



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter 2021 April - June

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BOARD NEWS

It's hard to believe we're 3 months into 2021 already and that it has been over a year since we've had to regroup because of Covid! We've survived cold, outdoor drive by meetings and are continuing to move forward into spring. We are very proud of all of our volunteers that have adapted to everything we have had to change. We are going strong and will continue to move forward and adapt as needed. We are encouraged that the vaccine is slowly becoming more available to our volunteers and that things have become a little safer than a year ago.

TLL's Board met in January to approve our budget for 2021. We are trying to adjust our spending based on the likelihood that donations will be down again this year. The board decided that we will continue with our parking lot meetings through the end of June and then re-evaluate the possibilities at that time. Since we are meeting in different churches, hospitals, retirement centers, etc., we will have to take into account any restrictions that those facilities might have before we can resume in-person meetings. We realize everyone has a different comfort level regarding gathering in person (with or without masks and social distancing). So rather than trying to guess what it will look like in several months, we are keeping things status quo for now. Unfortunately, that means that we will be cancelling our annual TLL-a-thon this year as well. We are hopeful we will be able to resume this again in 2022 and make up for lost time!

SPEND SMARTER TO MAKE OUR \$\$ GO FARTHER

Financially, we have had a good start to the year. We have been very careful with what we are spending so that we can make sure we have money available for the essentials we need each year. Thank you for your understanding and working with us as we try to use the supplies we have before purchasing more.

We want to thank the handful of volunteers who made extremely GENEROUS donations in the past few months. Because of those donations and the normal donations we receive, we are starting off the first quarter

of 2021 in a very good financial situation. One of our donors, who wanted to remain anonymous, read our first quarter newsletter and was so touched by what they read, they donated \$5000 to TLL! We were very touched by this affirmation of what a difference our TLL volunteers make even in the face of unexpected circumstances of this past year. Thank you to this individual and the others who gave so generously. We are also thankful for all of our devoted volunteers who donate so much of their time and effort to serve "our" babies as well. We need all of you to continue in our mission.

QUILT FEEDBACK/QUALITY CONTROL

We have been having some issues with finished quilts. The specific problem is with the tying of the quilts. In January, we had to pull out 41 quilts because of tying issues. This was almost 10% of the 420 quilts we checked. In February we pulled out 41 quilts of the 262 quilts we checked which means we had to "fix" 15% of the quilts in some way. So, we wanted to remind everyone of our guidelines for quilts and clarify a couple things that we think may alleviate this issue. We realize that this may not be the way you prefer to tie quilts, but we explain below why we are asking you to keep to these criteria.

THREAD

Please use a SINGLE strand of CROCHET COTTON thread to tie quilts.

Please do not use crochet polyester thread, embroidery thread or yarn.. Polyester thread is more slippery and we find that knots are coming undone. This is also true if double strands of embroidery thread (crochet cotton as well) are used. The knots often are not secure and start to come undone. Not only is this unsightly, but it also poses a safety risk to the babies. If just one or two of these knots come apart, we often have to cut ALL the ties off of the quilt and then send it out to get retied. When embroidery thread or yarn is used, the ties have been fraying and make the quilt look "messy". Again, we may have to take time to trim the ties or cut the ties off and retie the whole quilt. If you need crochet cotton thread, please let us know.

SPACING OF TIES

Ties should be spaced 6-8 INCHES apart (regardless of pattern) and be tied in a DOUBLE KNOT or a SQUARE KNOT. Ties should be trimmed to approximately ½” LONG. There should be a MINIMUM of 20 ties on a quilt (4 across and 5 down).

It does not matter if ties are put in the middle of a square or at the corner. However, if the squares are small (4” for example), it is not necessary to put a tie in every square/corner as we only need a tie every 6-8”. Having too many ties often makes the ties more noticeable than the quilt itself. Also, since the edges of the quilt are topstitched, it is not necessary to put ties near the edges. If the ties are not trimmed to about ½” long, they often detract from the quilt and we have to pull them out or trim them shorter.

All these things cause more work for our packers, which right now is only 3 people. Also, if we have to re-do the quilt, it is not able to be sent out until the issue with the ties is fixed. And most of all, we don't want you to waste your valuable time and effort tying a quilt, when we have to fix/redo it for one of the reasons mentioned above. We value ALL that you do and know that you want your work to be able to be used immediately for the babies. When we have to “fix” these issues, it delays your quilts from being delivered for a month or more.

