



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter 2020- June to September

Editor : Linda Marshall Contributing Editor: Sally Bricker

BOARD NEWS

July 2000, Touching Little Lives was incorporated and we began our 20 year journey to today! TLL has had its ups and downs as we have changed leadership, corporate offices, increased the number and variety of things we provide, and are learning a new normal as we continue to serve “our” babies through this pandemic. Thank you to Marianne Doty for having the vision and perseverance to start TLL and build it from the ground up. Thank you to all the board members and work group coordinators who took on the leadership roles to help everything run smoothly. Thank you to our volunteers who continue to amaze us with their dedication by making the over 1.2 million items we’ve been able to distribute in the past 20 years.

Touching Little Lives was well named. Although we aren’t a large organization by many standards, we have been able to touch many lives. I’m reminded of the quote by Margaret Mead. “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” Thank you all for helping us change the world one baby at a time.

As with everything else, Touching Little Lives had to pause most of its operations during parts of March and April. In May we began reaching out to our facilities to see if they were able to accept deliveries. Although sometimes we were told “no”, we were still able to make 28 deliveries in May and deliver about 6,500 items. In June we made 27 deliveries. In the coming months we will continue to reach out to our facilities and make deliveries as requested., Unfortunately, we’ve had to change some of the ways we have been doing things, including packing days at Sally’s. She still needs help packing deliveries, checking quilts, and with all of the other tasks that need completed. At this time she is limiting the amount of volunteers at her home at any one time. We are still unable to hold our workgroup meetings inside, but we will continue to have parking lot pickup and drop off meetings to keep supplies going out and finished items coming in. We will continue to send meeting dates/times through emails and Facebook.



Our socially distanced “drive by” Westerville meeting in the parking lot.

How you can help:

There are some things you can do to help make Sally’s job easier as we are working with a new normal right now. Since we are not packing deliveries the same as we did before, a lot more work is currently falling on Sally. She has called every single facility on our list (50+) and will have to continue to follow up with phone calls as more and more facilities will be able to accept deliveries. We hope to get back on to a consistent delivery schedule with in a couple months. However, for now we are packing a handful of deliveries at a time with only one or two other people helping each time. This takes more planning time throughout the month. So, we’re asking for your help to save us time later.

1. Quality check your items before turning them in. If that afghan is the wrong size or has loose ends after you wash it, we have to pull it out and fix it before being able to donate it. Check your finish items for stains, especially fabrics/yarns bleeding in the wash. We recently received a large donation of washcloths and we had to stop and sort through one by one. They had bled in the wash and about half of them had stains. Check for loose seams in your quilts or clothing to make sure we don’t have to fix them later.
2. Pack sets together. If you have hats and booties that are a set, tie them together or stuff one inside the other. Make sure booties are tucked inside

each other or tied together. Tie matching hats to afghans. If you have matching bibs and burps, put them together in a stack (even if they aren't snapped).

- Put quilts in a separate bag from all other items.
- Put items like Cartridges, pop tabs, spools, books, hygiene products in a separate bag from handmade items.
- Put notes inside bags if something needs to be washed or if you have a question about an item you have made. Put your name, email or phone number inside each of your bags so we know where the bag came from if we need to contact you about an item you made.
- PLEASE read and follow our guidelines for items. We ask for things to be made a certain size or with a certain type of material/yarn, because we know what our facilities want and will accept. Please keep in mind who your items are going to and what is appropriate for a baby. If you have leftover fabric that isn't big enough to complete an item, don't make a smaller item. Ask us and we can tell you what you can do. (Example: a leftover piece of flannel that is too small for a receiving blanket could be used for burps, bibs, and scent squares). If you have leftover yarn, make 6" squares and turn them in. Check your hats for correct size, stretch and material. If they don't follow our guidelines and aren't able to be donated, they (or other items) will be repurposed.
- Make sure all finished items are in a closed bag. Finished items are thrown down the basement stairs and anything that is loose has to be carried down separately or re-bagged. Please tie bags shut, but not so tight that we can't untie it either.
- Email Sally any requests or questions you have. Contacting her by text, messenger or on Facebook may or may not get you a response. Also, don't expect a response immediately as some days are busier than others. If you don't get a response in a week, feel free to reach out again.

