



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter 2020 April- June

Editor – Linda Marshall Contributing Editor – Sally Bricker

BOARD NEWS

Thank you for everyone's patience and understanding during March. We felt it necessary to cancel meetings and suspend deliveries in light of the potential danger of the coronavirus. It is not a decision we took lightly and we hope that all of you are able to continue working on TLL projects at home.

Our plan at this time is to skip or delay all deliveries for one month or longer as facility regulations do not permit them to accept outside items at this time. Check your emails and Facebook or contact your work group coordinator for information. For those of you that send packages to us via mail, please feel free to continue to do so. If you find you have been infected with this virus or are in close contact with someone that has the virus, please do not turn in items to us until all symptoms have passed. In this circumstance, it is important that you re-wash any items sent to us.

As of right now, we are restricting visits to Sal's house. Although we have read that the virus will not survive on the surface of fabric very long, our finished items are housed there and we wish to limit any exposure to the virus.

Our TLL-a-thon scheduled for June 27th is still on unless circumstances dictate, that we postpone it. If that is the case, more details will come in our next newsletter.

As many of you have learned on Facebook or through our email updates, we are now asking our sewers to pause sewing baby items to help fill a need for facemasks in the medical community. TLL has received 300 bolts of cotton fabric from Michael's. This was donated to various organizations for the purpose of making these much-needed masks. This fabric (about 8-10 yards in a bolt) is available to our volunteers in the Columbus area by contacting Sally at info@touchinglittlelives.org. Also, our finance committee approved using TLL funds to buy elastic to use for the masks. We currently have enough elastic for approximately 500 masks. Hopefully we will have an additional supply of elastic in April. Patterns for

the masks are readily available on line or on our Facebook page.

What to do with your finished masks:

1. Let us know how many you've made. We would like to keep track of this so we can see what impact we have made on this critical need.
2. If you already know of someone such as a nurse, doctor, first responder or an appropriate facility that is in need of masks, you may give them directly to that person/facility.
3. Mail them to the Turban Project or contact Sally for where you can take them. The Turban project address is: 7871 Ridge Rd., Frazeytsburg, OH 43822.

Of course, if you do not feel this is something you want to work on, that's OK. Keep on making baby items for TLL. We will definitely need a larger number of finished items when we are able to deliver again.



CONDOLENCES

Our sincerest condolences to Larry Fletcher on the passing of his wife Jacky. Jacky was a longtime volunteer with the Grove City group and she will be missed. Also, Sally would like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards and kind words over the last six months as her sister-in-law, Lori, fought and lost her battle with pancreatic cancer at the end of the January.

THIS AND THAT

For those of you making deliveries, if the facility ever “refuses” to take the delivery, take the delivery back home with you. Let Sal know asap and she will take care of it. To avoid this situation, we have told our contacts at the hospitals many times that if they are overloaded with items to let us know before we send out more. However, the person in charge is often not the person you make the delivery too. We don’t want to take precious time to pack a delivery they don’t need or for you to spend your precious time trying to deliver it.

If you mail a package to us at our corporate address, please include an email address so we can let you know it arrived. This will save us a stamp as we attempt to acknowledge every package that comes here.

We are accepting used clothing again this year as there is a continuing need for it. Several of our facilities give out everything we supply them and are always grateful for every item they receive. In addition to donations we receive, the TLL Board approved spending \$2500 of our own funds (in addition to our normal budgeted items) to purchase used clothing in 2020. We mostly need sleepers, onesies, pants, and shirts size newborn to 12 months. However, we will accept any used clothing and/blankets, up to size 4T. Please make sure all items are washed and in good condition before turning them in. We DO NOT need a detailed list of items, but please write “used clothing” on your volunteer sheet.

In addition to sending this clothing to facilities, we’ve been able to help five individuals this year who contacted us because they had little to no clothes for their baby. One is a teenage mom who is basically homeless with no resources. We are gathering clothing for her baby up to size 12 months as well as our handmade items.