So, please help us by following the criteria we set above. Quilts are one of the items we send out the most of (4,267 last year) and they are in high demand. Luckily, we have not run short on these since we have so many people keeping us well supplied. Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions, contact us at info@touchinglittlives.org or call or text us at 614-653-3352.



BUCK\$ FOR BABIE\$ GARAGE SALE AND AUCTION

Welcome to TLL's first ever online garage sale! We hope you will have fun with this fundraiser and help raise money for TLL as well. We have been collecting items

for several months for our sale and have a little bit of EVERYTHING. We have over 1100 items for sale!

Here are the details for the GARAGE SALE:

EVERY item in the garage sale costs \$1.00. Each item is identified by a number and has a short description of the item along with a picture. Most items are used, but we've attempted to make sure every item is in good condition. If you would like to buy an item, you will tell us the NUMBER of the item you want to buy. The sale is first come, first serve, so it is possible that an item you request to buy, may have been bought by someone else first.

In addition to the \$1 garage sale, we are holding an online AUCTION with over 200 items to bid on.

The starting bid for EVERY auction item is \$2.00. Each item is identified by a letter(s) and has a short description along with 1-3 pictures. Most items are used, but are in good condition. If you would like to bid on an item, you will tell us the letter(s) of the item and how much you would like to bid. As bids come in, we will put the current winning bid and the winning bidder on the website. Be sure to check to see if you are winning. If you are outbid, you can submit a new bid as many times as you want. All subsequent bids must be in increments of \$1.00. We will attempt to update the auction page daily with the current winners and bids.

IMPORTANT: Sometimes your computer will load a previous version of a web page, so if you visit the page one day and then go back the next day, it may not show the latest version of the page. In that case, you may still see items that have been sold and that we have deleted from the website. To remedy this, it may be necessary to reload the web page and/or clear you cache/history from your computer so you will not be viewing items that have already been sold. The same will hold true for the auction page. We will be updating the bids/winner, but your computer may not show the most current information unless you reload the page as we described above.

For those of you that aren't very “computer savvy”, you may need to ask someone else to help you with this. Unfortunately, this isn't something we can fix on our end, but we will be deleting items as soon as possible after they are sold so hopefully that will alleviate this issue.

We will continue with the sale and auction through the end of April and will attempt to contact you via email or phone as to which items you have won and how much you owe. We will accept cash or a check. Items will be delivered to our workgroup meetings and you will pay for your purchases at that time. We will make a reasonable effort to get items to you if you don't normally come to a

workgroup. We will ship items to you as long as you pay the postage.

To buy an item or put in a bid, you will email Sally at info@touchinglittlives.org in your email you will include:

1. Name
2. Your workgroup (or pick up location) so we know where to deliver it to
3. Contact information (email and/or phone number)
4. For garage sale items: the NUMBER of the item(s) you wish to buy.
5. For Auction items: the LETTER(S) of the item(s) you want to bid on and how much you are bidding.

NOTE: If you do not have email, you may call and leave us a message OR text us at 614-653-3352 with the above information.

Due to the large number of emails/calls/texts we may be receiving, we will not be able to contact you and tell you if you are the buyer or not until the end of the sale. For auction items, you can check the web page to see the current winner.

Please pass on info about our sale/auction to your family, friends, church members and anyone else you can think of. The more shoppers we have, the more \$\$ we hope to raise for TLL.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items to our sale and to everyone who will be helping out TLL by participating in buying and bidding. Good luck and have fun! Please read all the directions on our page before buying and/or bidding. You can access our sale here:

www.touchinglittlives.org/bucksforbabies.html

RAFFLE

In addition to our \$1 online garage sale and auction, we have another opportunity to raise a little money for TLL. We have a queen size My Pillow mattress topper that we are raffling off during April and May. A winner will be picked some time the first week of June.

We acquired this donation from Sally and her husband. It was ordered and then they decided to purchase a king-sized bed instead. When they contacted My Pillow, rather than return the queen-sized mattress topper, they sent them a new king-sized one and told Jim and Sally to donate the queen-sized one to charity. So, TLL received this pillow topper and decided that we would give one of our volunteers (or anyone else) an opportunity to win it in

a raffle. This pillow topper costs around \$400 if you purchase a new one. We are selling raffle tickets for \$5.00 for one ticket or \$10.00 for three. You can buy tickets at your work group meeting or by mailing money to our corporate office. Please include a note advising that the money is for raffle tickets.

