



# TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES Newsletter

Second Quarter 2014 April -June

## BOARD NEWS

In December, the board began a lengthy process to achieve the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance Standards accreditation. This accreditation is a means for charities to demonstrate integrity, transparency and best practices with regard to their governance and fiscal management activities. It helps donors identify and support charities using accountable practices. We have provided detailed information to the BBB to enable them to develop a full report on TLL so that we may become accredited. A recent study completed by the BBB showed that charities with this accreditation achieved significantly higher funding revenue and public support. You will notice new policies and reports to our web page as a result of this work. Thanks to Sally for all of her work on this project.

## TLL ANNUAL REPORT

Again this year, you have made a huge impact on the lives and health of babies in Ohio. Our volunteers have donated over 44,000 hours to projects and meetings and have created over 30,000 items. 31,183 items were distributed through Ohio hospitals, clinics and other facilities. We find that our delivery numbers are down slightly from last year. We have contacted all of our facilities in the past months to determine their needs and many have told us their census is down so we have decreased what is delivered. A few hospitals are using only fire retardant fabrics for their newborns so can no longer use what we provide. Financially, we received \$24,057.18 in donations. This money was used to purchase fabric, yarn, batting, muslin, and sewing notions as well as for postage, repairs to machines, purchase of 3 new sewing machines, printing costs and other incidentals. Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers for making this a very successful year!

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

This quarter we are pleased to recognize our delivery volunteers. Without the dedication of this group we

would not be able to function effectively. Deliveries are taken to the work group meetings by the coordinator and then distributed to delivery people from there. I've seen many leave the meeting with the car trunk and back seat full, wondering if they could stuff one more bag in! If you deliver one bag or 20, it is appreciated each and every time.

From the *Moose and Chillicothe work groups*, a special thank you goes to Carol F. and Helen W. These gals not only make deliveries but they are essential "go betweens" for getting deliveries and supplies back and forth from Chillicothe and Circleville to Columbus. Carol generally attends both meetings and is essential to getting deliveries from the work group coordinator to the Chillicothe workgroup where deliveries are made to Adena hospital and also picked up for Portsmouth and Hillsboro, OH. Helen delivers to Berger hospital in Circleville and her husband helps by delivering to a Nationwide Children's clinic in Columbus. Helen also brings finished quilts completed in Chillicothe back to the Moose meeting.

From the *Delaware work group* we would like to recognize Carol K. She is a very devoted and reliable delivery person who delivers to Marion as well as Delaware, OH. Carol is involved with many other charities and is a truly remarkable person. She always has a smile on her face!

From the *Westerville work group* we'd like to recognize Patty and Carl C. for the years of making deliveries for Touching Little Lives. In addition to delivering locally to St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville, they also have put many miles on their car delivering to Mansfield and to several facilities in the Dayton area.

In addition to supporting TLL financially, the Kiwanis have been a big help in making deliveries for TLL. Bob C. from the Northland Kiwanis delivers to Marysville and 5 different facilities in Cincinnati.

Again, a huge thank you goes out to all of our delivery volunteers. You make it happen!

## TLL-a-THON

If you missed it last year, here's your chance to join in the fun of the TLL-a-Thon! Come and join us for all or just part of the day.

**JUNE 28, 2014 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.**  
**Parsons Baptist Church**  
**3930 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH 43207**

There will be a variety of activities again this year. Although all details have not been worked out, we will definitely have sewing and serging projects, knitting and crochet, and quilt making activities. There will be something for all to do, for all skills and skill levels. We will be supplying the materials so just bring your sewing machine, serger, needles or just yourself. We plan to kick off our OSU quilt project at the event. So start thinking scarlet and gray!! The TLL-a-Thon is a great way to meet volunteers from other work groups, to learn a new technique or share a pattern. We are planning a potluck lunch, so please bring a covered dish, dessert or drink. There is access to a refrigerator.