Work days at Sal’s are uncertain at the moment. As of right now, the April packing dates are cancelled. If that

changes, she will contact her usual helpers by email. The schedule for May and June are tentative and subject to change based on the status of Coronavirus restrictions at that time. Work days are Monday and Tuesday from 10am – 2pm with lunch provided

May: 18th & 19th

June: 22nd & 23rd

7th ANNUAL TLL-A-THON

June 27th from 10am – 4pm

Parson’s Baptist Church

3930 Parsons Ave

Columbus, OH 43207

We hope you will join us again for this year’s TLL-A-THON. We will be celebrating **20 years** of operation in July! As of the end of 2019, we have sent 1.2 million items to preemie and needy babies in Ohio.

We will be doing all the usually things: tracing and sewing bibs, creating quilt tops, sandwiching, sewing and tying quilts, sewing onesies and sleep sacks, stuffing animals, sewing hats and several other activities. You can also bring your crochet and knitting projects if you wish. There will be something to do for all skill levels. We will supply the materials so just bring your sewing machines, sergers, needles or just yourself!

Stay for the day or just a few hours. We will kick off our “Buckeye Baby Project” with OSU quilt tops to sew. There will be fabric, yarn and other supplies available for volunteers to take home and create TLL items. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Please bring a covered dish for our potluck luncheon. Bring a monetary donation (no matter what amount) and you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. We will also have a raffle for door prize baskets similar to last year. 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. Parson’s Baptist Church is right in front of you. Turn on to Parson’s Ave. and then left into parking lot. We will have signs marking the entrance to our meeting room.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE: From Sal

The past months have been a very difficult time for me and my husband and family. My sister-in-law passed away on January 25th after a 6-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Lori was an amazing person and we

miss her over-the-top joy and delight in everything. I appreciate your understanding and sympathy as we are still hit by her absence in our lives. We also lost a close friend from church (who also had Stage IV cancer) who died just two weeks after Lori. Even though our lives have gone back to our normal routine, our minds and hearts are far from “normal” and have had our ups and downs here. TLL has been a comfort as well as a burden at times, but it has helped ground me and keep me moving forward doing what needs to be done for our babies. Thank you so much for all your support during these difficult times for me.

Please feel free to contact me if you need something. In the past few months, I find I’ve forgotten to do things I’ve said I’d do or send something I’ve said I’d send. If I’ve forgotten to send a thank you or a tax receipt, please let me know. My focus has been very scattered and I know things have slipped between the cracks at times. Email is the best way to contact me (info@touchinglittlives.org) as it is easier for me to go back to it later when I have time.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

On March 2nd, Sally and Katrina were invited to speak to the Kiwanis and update them on the things we are doing. Several members brought donations of body wash, wipes, pacifiers, etc. so we are ready to send these out to some health centers for their new moms. We were able to show them one of the layettes that Kim packs at PDHC and they worked on making and bagging some of our infant loss ribbons. We enjoyed sharing with Kiwanis and thank you for your help in making the ribbons.



TLL hit the jackpot at Connecting Threads! We were scheduled to pick up fabric on March 4th and then got a call on February 26th that their scheduled charity couldn’t come and would we like the fabric instead. Some charities come quite a distance to get the free fabric, so Sal had told them if they ever had a



cancellation, I could possibly come and pick up. For two Wednesdays in a row, they loaded up my car and stocked us up for quite a while. We will try to pass out bags of fabric at the next scheduled meetings. There is certainly plenty for everybody! Thank you, Connecting Threads, for your generosity and we look forward to seeing what our volunteers will create with this great fabric.

A big thank you goes out to Michael’s for the massive amount of fabric that was sent our way.



In January we received a grant for \$1000 from the city of Groveport to help with the cost of the batting for our quilts. This is the third year we have received support from the city of Groveport and we appreciate their support so much.

