



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter 2021- June to September

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BOARD NEWS

It is such a joy and a privilege to be able to use our talents to make things that bless babies and families. These families often just need a little helping hand to get started or to make their way a little bit easier. Some of us know from personal experience that what we do can make all of the difference. Each item we make is a tangible expression of love to the one who receives it. During the pandemic, we've heard many of our volunteers say that being able to continue making things for TLL gave them the feeling of doing something useful, and gave motivation to keep going. We are proud of the history of TLL and of all the adaptations we have had to put in place to keep things going this past year. We are celebrating our 21st anniversary as an organization in July! Thank you to the most wonderful volunteers imaginable.

It is our goal to make items that will be the most practical and helpful to a family in need. The guidelines for what we make and how we make them were developed in concert with the organizations that receive and distribute our items. They observe the needs of the clients, so they can give important feedback to us as to what works the best. We want to maximize our efforts to provide the best and most useful items.

Sometimes our guidelines are extremely specific, and we try to give reasons for that when we can. Each item that is turned in, close to 4,000 a month, is checked by hand for quality and to make sure it fits our guidelines for the item. If you receive feedback regarding an item that you made, please understand that we are just trying to create the very best, most useful items. We truly appreciate every volunteer and each item you make. Without you, our mission could not go forward. So, if you receive feedback from your work group coordinator or one of our board members, it is not a criticism of your work and efforts, but simply a striving to make sure every item turned in is able to be donated to our babies.

We all need to work together. All of us, including the Board, are volunteers. Everything you can do to make sure your items follow our guidelines means the less work

it makes for those that pack our deliveries. Once your finished items are turned in, there is a lot of work and time that goes into getting these items out to our babies. Please help make this job easier by following any feedback you receive. Together we can serve even more babies in 2021.

TLL OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9:00- 5:00pm

The Board has discussed the need to set office hours in order to give Sally time to take care of personal matters and spend time with her family. Please know that if you email/call Sally outside of these hours, your email/call will be returned sometime on or after the next business day. In addition, Sally will be scheduling one week off a month to step away from TLL responsibilities and to have some much-needed downtime. Her scheduled weeks off will be published in the newsletter and on TLL's Facebook page. During this time, if something comes up that you consider URGENT for TLL to know, you can contact our chairperson, Carol Tolliver by email at ca.tolliver@att.net or your work group coordinator. Sally's time off July-September:

July 26th-30th

August 26th- September 5th

September 20th-24th

SUPPLY REQUESTS:

Please contact your work group coordinator for supply requests. During the pandemic we had to improvise at times and many people were picking up supplies at Sally's house on short notice. At the time that was very necessary to keep things running. However, now that work groups are functioning more normally, please order your supplies to be picked up at one of the work group meetings. It can be very disruptive for Sally when volunteers ask to pick things up at her house in between meetings, especially when multiple people are asking. Please remember we are all volunteers and try to plan ahead when ordering your supplies.

GREATEST NEEDS

We try to keep you updated on what our greatest needs are each month. We are continuously in need of every item we make at some point and these needs change monthly. One month we may need a certain item, by the next month, it will probably be a different item that is in short supply. You definitely can continue to make your favorite items however if you are able to “switch gears” and make something we need more of, that would help out also. Even if an item is on our DO NOT NEED list, if you have those items finished, turn them in. This will allow us to inventory our stock for the following month. Remember we do not need your items immediately and they can be turned in at your next meeting. We determine our future needs AFTER we have packed for the month. For example, July’s deliveries were packed on June 15th. After the deliveries are packed, we will send out a greatest needs list. At that point, we will not be packing again until after the work group meetings in July.

We strive to have kits/precuts ready for volunteers to sew. We could really use help with getting these cut out. So if you want something to do and are not a sewer, this is the job for you. Also, we can use help sandwiching quilts that are then sent out for other volunteers to sew. These tasks are extremely helpful to maintain the workflow.

