



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

First Quarter January 2017- March 2017

Editor: Linda Marshall

BOARD NEWS



The Board of Touching Little Lives would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year. We look forward to another great year for TLL and would like to thank each of you for making 2016 a success. Each of you make a big difference in the lives of many newborns and their families. It doesn't matter if you make one quilt or 50, if you attend our meetings or work from home, if you deliver items or just support us monetarily. You are appreciated!!

The Board met in December and I'm happy to report that all of your current Board members agreed to continue in their positions. We had a face to face meeting so that we could all meet our new board trustees, Charlotte and Laurel. It also gave us the opportunity to review our rules and regulations with them and to bring them up to speed on all of the "ins- and -outs" of managing TLL. We also discussed the need to buy an insurance policy to cover any loss of material or equipment. Due to our practice of buying when the price is right we have large amounts of fabric in storage both in Sal's home and Linda's. The Board approved budgeting for and purchasing an insurance policy in 2017.

We're proud to announce that in 2016 over 94% of monetary donations went directly towards buying the needed supplies to make items for the babies. Another 4.9% went towards printing, postage and maintaining our equipment. The remaining 1.1% was used for fundraising and fees. The finance committee of Touching Little Lives is responsible for all purchases made by TLL throughout the year. We strive to be financially responsible with the generous donations received from our volunteers, churches, corporations, and grants. Since we rely 100% on donations and have no paid volunteers, our goal is to keep administrative costs to a minimum.

Did you know that in 2016 we received over \$17,000 in in-kind donations? In-kind donations are not monetary donations, but donations of materials used to make things for the babies. Many volunteers buy their own supplies to make quilts, afghans, blankets, hats and booties and then donate the finished products to TLL. We also receive donations of supplies such as yarn or fabric that we distribute to our volunteers. We also receive new purchased baby items. In-kind donations save Touching Little Lives thousands of dollars each year and are just as important as monetary donations. We want to thank all those volunteers who help support TLL by donating these in-kind donations each year.

CONDOLENCES

In October, the MOOSE workgroup lost one of its most avid volunteers, after a sudden illness. Helen W. completed at least 30 quilts each month and helped with whatever needed done. She also was a go-between to get materials and finished items back and forth from Chillicothe. Her cheerful smile and positive attitude are missed.

The volunteers of Village Chapel in Ashville lost Alice W. in November. She made quilt tops as well as bib, bootie and burp cloth sets. She will be greatly missed. She did a lot of work at home the past few years when she wasn't able to get to meetings.

Ruth F. passed away December 8th at the age of 83. She was a dedicated TLL volunteer for over 10 years and joined the Delaware WG about 9 years ago. She was known for her unique crochet baby blankets and wonderful use of yarn color combinations. Even though Ruth fought cancer the last part of her life, she continued to crochet and donate blankets to TLL. She will be missed by many.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Touching Little Lives would like to extend its thanks to our delivery people who have committed to getting finished items to hospitals, health centers, and agencies, every month. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Carl & Patty C, Carol K, Carole L, Bob C, Connie A, Mary B, Lauren N, Nancy C, Teresa B, Jan K, Carol F, Charlotte O, Donna P, Joyce P, Jo T, Rhonda L, Connie A, Mary M, Marilyn R, Mary B., Pat K, and Judy T. Without all of you, we couldn't get our goodies" to the babies.

Thank you to all those volunteers who are too far away to attend a work group, but mail us their finished items on a regular basis. TLL has received over 90 packages by mail this year. While most of these come from volunteers living in Ohio, we have also received packages from people in Kentucky, Massachusetts, Indiana, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, New York, Idaho, and Maryland. Thank you to these great volunteers that have not only volunteered their time and supplies, but also have had to pay for the postage to get their finished items to us. This group of volunteers has provided over 2500 items to TLL in 2016! Wow!



Thank you to Kim V. and her kiddos for coming to help. The kids packed two bags of animals and made 22 girl layettes! Kim and I folded and

packed 350 quilts too! Great helpers and saved me tons of time doing it myself.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Had a successful day of sewing sleep sacks with the Columbus chapter of American Sewing Guild. 14 members showed up and 38 sacks were completed.



We received 25 checks totaling over \$4000! Boy is that going to help keep our babies warm this winter.

Thank you to Mark H. and the "Meatfest" committee for choosing TLL as the recipient of their 2016 Meatfest fundraiser. We received

over \$4000 in donations because of their efforts. Meatfest started as a family cookout on the Sunday prior to Labor Day. As it grew, it was determined to turn this fun filled, meat filled event into something a little extra special. This year the Meatfest Committee chose Touching Little Lives to celebrate the multitude of new lives that have been added to Meatfest families in 2016. Many new "meatfesters" were born this year. These families are all so very fortunate, but know there are mothers who walk into hospitals who have not prepared for their new babies arrival for a multitude of reasons"....What a wonderful group of people who have chosen to turn a family event into a fundraising effort that impacts the lives of so many. In the last 3 years, they have raised over \$10,000 in donations! Thank you "meatfesters" and its corporate sponsors for helping us serve the babies of Ohio.



Thank you to Laura M. from Baby Take Out™ for the wonderful donation of almost 400 long sleeved onesies.

SAVE OUR STAMPS

We collected 35 books of stamps (a total of 700 stamps) and \$92.50 for our Save our Stamps fundraiser this year thanks to the generosity of our volunteers. Thank you so much to everyone who participated! This fund raiser helps us defray our postage costs which enables us to use these saved funds to buy much needed supplies for the babies.

