



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2019 October – December

Editor – Linda Marshall

BOARD NEWS

We are touching more lives than ever! Our used clothing campaign is going strong. As of the end of August we've collected 1,711 pieces of used clothing from our volunteers, which is 84.7 % of our goal of 2,019 items. In addition, TLL has purchased 4,546 used clothing items. We have spent less than 30 cents per item! We've delivered 6,801 used clothing items through August.



In October and November, we will begin distributing some of these fall/winter clothing items that we've stored for the colder months.

As you know TLL asks our volunteers to report the number of finished items that they turn in each month. Our work group coordinators compile a report with the item totals and send them to our board member, Robin. In addition, for every delivery that goes out, we have a delivery sheet that shows what items we've delivered and how many. Robin takes all these numbers each month and compiles them into a monthly report. This gives us a total of approximately what we've made and delivered. In the first six months of 2019, our volunteers have made/donated almost 32,000 items and we have delivered almost 34,000 items! Over those same six months we have made 268 deliveries. We are amazed by these numbers and we are well on our way to surpassing the 41,000 items, we delivered last year! We have included a list of the items we delivered between January and June of this year at the end of the newsletter.

TLL IS NOW ON YOU TUBE

We're excited to announce that Touching Little Lives now has its own You Tube channel! At the TLL-a-thon this past June, we demonstrated how to sew some of our items such as our knit fabric booties. A volunteer mentioned that it would nice to have a video showing how to make them.

Well, we took their suggestion and are beginning to film and post various videos. Some videos show how to trace a pattern the right way. Many of the videos give step-by-step directions on how to sew or serge hats, booties, bibs, and quilts. Other videos talk about things like the sizes of hats and how we pack layettes. We hope to continue to add to our video collection so that we will have videos on everything you need to know about everything we make.

Please check out our video collection by going to www.youtube.com and searching for "Touching Little Lives". Click on our logo and then on "videos" to see our collection. Subscribe to our channel and don't forget to "like" any videos you see and share them with your friends. As we add new videos, we will post links on Facebook, but check back frequently to see what we've added. If you have a suggestion for a video or any constructive (but gentle) feedback, please email us at info@touchinglittlelives.org

THIS AND THAT

Our condolences to Jackie M. from the Westerville group on the passing of her sister and to Bobbie C. from Delaware on the loss of her husband. Our condolences to the family of Alice Hawk who volunteered as part of the Willowbrook group in Delaware.

We are still collecting quilts and other OSU items for our annual Buckeye Baby drive. Please turn in your finished items in October so that we can pack them up and get

them sent out in time for OSU-Michigan week in late November.



Our first Buckeye quilt. Keep them coming!



Thank you for the great response we've had to our monthly announcements and greatest needs list. We appreciate the positive feedback we've received so far and the response to our needs list. Please understand that our greatest needs change month to month based on the response we receive and the deliveries going out each month. So, it's very likely that something we have a need for one month, may be something that goes on our "do not need" for the next month.



For example, we no longer need any scent squares... we packed up over 1100 of them today and still have more! This will last us for about 6 months so put this on the bottom of your "to do" list.

Someone recently commented to Sally that they were troubled by the fact that we were completely out of certain things and were concerned that we were losing volunteers. I assured her that it was quite the contrary. Our volunteers are stepping up and making what we need. This enables us to generally fulfill the month to month needs of our facilities.

If you are interested in helping pack on our work days or would like to know more, please contact Sally at info@touchinglittlelives.org or 614-653-3352 (leave a message). Even if you can only commit to helping every once in a while, we'd love to have the help.

Work Days at Sally's – 12noon-2p.m. Lunch provided

October 21st & 22nd.

November 18th & 19th

December – TBD

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Thank you to the ladies of Friendship Village in Dublin and Columbus for their continued service to Touching Little Lives over the years. We appreciate all your hard work and look forward to getting many more "goodies" from you.

A shout out to our ladies at Northup Baptist Church in Gallipolis. They have completed 5,344 quilts in the eleven years that they have been with TLL. Keep those quilts coming!