GARAGE SALE/AUCTION/RAFFLE



Our garage sale, auction, and raffle event in April was a huge success! We had over 1100 items for sale in our garage sale and over 200 items in our auction. We raised just over \$1100 altogether! This will go a long way towards purchase of needed

supplies. Thank you to Shirley, Kim, Laurel, and Mary who helped sort and pack everyone’s items. It was quite an undertaking as the boxes of sale items filled two rooms!



Congratulations to the winner of the My Pillow mattress topper, Jackie M. from our Westerville group! We hope you enjoy it and it brings you many years of good sleep.

WORK GROUP SCHEDULE

We are starting to transition our meetings to indoors again. If you are not comfortable meeting inside, you can make arrangements with your work group coordinator to pick up and drop off at the meeting instead.

Here is our current schedule:

Westerville: (Delaware) 1st Saturday of the month @ Heritage Christian Church , 7413 Maxtown Road. If the 1st Saturday is on a holiday weekend, the meeting will be moved to the 2nd Saturday instead. Sally will keep you updated by email approximately one week before the meeting. You may start sending her supply requests one week prior to the meeting whether you receive an email or not. Send supply requests to Sally Bricker info@touchinglittlelives.org

Meeting dates:

July 9th (Friday, due to schedule conflict) Time: 10:30-11:30. This will be a drive by meeting. Starting in August, we will have a combination inside/drive by meeting. We will continue to use the front entrance and have your requested supplies available by number. If you want to come inside to our usual meeting room 100, you can park and come inside instead. For right now, plan on bringing your own project to work on or you can come just to socialize a bit. Sally will keep you updated via email on further details.

August 7th, Time: 10:30-11:45 in Room 100.

September 11th (2nd Saturday due to Labor Day). Time 10:30-11:45 in Room 100.

Moose: (COOL) 2nd Thursday of the month @ the Moose Lodge in Groveport, 220 Main St. Time: 10-1pm; send supply requests to Jill Hawse: jhawse@att.net (614-531-5237 cell)

Meeting dates:

July 15th (moved to 3rd Thursday),

August 12th,

September 9th. Starting in July, we will begin meeting indoors again to work on our usual projects.



Chillicothe: 4th Saturday of the month @ Adena Hospital in the Tecumseh Room from 10am – 2pm. Contact Becky Dumm for more information: bdumm@adena.org

Meeting dates:

July 24th,

August 28^h, ^t

September 25th

Grove City: 3rd Friday of the month @ United Methodist Church, 2834 Columbus St. Time: 10am – 2pm; send supply requests to to Vickie Dab jdabrava@columbus.rr.com or Carol Tolliver ca.tolliver@att.net

Meeting dates:

July 16th,

August 20th,

September 17th

Meetings will take place inside the church.

Updates on Delaware and COOL meetings to come.

BUCKEYE BABY

Our annual 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. Even though there was no game last year, we were still able to spread the Buckeye spirit throughout our hospitals and other facilities. We focus mainly on quilts, but we will also be collecting hats, booties, afghans, sleepers and other items to make into OSU layettes. You can turn in your Buckeye items along with your regular donations at your work group. We do have some red, gray, black and white fabric available upon request.

Please return your FINISHED items in October so that we can get them out in November. If you have Buckeye quilt tops, turn them in by September so that we can get them finished in time for them to go out as well. Also, for any holiday related items (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc), please turn them in two months ahead of the holiday so we can get them out in time.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to board member, Jan Kikka, whose mom passed away in April and to former board member and Westerville volunteer, Judy Martin, on the passing of her husband in May.

MISS LYNNE

Miss Lynne has once again donated yarn. This truckload of yarn (and some books) came to us in May so we are



very well supplied with worsted weight yarn. We thank Miss Lynne once again for her generosity. Although she is unable to use

all this yarn for her original purpose, her donation to TLL has allowed all of us to continue her mission of helping those in need.