As we try to get back to "normal", we'd appreciate anything you can do to make it easier to get deliveries out as quick as possible.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Robin and Gary Hughes on the passing of Gary's brother John.

THIS AND THAT

Greatest needs: Quilt tops and finished quilts, newborn and preemie sleep sacs, IV shirts, 20X20 burial afghans (must be made of baby yarn, solid pastel colors – no yellow)

Some need: sweaters, washcloths

Do not need at all: Rice bags

TIP: If you have small pieces of flannel or fleece, serge them together until you have a piece about 8" square. Then serge around the outer edges, round off the corners and you have a scent square!





We have solid color prints to be used for quilt tops. If you need a certain color to match your print or to make a border, let us know what color(s) you need.

JUST THE BASICS

As the craziness of the past few months has calmed a little and TLL has gotten back to a "somewhat normal", we are seeing an even bigger need for some of the moms and families that were struggling even before Covid-19 hit. Several of our health centers and other facilities that serve low income and/or homeless populations want anything and everything that we can give them.

We are able to provide quilts, blankets, hats, bootie and



sleepers, along with lots of used clothing to help out these new moms. However, there is a great need for basic hygiene products and other things all babies need. So from this

need, our “Just the basics” campaign is starting.

Just the Basics” is simple. We are asking for donations of items we don’t make that are still so needed by these moms. There are 10 items that we are specifically asking for:

- Baby wipes
- Body wash
- Baby shampoo
- Diaper ointment
- Pacifiers
- Teething rings
- Baby bottles.
- Brush or comb
- Outlet covers.
- Baby Powder (cornstarch only)

All of these items can be bought at most Dollar Tree stores for \$1 each. So if you can spare a couple of dollars please buy one or more items for those moms that can’t afford them.

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TLL



We couldn’t let TLL’s 20th anniversary go by without a celebration. Even though we missed seeing everyone in person Sally and team came up with some wonderful celebration ideas. Thank you for all the hard work that went to make this a special day.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our “\$20 for 20 years” fundraiser. Our goal was to raise \$20 for each of our 20 years of operation for a total of \$400. We were able to raise a total of \$260 on Facebook with another \$230 donated through cash or checks for a total of \$490. We are thankful for every dollar that will allow us continue to “serve the babies of Ohio”

We had fun on Facebook with a month long **20 days for 20 years challenge**. Each day Sally posted a question about TLL or a close up picture of a TLL related item for volunteers to guess the answers. Each day a winner(s) was announced. Each winner had their name put in a

drawing for a \$20 gift card to JoAnn Fabric. The winner which was drawn at the TLL a Thon was Betty M. Congratulations Betty and thank you to everyone who participated in the fun.

Some of the facts from the **20 Days for 20 Years Challenge**

Q: After TLL was incorporated in July 2000, how many items did they distribute during that first six month time?

A: From July 2000 to the end of the year, TLL distributed 8,422 items. Not bad considering they had to scramble to find funding, get workgroups organized, and contact hospitals and facilities Thanks to all their hard work, TLL was able to distribute over 59,000 items the following year in 2001.

Q: What was the amount of the largest grant that TLL ever received? Why/how did we receive this grant?

A: The largest grant we ever received was for \$10,000. The grant was called the Honor Trust Grant and it was awarded by a judge in Cleveland who had discretion over unclaimed awards in a class action suit. He decided to give grants to a variety of non-profits in Ohio. We attended an event in Cleveland along with about 50 other non-profits. I believe several million dollars were distributed that evening.