A double thanks goes out to the Groveport Moose Lodge. They give us quarterly donations from the money they raise from their Gaming fund. We received a check for \$887 in February which we happily spent. Then at our March Moose meeting, they presented us with another check for \$1401 which was part of a refund they received and decided to share with us. We appreciate their continued support over the years as they have allowed us to use their facility free of charge and then support us monetarily as well.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Just reaching out to say thanks again for the variety of goodies you delivered in January. I want you to know that the impact on the family when we provide them with these handmade gifts is profound. The quality of the items your team makes is also something to be recognized. We can’t say enough how much we appreciate your time and generosity and that we are lucky to have this continued partnership with you. With love, *Sherri and the Home Visitation Teams, Nationwide Nurse-Family Partnership.*

Thank you and all your wonderful volunteers at Touching Little Lives for your recent donations of quilts and children’s clothing. Donations like this allow us to continue to provide assistance to those in the community who really need our help especially during these cold

winter months. Your wonderful gift helps us to fulfill our mission to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbor by providing clothing, furniture and household goods to those who need them. *Karen H, Joseph's Coat*

Thank you for the beautiful & girly quilt for my daughter! It was so thoughtful and generous of your organization to give my family a handmade quilt. I look forward to seeing her play and sleep with it once she's here. I know the time, energy, and love my mom puts into making each item and imagine that is true of all the members. So, I'm sure the quilt comes with lots of love. Thank you, *Lindsey (Kris L. daughter)*

Thank you so much for the recent delivery of bibs and buntings in February. Your dedication to improving the lives of Central Ohio newborns and families is amazing. Our patients love the cute, colorful bibs and appreciate your thoughtfulness. Again, thank you on behalf of staff and patients of *Grant OB Clinic, Terrie Rogers*

Thanks so much! We appreciate you! Twinkle, MOMS2B (Also enclosed in the card were multiple other staff expressing their thanks) Thank you so much! Lydia; You're the best! Stephanie; We appreciate your donations. Dr. Pat; Thank you for your generosity! Jamie; Thank you for thinking of MOMS2B! Taylor; Thank you for everything! Crystal

On behalf of Genesis in Zanesville, I would like to thank you for your generosity in bringing your handmade items to be given to the babies and families in our community! It means so much to be able to give these families a gift after their baby was in our special care nursery! Thank you again for your generosity! *Genesis ICN Staff*

Thank you so much for the booties and mittens delivered to our office; it warmed our hearts this frigid morning (wind chill 15 degrees!!) We appreciate all that you do and are delighted to be the recipient of the result of your time and talent. Please know that every sweet little piece will be thoughtfully distributed and gratefully received. God bless you. *Lancaster PDHC staff and volunteers*

Thank you for your donation of bibs/burp cloths, blankets, booties, mittens & quilts. You are a blessing. *Heartbeats, Licking County*

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our PDHC West Center. It is such a blessing to be able to show Christ's love through material aid to the many families we serve. People and organizations like you help make our services possible. God Bless and thank you! *PDHC West Center*

Thank you so much for your recent donation of bibs, booties, hats and other items. Your continued generosity

and dedication to our patients, the community, and to Licking Memorial Hospital is truly appreciated. *Veronica Patton. Licking Memorial Hospital*

Dear Angel partners, Thank you so much for your continued support. We get more and more Angel Hands clients every day and they and we really appreciate the beautiful gifts you allow us to give them. *Angel House Board*

Thank you for your recent delivery of bibs and all sorts of beautiful items to the Grant Outpatient Clinic. The patients are excited and appreciate getting these lovely blankets, toys, etc. for their new babies. Thank you again for your dedication to the families of Central Ohio. We appreciate you! *Terrie Rogers, Grant Outpatient Clinic*

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) Moose Lodge 1245 at 220 Main St. Groveport, OH

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:

At this time, we doubt we will be able to hold meetings in April. Some of our meeting sites (such as churches) are now closed and we do not know how long the restrictions brought on by the pandemic will continue. We will send out updates as needed through Facebook and emails. If in doubt about a meeting please contact your work group coordinator. We want every to stay safe during this time.

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