DIAPER BAGS



A big thank you to Joan O. who we are now dubbing our “diaper bag” lady. She is using some of the heavier fabric we have gotten donated to make diaper bags for us. She has made over 125 bags so far! We are donating them through our health

centers to moms who can really use them. The pattern is on our website if you are interested in making some. Keep on sewing Joan!!

DELIVERY PERSON NEEDED

We are in need of someone to take our deliveries to Grant Hospital and a nearby clinic. There are 4 deliveries in total and all are within a block or two of each other. It would be helpful to have someone to drive you so that you don't have to worry about parking. These deliveries are small, with 3 of the facilities getting only 1 bag and Grant L&D getting 3 bags. The deliveries go out every other month and can be brought to any of our work group meetings so you can fit the deliveries in around your schedule. If you are interested in hearing more, contact Sally at info@touchinglittlives.org

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to the city of Groveport for their grant for \$1000 which was received in late March! They have given us financial support for the last 5 years and it is greatly appreciated. Also, the Moose Lodge has been an ongoing supporter of TLL for years. This year we have received two donations from them totaling \$2151.45. They are one of the many organizations that pledge ongoing support to us and we are grateful for every penny!



We are collecting the following:

Ink cartridge (including toner) to recycle for \$\$ at Staples

Pop tabs for the Kiwanis

Small UNUSABLE pieces of fleece scraps leftover from booties, animals, scent squares, etc.

Batting scraps: large and small scraps... please see directions below

1. Larger pieces at least 4-6" wide that are leftover when you trim your sandwiched quilts. Some of our volunteers piece these together and use them in quilts. Please bag them separately from other materials and mark them "FOR QUILTS".
2. If you have smaller scraps of batting, we can use them to stuff animals. We also give them to a dog rescue to help stuff dog beds. Please bag these separately from the other larger pieces of batting and mark them "FOR DOGS"

Used serger cones: Please bag separately and mark "FOR LAUREN". She is using these for handles for jump ropes that her church is making for part of the missions project. We will collect this through the rest of 2021.

"Bling" for The Turban Project: any jewelry, pins, earring, brooches, etc. that would be appropriate for them to use on their turbans.

Board books for PDHC centers

Hygiene products for health centers

Heavier fabric that we can't use for quilts: we are making diaper bags out of them. They need to be at least 1 yard

in length..... anything smaller than that, we CAN'T use.



Reminders: Please do not put pom-poms on hats. They are a safety hazard and we have to remove them before we can donate the hat.

Please put quilt tags about 6" from the corner of your quilt top. This leaves enough room for the quilt to be finished without them being "cut off".

With the disruption of Covid last year, we know some people who started to volunteer for TLL are no longer actively volunteering. If you are no longer active, but have some of our supplies; please email us at info@touchinglittlelives.org to make arrangements to return them to us. You can also drop them off at one of our workgroup meetings. We need to make sure we are using our resources wisely and if you aren't able to continue to make things for us, we'd like to get our supplies into the hands of volunteers who can. Let us know if you have any questions.

If you would like to be taken off our email list or mailing list, please let us know. We try not to send too many mass emails, but do like to keep you up to date on things going on with TLL. If you aren't interested in getting these notifications, please email us at info@touchinglittlelives.org or call 614-653-3352 and leave us a message and we will take you off our list. NOTE: When leaving a message, please speak slowly and clearly as this phone DOES NOT have caller id and if we can't hear your information clearly, we are unable to return your call. Also if your email or phone number has changed, please let us know.

We are still having problems with quilts that are not being tied correctly. This is one of the biggest problems taking up our packer's time. Ties that are too long have to be sent back out to be trimmed. This especially happens when two layers of thread or "silky" thread is used. Also the ties are sometimes not tied tight enough which results in loops that the babies' finger can be caught in. In these cases the quilt gets sent back out and all the ties have to be cut off and the quilt retied. This delays getting the quilt out by perhaps a month or two. Remember to trim your quilt ties to about 1/2" and to use a single strand of crochet cotton with a tight double knot when tying quilts. Space them 6-8 inches apart. If the quilt has squares, you can tie in every square (or in the corners) depending on the size of the squares. If the quilt has strips, follow the pattern of the strips when tying.