Q: In its 20 years of operation, Touching Little Lives has had 3 different locations for its "corporate offices". To be clear, our corporate office is our official mailing address, not necessarily where supplies are stored or deliveries are packed. Name the 3 cities where these offices have been located.

A: TLL was founded by Marianne Doty when she lived in Circleville. She then moved to another house also located in Circleville where they built the famous "baby house". When Marianne and her husband moved to Idaho, Linda and Sally split the packing duties, the corporate address became Sally's home in Groveport. So the correct answer is: Circleville, Circleville, and Groveport.

Q: Where does Ohio rank regarding the percentage of preterm births within the 50 states? Preterm births are defined by the CDC as any birth before 37 weeks.

A: The percentage of preterm births nationwide is 9.9%. Ohio's percentage of preterm births is above the national average at 10.4%. This puts Ohio’s ranking at 33rd in the nation. TLL is hoping to help lower that percentage by working with health centers and other agencies such as MOMS2B that help pregnant women get adequate prenatal care and help them be safe during their pregnancy

Q: Quilts are one of our most requested items. In 2019 what was the average number of quilts we delivered each month?

A: Last year on average, TLL delivered 409.75 quilts per month.

Q: As of the end of December 2019, how many items has TLL delivered?

A: By the end of 2019, TLL had delivered 1,227,273 items.

Q: How much money has TLL spent in total these past 20 years?

A: The answer is \$417,592.80

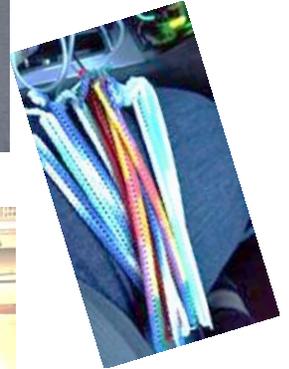
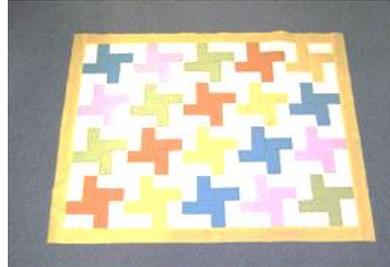
Q: How many counties in Ohio have facilities we currently deliver to?

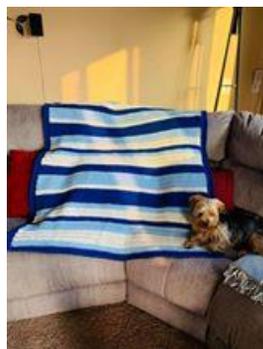
A: Out of the 88 counties in Ohio, we currently deliver to facilities in 21 of them.

Q: In 2019, which item did we deliver the most of? As a bonus question, how many of this item did we deliver?

A: The item we gave out the most of in 2019 was bibs/burp cloths. Although these are two separate things, we count them as one item on our reports. We gave out a total of 11,408 burp/bibs in 2019.

Show and Tell Challenge. Volunteers were asked to post a picture of something they made for TLL or if they were a parent, to post of picture of something they received. Here are some of the pictures posted:





Another of our Facebook challenges was to “Tell us how you first got involved in TLL”. Here are the responses we received.

Tamara B. Years ago, I saw a flyer on the cutting table advertising your/our group. I attended the TLL a Thon and couldn't wait until I retired so I could attend a group meeting on a regular basis. The rest is history. <3

Karen M. A Facebook post about a very large fabric donation for making facemasks, and the rest is history.

Carole L. When I first retired from teaching I read an article in the Dispatch about New Borns in Need sewing group. Since I like to sew I attended a meeting with Mary Ann in the Westerville Hancock fabric store. And the rest is history!

Denise T. I had always wanted to learn how to crochet but then wondered what I would do with things I made. I would always see ladies at work making baby blankets and got to talking with them and they told me about TLL. I then sat with one of them (**Betty GIT.**) and learned more than what I already knew and also started making blankets and hats to donate!