THIS AND THAT

If you haven't already, please register your Kroger card to participate in the Kroger Community Awards program. They will donate a portion of the amount of your purchase to TLL. It's "free" money for us and is

easy to sign up for. It may seem like a small thing, but in 2016, we received \$1,218 from Kroger.

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list or now have an email address that we can send your newsletter to, please let us know. You can send a note to info@touchinglittlives.org or call 614- 653-3352 and leave a message.



Mark your calendars now: The next TLL a thon is scheduled for June 24, 2017 from 10am - 4pm

Board members apparently like Subaru cars. Three of them loaded with baby goodies after our last Board meeting!!



The COOL workgroup and Touching Little Lives was recognized with a full page newsletter article in the "COOL NEWS" from the Church of Our Lady. It gave a great overview of our mission and included pictures of our volunteers during a work group meetings.



THANK YOU LETTERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

I just wanted to reach out and thank you for everything you do. This week, we lost our little one in the first trimester, and it's been one of the hardest experiences we've had to endure as a family. The nurse at Miami Valley handed me a folder as I was discharged. Inside was a sweet little blanket, fabric heart, baby ring, and a ribbon. While it didn't make the loss of our sweet pea any easier, it was amazing knowing the love of a stranger went into those mementos. Again, from the



bottom of our hearts, we thank you. We plan to make a shadow box for our keepsakes to remember our baby, Emma. ❤️❤️☐

On behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation, thank you for your generous donation of handmade blankets and clothes in support of the NICU. Your thoughtfulness will help bring smiles to our patients.

I wanted to thank your organization for the beautiful things my newborn received in the nursery at southern Ohio medical center. My newborn daughter Emma Rain was born October 25th, 2016 at Southern Ohio Medical Center Portsmouth, Ohio. Emma weighed 5 lbs and 8oz. She is our pride and joy. We are so blessed that God has chosen us to be her parents. We were very grateful for the handmade items that the hospital gave us to take home for lil' Emma. It also was a big help for her to have nice, beautiful things to wear to keep her warm for fall and winter. Thank you so much and God bless.



My husband and I would like to thank you for the lovely clothes and blankets that we received for our premature baby boy. His name is Brayson and he was born at 36 weeks. Reva G.



Thank you so much, we're appreciative of your helping us. Nolan, Heather and Rachel. PS. Here is a picture of our little miracle.



Sorry I am late with this thank you. Your dedication to our clinic continues to amaze me. The patients absolutely love the rice bags and of course the bibs. The

“oohs and ahhs” over the cute bibs never stop. We appreciate everything you do and all your efforts on behalf of our patients. *Terri, Grant Outpatient Clinic.*

We greatly appreciate your donation for perinatal loss. Your beautiful donation of handmade items will provide comfort of our grieving families. Thanks for all the time and love you put into all these items! *Perinatal Loss Committee at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, OH.*

This note may be tardy, but lacks nothing in sincerity. Your generosity has touched the lives of many of our clients. We at PDHC truly appreciate all the lovely baby things you have made for us to give to our mothers-to-be over the past months. God bless you. *Pregnancy Decision Health Center staff and volunteers.*

Please thank all of your volunteers who have so graciously made and donated all of the baby items to our mother-baby units at Riverside. Our patients who receive these lovely items are so grateful! *Cara M. Nurse Manager Riverside Hospital*

Greetings send your way.... Thought I should let you know that I received of your baby clothes you made. They come in pretty handy. Thank you! Baby was born on Sept. 10th. It's another little girl named Anna weighing 7lbs. 12oz. 19 ½ inches long. I also received a package earlier “our other one before baby” and never got to it to thank you. Sorry. She was born on Aug. 20, 2014 and named Lovina. Thanks again for those packages! *Joni, Cora and the 4 little ones*

We want to thank you for donating baby blankets, bibs and other baby items! These beautiful items have blessed many babies and families. Thank you. *Heartbeats staff and volunteers – Zanesville*

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Touching Little Lives organization. My husband and I had our first baby last Friday at Southern Ohio Medical Center in Portsmouth. The nurses gave us a bag full of assorted homemade items that were works of art! We cannot wait to wrap our little bundle of joy in the beautiful homemade sweater, hat and booties. What a wonderful organization. Thank you very much! *Chris and Alyssa.*

Thank you so much for your generous contributions of blankets and baby needs. Our families appreciate them so much, as we do. *Nurse Family Partnership*

Thank you for all the donations over the summer and fall. We very much appreciate the booties- we offer a pair to every positive pregnancy test which is an average

of 50 per month! Thank you for helping us stay stocked up! *Erin, Heartbeats, Licking Co.*

Thank you so much for your recent donation of bibs, booties, hats and sleepers. Our patients continue to benefit from your generosity. Your continued kindness and dedication to our patients, our community and to Licking Memorial Hospital is truly appreciated.

WORK GROUP MEETING SCHEDULES

Chillicothe -4th Saturday of each month (10-2)
Shawnee Room 1&2 Adena Hospital.

Columbus –MOOSE- 2nd. Thursday of each month
(10 - 1) Moose Lodge 220 Main St. Groveport, OH
(Behind the Dairy Queen)

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 – Grove City meeting
for January and February. Delaware meeting for
January. Moose meeting for March.**

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4882 Bixby Ridge Dr. East Groveport, OH 43125

614-653-3352

info@touchinglittlives.org

www.touchinglittlives.org