Directions from I-270 Exit north on 23/South, High St. Turn right at first traffic light (Obetz Rd.) Continue on Obetz Rd. to the next traffic light. Parsons Baptist church is right in front of you. Turn right onto Parson's Ave. and then left into the parking lot. We will have signs marking the entrance to our meeting room.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



**HELP TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES, INC. HELP THE BABIES OF OHIO**

***Kroger requires re-registration on a yearly basis in April. If you have previously registered, please remember to re-register as soon as possible.***

### ***IT'S EASY AS 1-2-3-***

Just by shopping at **KROGER** and using your PLUS card as you always do, Kroger will donate funds to Touching Little Lives, Inc. based on the purchases you make every day! It's as simple as registering on line at *Kroger Community Rewards*. Supporters can earn rewards for our organization on almost everything, even gift cards and gasoline, every time you shop.

### ***SO LET'S GET STARTED***

Go online to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). You must have a valid on line account to participate. If you do

not have one, follow the prompts at *Sign Up Today* to register. You will need your number from your Kroger Plus card. Once you complete the registration you will receive an email to activate your account. Once received, go back to the community rewards page and follow the prompts.

1. Select your state - OHIO
2. Select option - ENROLL NOW
3. Enter your email address and your personal password.
4. *Find your organization* – type in Touching Little Lives and hit SEARCH
5. *Select your organization*- click on the bubble in front of Touching Little Lives
6. *Save Your Selection* - click on the save

Within 7-10 business days after you register, you will see at the bottom of your Kroger receipt “At your request, Kroger is donating to Touching Little Lives, Inc.”. TLL depends on this program to help fund purchases for fabric, batting, muslin, yarn and other necessary items. So please consider signing up and encourage friends and neighbors who shop at Kroger's to select us also! Thank you on behalf of all the volunteers and staff of Touching Little Lives, Inc. It is only through the generosity of caring members of the community that we are able to make a positive impact on the lives of the newborns we assist.

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The Heath Church of Christ held a baby shower for Touching Little Lives in February. Pictured are some of the items donated. Thank you to all that contributed.



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A huge thank you goes out to the Columbus Division of Fire for their donation of jacket liners. These liners were



from jackets that were being replaced. As you can see from the picture we will be putting every inch of them to good use by making diaper bags and much smaller jackets for the babies. That's what I call recycling!!

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## A MORNING AT CONNECTING THREADS



Tons of free fabric and a whole lot of fun.

Thanks to  
Crafts-  
Americana

Joyce, Jan, Nancy, Judy, Linda and Sally ventured out for some "dumpster diving" at Connecting Threads today. In just over 2 hours, we manage to dig through tons of boxes and filled 46 bags with all kinds of neat prints of cotton and flannel. We also found about 100 yards on rolls that will work well for quilt backings. We probably made it through a third of the boxes before we called it a day. I wish we could have brought all you out there with us. You would have wanted to set up your sewing machines and start picking out your colors and fabrics to sew on the spot! It was tons of fun and we got enough fabric to make tons of quilts and bibs!

## THIS AND THAT

Did you know that the U.S. still has the highest rate of preterm birth of any industrialized country? Although the rate of premature births dropped slightly in 2012 the country still has a ways to go to reach the March of Dimes goal of only 9.6% of babies born prematurely. We are currently at 11.5% of births before pregnancies reached 37 weeks. Ohio earned a "C" for its rate of 12.1%.

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We'll call this story, "The Homeless Work Group Coordinator". I was driving home from the Westerville meeting yesterday and was just getting off the freeway exit near my home. A truck pulled up next to me and started honking. I looked over and saw a lady I know from

church and she was just laughing so hard looking at all the stuff I had in my car. I went home and didn't think much of it after that. At church the next day, she told me why she had been laughing so hard. She had been following me for a while and saw all the things in the car and started feeling bad for me because she thought that I was a homeless person living out of my car because of all the stuff I had in there! We both had a laugh over it – so for those few minutes I was "homeless". Reminds us of how lucky we are and how many parents' circumstances are so much less fortunate than ours. It makes "touching those little lives" even more important. *Sal*

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Reminder – we can recycle your print cartridges at Staples. With what we have turned in so far, we have received \$140 in rebates!! This allows us to purchase print cartridges and other essential office supplies at a discount and sometimes free!! You can turn in your cartridges to your work group leaders.