Thank you to Sandy Engelman (standing in green top) who has been with Touching Little Lives since its beginnings in 2000. She has served as work group coordinator for the Grove City group for the last 19 years and has spent many hours not only volunteering, but fulfilling this important leadership role. Sandy and her husband are now moving to Tennessee to be closer to family and she will be giving up her longtime role in TLL. On September 20, at the Grove City workgroup meeting, Sally presented this letter to Sandy from TLL's board of trustees:



"On behalf of the board of TLL, we'd like to thank you for your many years of service to Touching Little Lives. You've been with TLL from the beginning and have put in many long hours both as a volunteer and a work group coordinator for the Grove City group. You have done much to "serve the babies of Ohio". We know our volunteers are grateful for your service as work group coordinator which has allowed them to do what they do for TLL as well. Although we will be sorry to see you go, we wish you luck as you begin this new journey in your life. You will be missed!"

We also want to thank Vickie Dabranalskas (standing in white shirt) who has been sharing the responsibilities of work group coordinator for Grove City and has now

committed to taking on the position permanently.

The Worthington Linworth Kiwanis have been a longtime supporter of TLL. In July, Katrina and Sally were invited to one of their monthly meetings to update them on TLL and work on a project. Since they were very familiar with TLL, we had Katrina give a short presentation and show all the infant loss and memorial items that we currently make, including some that Katrina herself had created.



Bob C. working on a TLL project at the Kiwanis meeting

Katrina really impressed the members that night with her knowledge, organization and passion for what she does for TLL. We asked her if we could share her story here for all of you to read. So here it is....

Katrina D. "I work as an American Sign Language Interpreter for a hospital system here in Columbus. My job is to become the voice of my patients. In my 12 years of work I have been there for many good and even some bad times. I'm here tonight because of my worst experience and would like to share this story with you.

One day I was called in to help a Deaf pregnant couple with a common procedure. Little did I know how this event would lead me to where I am and what I do with Touching Little Lives. My patient lost her child. As I'm voicing for this patient "save my baby", "please do something" my heart was breaking.

The professional term for this heart break resulting from empathetic engagement with traumatized clients and their traumatic experiences is *vicarious trauma*. The nurses all have a different coping mechanism to help them, but this was a first for me so I didn't know what to do. One nurse told me she copes by making a name bracelet for the baby. So, while we waited for the Chaplin whom was called in to come, I sat there making a name bracelet. I cried the whole time and could barely make the small name bracelet.

When the Chaplin arrived, I composed myself into the professional interpreter I'm supposed to be. I really hope I was professional on the outside because I was barely keeping it together on the inside while interpreting for the Chaplin. Things changed when their baby was presented in a beautiful outfit. The parents were able to spend time with their child. Seeing first-hand the joy of being able to hold their baby for the first (and last time) was very moving. They were also presented with several memory

items which warmed their heart during this period of profound sorrow.

A little while later I was voicing my vicarious trauma situation to my mother, when she said "you know those items were probably from my sew group". I've seen her making baby items but never showed interest into what for. She proceeded to tell me she was visiting a friend in a country hospital when she overheard about a couple having to wrap their child in a handkerchief and place it in a shoebox; and another couple who had to go shop at a store in the doll area to find an outfit small enough for the baby's burial.

The very next meeting I joined her. Since that Saturday many years ago I've been involved in the infant loss and memorial division helping make these items. Last year I was honored to be named the new Coordinator of this division.

Over the last year I've heard many people say "I couldn't make those outfits. It's too sad". Seeing first-hand the impact of these items my response to them is "yes it's very sad, but think of the parents who need your help". If one item I send out helps a grieving parent, or even like in my case a hospital staff member, process the loss of a child it's worth our effort. I've helped them go from "deal" to "heal".

Thank you, Katrina, for all your efforts as our Infant Loss Coordinator.



Thank you, Mary B., for these precious mouse booties!

What a cool quilt made out of old placemats. Great job Lauren N.



Thank you to Barbara F. for her 3 boxes of goodies that arrived this week! Afghans, sweater, booties and hats!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to GE Aviation for their recent grant donation of \$3700. GE has partnered with TLL for many, many years and their financial support has allowed us to buy much needed supplies every year.

