnancy Resource Center*

Thank you so much for all the beautiful donations. Every one we get is a blessing from God and we know He will bless you as you have blessed us. Thanks again, Love, *Angels Awaiting Maternity Home, Wilmington, OH*



WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

Chillicothe -4th Saturday of each month (10-2)
Shawnee Room 1&2 Adena Hospital.

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.

MEETING CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES

Chillicothe meeting is changed to May 19th due to Memorial Day weekend.

TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

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www.touchinglittlelives.org