Nancy S. My daughter was born 1.5 months prematurely. We had nothing prepared for her, no hospital bag, no nursery ready, no name picked out. My water broke so we went right to the hospital not taking anything. The only thing that we had when she was first born was a blanket

they placed over the isolettes that I would use for skin to skin time. I asked if I could keep the blanket and the hospital said yes. Since then that has been her first keep sake. The blanket I would nurse her with and her first baby blanket. That meant so much to us because she had something from her birth. I contacted TLL to help sew items too since the blanket meant so much to us. I've recently been a busy mom since we also now have my 11 month old niece with us, along with my soon to be 2 year old. I still have tons of TLL projects to complete for other moms and dads once I get some free time.♡♡♡

Mary-Ellen W. I won a sewing machine and had a new great grandchild so I took it upon myself to learn to sew and how to quilt (you can teach an old dog new tricks...YOU TUBE was my lifeline in the early days). I enjoyed it so much I started searching the internet to see if I could possibly donate another one I had made...TLL popped up. I read the Newsletter and knew I'd found a great place to share my new found hobby. It's evolved since then and I now have an embroidery machine and serger which I put to good use for TLL.

Nancy S. My Aunt Patty and **Linda S.**

Karen K. Our heart warrior received a blanket from TLL during her hospital stay in the CICU at Cincinnati Children's Hospital! ♡☐

Victoria S. I'm friends with Marianne. I started Warm Hearts-Warm Babies in Colorado when Marianne started TLL.

Susan C. After I retired in 2016, I began searching for places to volunteer my time where I could use my love of knitting and crocheting. I found TLL's website, saw where they have a Delaware workgroup, and sent a message. Amazingly, Delaware's coordinator happens to be a neighbor, and we became fast friends.

Shirley S. When I moved back to Ohio, I wanted to find a group to be involved with that could use the kid's quilts that I love to make. Maryanne K., who donated knitted items to TLL, told me about it. I so enjoy being part of this group.

Lisa W. I worked for Nationwide Insurance and switched jobs in 2008 and began working in the Grove City location. I saw a group of ladies in the break room at lunch all crocheting different projects. I approached them and asked about their work and they told me about TLL. I was hooked. Since then I've done some crocheting but mostly quilting and tried a few infant burial items. My heart is in quilting. Especially scrap quilting like my grandmother and great grandmother. I love making baby quilts as they are a small project that I can work on even when I work

many hours a week at my job and I love giving back to our community.

Sue G. I met Judy M.... she told me about the church with the purple door and stuffing toy animals...and the rest is history I LOVE TLL!!

Betty M. A co-worker told me about newborns in need about 1998-1999. I went to West Jefferson work group. I dropped out for a while and been at Grove City group for about 10 years. Love the group and people.

Roberta C. After I retired as an infant daycare teacher I still felt the need to do things for the babies and my husband's cousin was in TLL and I thought that's just what I need. I love to sew and crochet. Great group to be a part of, love giving back to the babies of Ohio, Charlotte O. is our cousin.

Jan B. Moving to WB seemed like giving up! Had several volunteer jobs, but needed some kind of structure or purpose; then I met Nancy T., and it's been non-stop baby stuff ever since! Very good for my mental health.

Bobbi K. I worked with a group from First Baptist Church in Gahanna to support Touching Little Lives. I have been away for years. Shirley S. shared a post and I have been excited to connect again! What a huge blessing

Teresa B. I worked with someone who had a stillborn baby, and received burial clothing and mementos from TLL. It was heartbreaking that she felt that nobody cared, but strangers had made these things for her. I've made the memorial ribbons for several years.

Carol T. I first heard of TLL when I saw a small blurb in the Grove City newspaper looking for volunteers and requesting supplies. At the time my kids were very small and I had no time for sewing so I just dropped off extra supplies I had on hand. Fast forward several years 😊 and I enjoy having time to sew for TLL. I often tell friends that sewing for TLL is my therapy 😊

Heather U. I started with my mom Denise H. and her bible study group. Now we do all of our stuff as a team. I cut and sew while she likes to pin and press. lol.