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There are new patterns posted on our web site for scratch mittens, knit hats and a new sewn bootie pattern. If you can't access the internet and would like these patterns please let Sally know by calling 614-653-3352. Also please notice that we now have pictures of our burial/memorial items posted.



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REMINDER: Please only use labels on quilts, they do not need to be put on any other item.

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As always we are in need of NB onesies and sleepers. If you have a serger and can make some for us, we would greatly appreciate it. If you need fabric or the pattern, let us know and we'll get you some of both. The instructions are posted on our website. We use approximately 175 of each on a monthly basis to pack layettes – so the bins are always needing filled. We are also almost out of preemie booties which we also sometimes use for burial layettes as well. If you make some please use baby or soft yarn ONLY. They should be 2-3" in length.

## LETTERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

I was at the Emergency Room last night, because my 2 year old daughter had a febrile seizure. After they got her stable and ran tons of tests, they couldn't find anything really wrong, so we were released after 7 hours. We had stripped her clothes off of her due to her vomiting, which they gave us a little night gown, but the weather was turning icy, so the nurse told me she would be right back, and at that time Skyler was awake, not feeling good at all. Then the nurse came back with a white, and yellow quilt that was made by Touching Little Lives. Skyler was so happy to see a blanket, she instantly reached for it, and now about 24 hours after the incident she won't let the blanket out of her sight. I just wanted to tell you how much that blanket helped our situation, and how happy it made my daughter. Thank you and God bless you.  
*Courtne*

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Just wanted to share this story with you.... one of the health centers we deliver to gave a couple a blanket for their newborn baby. The couple told them this was the ONLY thing they had for their baby. I called our contact at the health center today and asked if we could send this couple some more clothing and other items. They are going to contact the parents to get permission to share their info with us and hopefully next week I can send them a box full of goodies to help them with their newborn. Its stories like this that make all the work we do worthwhile.  
*An update to this story:* I posted last week about the couple that came into one of the local health centers we deliver to and only had the blanket that the social worker gave them. We are delivering a layette of goodies to them through the health center. We also had a generous lady named Gwen offer to give them a lot of her boys old baby clothes- up to about 6 months sizes. So this couple will now have a good start with their newborn. Wonderful news!

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I was cruising around on Knitting Paradise, when lo and behold, a sizing chart from TLL popped up and I was taken aback. My mother (Patti N.) used to love making things for the babies, it gave her such joy to be able to help and she recruited my sister and me to help. Mom is no longer with us, and to help deal with the grief I chose to continue making things for the babies, and hats for chemo patients young and old. Thank you for the fond memories. *Vickie*

My husband and I want to say thank you for all the wonderful handmade gifts you have given us for our little one. You are such a blessing and we were so shocked. This is an amazing organization. You have truly touched our lives. This is our little angel, Myah Sophia. She weighed 9 pounds 12 oz. at birth, 22 inches long. She



is such an amazing addition to our family. Blessings to you. *Brittany and Raymond C.*

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Hello, when I had my daughter, Gracie, this past October, the hospital gave me a quilt made by your organization. We took it home & she has been using it every day since. I was curious to learn where this unique quilt was made & I seen your logo on a tag & was surprised to learn that someone made this them self. It's very well made & has lots of interesting patches that are fun to look at with my baby & point of all the colors & pictures. Gracie was born October 23, 2013 @ 5 lbs 14 oz, a week earlier than expected. I was in the hospital with her for 3 days & a nurse brought in your quilt the last day for us to take home. Thank you for the services you provide for families. We are enjoying the quilt so much & plan for it to last a long time. *Kelly T.*

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*This note was written by our delivery person on the back of the delivery sheet* –The ladies at Grant OB clinic wanted TLL to know how very much their clients appreciate our efforts. One young girl went to tears when she was given some of our items – she had absolutely nothing and was amazed that there are people she doesn't know, who would be so kind and giving. We might not see it every day, but we do make a difference.  
*Connie*

Thank you so very much for the beautiful gifts! They are all so wonderful. It is so kind of you to make these gifts and it means so much to our family. Y'all are a blessing!