Thank you to the Moose Lodge for their quarterly support. We received a check for \$1,828.75 from them in August.



Connecting Threads trip probably about 20 bags and look at all the rolls they gave me. Thank you for your generosity!!! These will make some lovely quilts.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

As a thank you, I wanted to send a group photo of our entire organization- The Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Here, at the Center, most of our programs benefit from your generous contribution of blankets, quilts and newborn items. We are so appreciative and thankful to have the opportunity to provide such beautifully made, quality items to our families in need. From the bottom of hearts, we thank you. *Sherri I. Nurse Family Partnership and Help Me Grow Home Visitation Programs*



“Every good and perfect gift is from above: --James 1:17 Thank you so much for your recent donations in April, May and June. You are a blessing. *Heartbeats*

I just wanted to send a little note thanking you all for the blanket we received at FMC. We love it and we use it for so many different things! Thank you all. It was such a pleasant surprise when the nurse brought it to us. *Tisha*



Thank you to all involved in touching the lives of our youngest patients. We certainly appreciate the kind act of making a difference. *Nealy K. Adena ER*



Hello, my name is Sharonda. I received a “welcome to the world” bag for my daughter from you guys and I wanted to say thank you for all the lovely things!!

Thank you for your donation of blankets for our special care nursery babies! We are extremely grateful for such a generous donation to our patients. These blankets were given to our hospitalized infants in the special care nursery. Genesis provides health care in six counties in southeast Ohio, so these blankets reached a great deal of patients all over the state. Best regards. *Angela B Genesis Healthcare, Zanesville OH*



Thank you all for the lovely blanket and for what you all do—You don't expect to have a premier (as my husband calls her) baby. Even though we had a baby shower we didn't have anything ready like a hospital bag or the outfits washed and they were all too big. We didn't have anything for her when we walked into the hospital door since it was an emergency. We had to

borrow the hospital clothes for her so having this quilt is the one thing that was actually from her first day in the hospital that we were allowed to keep so we appreciate

this so much! She loves it too! Thank you and keep up all your good work. God bless you!



Got an email from this cutie today--- Hello! My name is Antonieta D. I wanted to congratulate you for the beautiful work you do and also thank you for the clothes that I have on today, you gave them to me, I like them a lot and I am very happy with the hat I love.

Thank you so much for the gifts you presented to us when my son Avery was born. His little blue hat fit him perfectly. Please continue to make your beautiful creations for future families. The work you do is truly special. Thank you so much. *The Johnson family*

Just wanted to say a special thank you for all the time and effort your group puts into making our babies' new start in the world a little nicer. It's very much appreciated. *Riverside Hospital SS*

Maudie S. has made dozens of booties for TLL each month. We've had many requests for her pattern so here it is:



Crochet bootie pattern

This pattern is for newborn size booties. Please use baby yarn and a size G hook.

Ch.12, dc.in 3rd.ch.from hook.dc.in next 8sts.4dc in last ch. dc in next 8 sts. 2dc.in last st. join.

Ch.2 dc.in same st.2dc.in next st. dc.in next 8 sts.2 dc.in the next 4 sts.dc.in next 8 are. 2dc.in next 2 sts. join

Ch.2 dc.in the next st.and each around. join.
Ch.2 dc.in the next 11sts. dc.2tog. x4 dc in next 12 sts. join.

Ch.2 dc. in the next 3 sts. dc.2tog. around to last 4sts.1dc.in last 4sts. join.

Ch.2 dc.in each st. around. join.

Ch.2 dc.in same st. 1 dc.in next st. 2 dc.in next st.repeat around. join. Finish off.

Chain stitch a tie using 80 chains. Weave a "tie" through the 2nd to the last row. Secure the tie at the middle back so it does not come out when washed. Knot the chained tie at both ends after weaving through the bootie. Stuff one bootie inside the other after you wash them so we don't have any "orphans".

WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES

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)

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 – Chillicothe meeting cancelled for December

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