Monika F. I saw a blurb about a quilt-a-thon in the local paper. Having learned to quilt a few years before I called the listed number and met Marianne, a fellow German, and hooked up with the Moose lodge group and the Cool group. Have been quilting and knitting sweater sets for 19 years. Go TLL!

Jan K. Even before TLL, our home economics teacher brought me a brochure from a conference she went to. I started making things and bringing them to Marianne

Doty's house and then went to a mile-a-minute quilt-a-thon and was hooked!

Jan T. We were looking for a group who needed "real" quilts for a worthy cause. Darlene H. found TLL on line and Thursday Friend's group was started. So glad we found you!

Betty J M. I go to the GCUMC and I was always seeing and hearing Sandy E. talk about TLL! I thought as soon as I retire I'm joining that group too! That was it, I've belong to TLL since 2009! What a wonderful way to help our community of little lives and share our love with them!!

Denise B. I saw an ad in newspaper years ago for TLL when you had a group in Troy. I started going there and volunteering until the group dissolved. I miss it so much!! Wish one would start up again around this area. But I still volunteer and mail a box full a couple times a year.

Terry Layne B. I was hunting for Angel Gown patterns and ran across the web page. I was so happy to be able to make items that will be used here in central Ohio!

Denise H. I was in a Bible Study in Washington Court House and we had Marianne come to our group and she brought items to show us, told us about our Kroger card would give money to TLL and I started crocheting again and have been doing afghans, quilt tops, hat, bookmarks, bibs, burp clothes, receiving blankets ever since. This is something close to my heart. There are not enough hours in my day to do all I want.

Barbara F. I used to make things for Newborns in Need, Marianne's organization before she started TLL. I first read about this on line and I was surprised that there was a need for baby layettes in Ohio. That's what got me started on this mission, and I really enjoy helping.

Kate M. My mom answered a request from Marianne and would have me do the detail cutting on the infant loss hearts 😊

TLL 20th Anniversary Zoom Party



Thank you to the 34 people who “attended” our 20th anniversary party online this year. Although we missed seeing everyone in person and having the whole day working on projects and having a potluck, it was fun to celebrate and have some fun. We gave away 22 door prizes and two \$20 gift cards from JoAnn’s.

During the party we played TLL Bingo and had a scavenger hunt where participants had to scour their house to find the 25 TLL related items on the list. Congratulations to Katrina D., Mary Ellen W. & Bobbie C. who won the Bingo game. Heather U. and her mom Denise H. were the scavenger hunt winners coming up with 24 out of the 25 items.

In addition to the games, Sally gave a tour of TLL including the basement where all the finished items are packed and stored. Also, she showed where all of our supplies are stored and how they are organized.

Thank you to Jill H. and Carol and Natalie T. who helped host the party at Sally’s house. We had a blast hosting it and appreciate all who attended. Hopefully, next year we’ll be able to meet in person again.

BUCKEYE BABY CAMPAIGN

Our Buckeye Baby campaign has begun! Every year we make OSU themed quilts to deliver to OSU and other hospitals in November in honor of OSU/Michigan week. Although we focus on quilts, we also will be collecting hats, booties, afghans, sleepers and other items to make OSU layettes to distribute in November as well. You can turn in your Buckeye items along with your regular donations at your work group.



Little Jimmy decked out in his OSU onesie

MASKS

Thank you to Michael’s who donated 300 bolts of fabric to TLL to help make masks. Because of this donation, our volunteers were able to help in the effort to protect our first responders and others who were most vulnerable to Covid 19. Although we don’t usually purchase elastic, TLL’s finance committee approved spending TLL funds to buy elastic to help in this effort. We purchased over

2,800 yards of elastic and every bit has been used up. Other volunteers used their own elastic or made masks with fabric straps.