*Baby Lucas' family*

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Just a note of thanks to you all in Touching Little Lives, Inc. for the beautiful light green and white pieced baby comfort. We have another baby girl (our 2<sup>nd</sup>.daughter now) since the 6<sup>th</sup>. of October. Her name is Edna after her great Grandmother. Thanks again! *Amanda*

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Thank you for the clothes and blankets you knitted for our little girl. We appreciate your hard work and generosity. *Ruth and Jason and Callie Leigh*

Thank you for providing us with a nice warm blanket to bring out little one home in. It was a loving gesture when we were caught unprepared. Thank you for what you do!! God Bless!!

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Thank you so much for the beautiful baby quilt for our little girl! We love the bright, light colors and we have been using the quilt to keep her warm in her carrier when venturing out on these cold days. Thanks again for your kindness! *Chad, Molly, Sam and Sadie*

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Thank you so much for the box of donated and handmade items for our son, Logan. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very appreciated and we will be forever grateful for all the help we received during the birth or our child. *Shane and Lindsay*

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My beloved son is nearly two months old now. I have been trying to send this thank you since we left the hospital. Better late than never, I say. Thank you for the beautiful quilt and newborn hat. He wore the hat home from the hospital. We use the quilt for "belly time" so his older sister knows to help when she sees it! I know thoughtful hands made both. I wanted to share our family's appreciation. Thank you for your kindness.

*Matt and Denise*

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Thank you so much for the time and talent you give to create such beautiful items we can use with our NICU families at Nationwide Children's hospital. The staff enjoy choosing blankets and outfits for the babies and the families are so appreciative, especially when a loss is experienced. The garments photograph beautifully and the stuffed toys and embroidered hearts are wonderful to include in memory boxes. We are so very thankful to you and Touching Little Lives for helping us support families during a very difficult time. *Christine*

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I am sorry I am late in sending my thank you out. As I have a 5 year old and a 22 month old and now the twins. And I am a very young mother with my hands full. I want to tell you, thank you and everyone that has made and given my sons (Hunter and Gunner) these precious clothing. I never in my wildest dreams would think someone would give me so much clothing for my twins. My due date was Sept 25<sup>th</sup> but if I hadn't had them by Sept 12<sup>th</sup> they were going to take them by C-section. On Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> the boys said they were not going to wait any longer. One weighed 4+ pounds and the other weighed 5+ pounds. Gunner is the one that weighed 5+ and had a breathing problem. He had to stay in the NICU for a couple nights. He did not get to come home the same day

as Hunter and I did. He came home the next day. Right now they both are doing great and both are continuing gaining weight. My grandmother Joann P. does knitted hats, booties and blankets with the group from Nationwide Insurance. *Jessica*

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We received many more thank you notes from the hospitals including Nationwide Childrens, Diley Ridge Medical Center, Grant Outpatient OB clinic, Mercy Fairfield, Berger Maternity, Southview Hospital, Licking Memorial, Clinton Memorial, and Southern Ohio Medical Center.

## **WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES**

**Chillicothe** -4th Saturday of each month (10-2)  
Adena Hospital, Tecumseh Room. **The May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Shawnee room.**

**Columbus –MOOSE-** 2nd. Thursday of each month (10-1)  
**The April meeting will be held at The Church of Our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd. Please check our website or Facebook for future meeting locations.**

**Columbus – COOL** 3rd. Tuesday of each month (6-8) at the Church of Our Lady, 5225 Refugee Rd.

**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**

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The Chillicothe meeting will be cancelled for June – see you at the TLL-A-Thon  
The Westerville meeting will be cancelled for August.

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TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

2014

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