It has come to our attention that the sleeves of our onesies may be too long and not fitting our babies well. If you are making onesies, please make the sleeves about 1 1/2" shorter so that they will fit better. If you have gotten precuts from us with longer sleeves, please trim them before adding ribbing and completing them.



Is anyone interested in making these 3 piece bears for our memorial layettes? Let us know and we'll supply the pattern and fabric.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Since we couldn't hold a TLL-a-thon this year, here's a memory from our first event held 8 years ago! Hard to believe this was so long ago.

"The first annual TLL-A THON was held at Parsons Baptist Church on Saturday June 22nd. Forty-four volunteers attended and worked from 10am -4pm sewing quilt tops, quilts, sleepers, onesies, sleep sacks and bibs.

Other volunteers sandwiched quilts, stuffed animals, hand stitched Joshua booties and knitted or crocheted. Over 100 items were completed and many more finished items were taken home to wash or snap. Everyone enjoyed meeting other volunteers and trying some projects they hadn't done before. We had volunteers from as far away as Troy and Medina, Ohio. Everyone enjoyed a yummy pot luck lunch and there were door prizes for everyone."

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to make the bibs, burp cloths and sleep sacs for our patients. They always smile and say "thank you" when they open their gift packs. We appreciate you sharing your talents! *Carol RN, Grant OB clinic*

Thank you so much for the afghans, bibs, blankets, booties, quilts, towels and toys for the Marion General Hospital OB unit. We appreciate your gifts and your time as volunteers. Your items will be shared with our little ones. *Marion General Hospital staff*

Every year in April we get a thank you and donation from Kurt and Julie Z. in memory of the passing of their granddaughter Abby 5 years ago. Along with their letter (below), they shared a photo of Abby with us this year and with the permission of Abby's parent's Rick and Angie G., we wanted to share this picture of Angel Abby with our volunteers. Thank you for sharing this precious memory with us. We are touched once again by a family who lets us know how important it is for us to keep providing for "our" babies. Thank you Kurt, Julie, Rick and Angie and our condolences go out to you all once again.



"It was 5 years ago on April 19, 2016 that Touching Little Lives came into

our lives. Our precious Abigail "Abby" was born to Rick and Angie G. She soon after earned her angel wings. And as we have on every birthday and will continue to do so, we are making a donation in her memory. Thank you for what you continue to do to help parents with their loss. God Bless you!" *Grandma Julie and Grandpa Kurt Z.*

Thank you very much for your generosity. Our clients LOVE the newborn layettes! We enjoy giving our clients these homemade gifts of love; Thank you very much for

sharing with our home visitation program; Thank you! This means SO much to our precious families; To all of you who spend your free time on these items – they are beautiful. We appreciate you more than you know. Signed by various staff members from *Nurse Family Partnership*

Thank you so much for your recent donation of bibs/burps, booties, mittens and hats. It is so thoughtful of you to continue to provide these items for our pediatric We truly appreciate the group’s generosity and dedication to our patients and *Veronica P., Licking Memorial Hospital*

Thank you very much for the large donation of quilts, bibs, booties, towels, hats, etc. What a blessing these items are to our ministry! Your kindness is so appreciated. God bless. *Heartbeats, Zanesville*

Thank you so much for your generosity and love. God will bless you as you have blessed us. Thanks, *The Angel House Board*



Picture is of Jaden –one of the Angel House Babies

OUR VOLUNTEERS DO SUCH GOOD WORK



Grove City volunteers enjoying their first onsite meeting in over a year!



Mary from the Moose work group made these ADORABLE dresses that will soon be sent to PDHC



Westerville drive by meeting

These cuties made by Lauren from the Moose are on their way to PDHC on W. Broad



Quilts tied by Bethel Handcrafters



While Kim V. and her daughter Sarah help Sally pack deliveries, her son Caleb was given the task of opening some of our delivery bags. How he do? LOL

TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

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