The pillow topper is SUPER comfortable and will make even your most uncomfortable mattress feel like new. It has been used for a month, but is clean and in excellent condition. It is from a pet-free and smoke-free home. You will not be disappointed if you are the lucky winner.

SOS- SAVE OUR STAMPS

Thank you to everyone who contributed stamps or books of stamps for this fundraiser. These stamps will allow us to send out our newsletter for the whole year and for tax receipts and correspondence. Altogether we collected just over 32 books of stamps! Our volunteers are so generous and all of these donations add up to a lot of money saved for TLL.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

I know some of you like to keep track of the items you make to see what you accomplish each year. It's amazing how making a handful of this and that adds up over time. One of our long time volunteers, Gail L. from our Westerville group has made over 2000 items in the past 7 years. About 1000 of those were booties! Thank you Gail and the many others of you that make that "handful" of things that add up to the thousands of items we distribute each year.

Northup Baptist Church has been the home of the TLL Quilt Club for Gallia County since 2008. This dedicated group consists of 13 women and 1 gentleman (89 years young) representing area churches who meet each Thursday from 10 to 2 to work on quilts for TLL. This group is celebrating completion of its 6000th quilt for TLL and looking forward to completing many more.



CONDOLENCES

Our sincerest condolences to our volunteers who have lost a loved one recently:

Jackie McFerron – Her dad in January

The family of Delaware volunteer, Emma Lou Roller

Cheri Courts – Her husband in February and her brother-in-law and father-in-law in March

Susan Hart from Sew N Save – Her father in February

The family of Westerville volunteer, Ann Chickerella in March

appreciative of all of the items. *Grant Outpatient Care Clinic*

Thank you for making the bibs & sleep sacks for our pregnant patients. They appreciate it & so do we. *Grant OB Clinic*



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

I wanted you to know what your quilts mean to us. Our twin boys spent 27 days in the UC NICU. It was the hardest time in our lives. Coming home, these are our victory quilts. We play and grow on them every single day. We appreciate all the love that was put into them. We put a lot of love on top of them... and spit up. Thank you again,

Erin, Finn and Monty



Thanks so much for the amazing delivery of baby clothes, blankets, bibs, burp cloths and hats. The items are greatly appreciated. *Ohio Health Berger*

Thank you for your recent donation of booties, mittens, hats, bibs/burps, afghans, sleeps sacs and toys. We appreciate your kindness for sharing these beautiful items and for keeping us and our patients in your thoughts during this challenging health event. Your continued generosity and dedication truly benefit our patients and *Licking Memorial Hospital*

Thank you all so much for your donation and continued support. This is such a great blessing to the many families in need who come through our centers. Organizations like you help make our services possible to hurting women. God Bless you! *PDHC volunteers & staff*

We want to thank you sincerely for taking the time out of your day to touch others. Our patients are very

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

Our group meetings will continue to be “parking lot” meetings until at least the end of June. This is our current schedule:

Westerville: (Delaware) 1st Saturday of the month @ Heritage Christian Church, 7413 Maxtown Road; Time: 10:30-11:30am; send supply requests to Sally Bricker info@touchinglittlelives.org

Meeting dates: April 10th (move to 2nd Saturday because of Easter), May 1st, & June 5th.

NOTE: July’s meeting will be moved to the 2nd Saturday (July 10th) due to the 4th of July holiday.

Moose: (COOL, Chillicothe) 2nd Thursday of the month @ the Moose Lodge in Groveport, 220 Main St. Time: 10-11am; send supply requests to Jill Hawse: jhawse@att.net (614-531-5237 cell)

Meeting dates: April 8th, May 13th, and June 10th

NOTE: July’s meeting will be moved to the 3rd Thursday (July 15th) due to a schedule conflict.

Grove City: 3rd Friday of the month @ United Methodist, Church, 2834 Columbus St. Time: 2-3pm; send supply requests to Vickie Dab jdabrava@columbus.rr.com or Carol Tolliver ca.tolliver@att.net Meeting dates: April 16th, May 21st, and June 18th

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