These masks were distributed to nurses, doctors, hospitals, home health care workers, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, police departments, fire departments, health centers, food banks and many other places by our volunteers and others who stepped up to help. We don’t have an exact count of the number of masks distributed, but we estimate between 10,000 – 15,000 masks were made and donated by our volunteers in the past few months!

So, as we had to take a pause in directly helping “our” babies, we weren’t pausing in our efforts to make a difference for people who needed our help. We may not have touched “little” lives right then, but we did continue to make a difference in the lives of many.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT



We have received another 178 boxes of yarn from Miss Lynne. We have stocked up our bins with lots and lots of nice colors and were able to share the rest of the yarn with several other charities in Ohio. Miss Lynne also has a number of cross stitch and latch hook rug kits that we are helping her distribute. If you are interested or know of anyone (individual, church, senior center, etc.) that might like some kits for personal use, please email us at info@touchinglittlelives.org

We also received a large donation of yarn from Bob Carpenter that belonged to his wife. Joyce passed away last November.

The GE Aviation Employee Fund gave us a grant for \$2100 this year. GE has been an on-going supporter of TLL over the years.

In May we received \$678.90 from the Moose Lodge in Groveport. Not only do they let us use their facility for our meeting every month, they contribute part of their gaming fund to us as well.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Thank you so much for hand making my son these comfortable loving items. Here is a picture of him. *Zeynab H.*



Hello! My name is Tiffany and I am a foster momma to a little one that received some beautiful items from your volunteers. Although I can't send a name or a photo due to privacy reasons, I can say these items are very much appreciated and will be cherished.

I personally picked our little one up from the hospital and she had no things other than the items you gifted her. I will make sure to pass them along when she is reunified with her forever home. Thank you and God Bless,
Tiffany M. Mansfield Ohio

My family and I would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt. Our little girl was in the NICU and received a quilt. We truly appreciate all of your work! *Kori, Joe and Lily*

It's time for our annual donation in memory of our granddaughter, Abigail who would have turned 4 on April 19, 2020. You touched us with your precious gift when she was born. Please use the enclosed check to continue to do so for others. Bless you and stay healthy! *Julie & Love, Grandma Grandpa Kurt Z.*

Dear TLL volunteers, I was not expecting a delivery during these difficult times. It truly shows your kind hearts for the families of Central Ohio, to remember them even during a pandemic. The sleeps sacks are adorable and oh, so soft! They will help promote safe sleep for the little ones. The bibs are a colorful spring time delight. We appreciate you and everything you do very much. Thanks again. *Staff and patients of Grant Outpatient Clinic*

Thank you Touching Little Lives for your donation of fabric and elastic to assist me in making face masks during this stressful time. As of this time, I have made around 150 face masks which I have been leaving on my desk for my coworkers to take as needed. The staff at the Bureau of Investigation and Identification were so appreciative of your kindness that they would leave monetary donations which I am forwarding to you. This is their way of saying thanks to an amazing organization.
Karen

I just wanted to take a moment to thank your group for the masks you made and donated to us. Several staff members and patients benefitted from your generosity. Stay well and stay safe! Thank you again. *Chris @ TriCounty Family*

We wanted to express our many thank yous for the masks you made for the officers. Your time and kindness is so appreciated by all. Stay safe and well.
Groveport Police Officers and Staff



Sally ventured out in May to stock up on flannel for our babies. Think she got enough?

WORK GROUP MEETINGS

July Work Group Meetings will continue to be on a pick-up/drop off basis.

Westerville/Delaware – July 11 from noon to 1p.m. at Heritage Christian Church on Maxtown Rd. Send requests to Robin or Sally.

Moose/COOL/Chillicothe – July 9 from 10a.m. to 11a.m. at the Moose Lodge in Groveport. Email requests to Sally.

Grove City- July 17 from 10a.m. to 11a.m. at the Grove City United Methodist Church in Grove City. Send requests to Carol or Vickie.

Pick-up/drop off at Sally's house – Email requests to Sally.

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