



TOUCHING LITTLE LIVES

Newsletter

Fourth Quarter: October –December 2017

Editor: Linda Marshall

BOARD NEWS

Your Board met in September to review budget status and approve our fund raiser activity for 2017. Although our finances are still good, our donations are down this year. Linda and Sally have been busy writing applications for a grant from South Central Power, a volunteerism award from the Fairfield National Bank and a donation from “100 Women that Care”. The Board has decided that we will eliminate capturing volunteer hours on our activity reports. We also will eliminate printing a brochure and instead create a one page fact sheet available for use as it is needed. The Board also voted to continue making nursing covers for the facilities that we already send to but to give careful consideration before agreeing to take on additional work in this area.

STRIVE FOR FIVE FUNDRAISER

For our end of the year fundraiser, we are asking you to “sponsor” at least one layette. The cost of each layette is about \$5.00 for all the items included. Our goal for this fundraiser is to raise \$700 which will cover the cost of the approximately 140 layettes we deliver in one month.

Layettes contain 8-10 items including a blanket or afghan, a bib and burp cloth, a sleeper, a onesie, a hat and booties and a toy. In colder months a jacket or sweater is added when possible. For some parents these layettes are simply a small gift that they take home when they leave the hospital. For other parents they mean much, much more.

In addition to hospitals, we deliver layettes to many health centers and other social service agencies. Parents who go to these centers receive affordable prenatal care and many are in desperate need of clothing and other necessities. Some have nothing for their child when he/she is born. These centers also offer parenting classes to help these new moms have the necessary skills to take care of their newborns. Unlike hospitals, these agencies continue to

offer support to parents even after they have taken their baby home.

We also get calls from individuals, who because of unfortunate situations, are in need of clothing for their baby. Even though we can’t provide for all of their needs, these moms are very appreciative of the handmade gifts our volunteers have provided for their baby.

So this little “care package” is a way to touch the lives of many parents and infants. For some it’s a nice gift to take home. For others, it helps us fulfill part of our mission to help needy newborns.

We hope you decide to participate in our “Strive for Five” fundraiser by donating \$5.00 or whatever you feel you can do. We are asking every volunteer to participate to help us meet our goal of helping the “needy newborns of Ohio”.

You can give your donation to your work group coordinator through December or mail your donation to our corporate office at 4882 Bixby Ridge Drive E, Groveport, OH 43125. Checks should be made payable to Touching Little Lives. Please mark your donation with “Strive for Five”. A tax receipt will be issued if requested.

THIS AND THAT

Our thoughts and prayers go out to TLL Trustee, Robin H. at the loss of her father.

TLL has lost one of its own. Peggy W. from our Westerville group passed after a long battle with cancer. We offer our condolence to her daughter, Susan, who was also a volunteer of TLL. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Peggy's family. She was a remarkable lady and we will miss her.

We have noticed lately that the neck opening in the smaller size bibs is sometimes too small. Please check your pattern and adjust it if necessary to make sure the opening will fit around the baby's neck. This opening should be at least 10 inches in circumference when finished and top stitched. NB bibs should have the neck opening circumference 12-14 inches. Snappers please be aware of where you place the snaps on bibs to allow for the largest possible opening.

Finished Buckeye quilts ideally should be turned in at your October meetings or at the latest by early November. We need to get them to OSU in time for Michigan week. Christmas quilts that need tied should be turned in as soon as possible. Finished Christmas quilts can be turned in at the October and November meetings

We have a huge need for newborn booties. These should be made with baby or sports weight yarn only. If sewn, fleece, flannel or knit can be used. We can also use preemie booties, however the need for those is much less. NB booties should be at least 3-3 1/2 inches long and preemie booties should be 2-2 1/2 inches long.

We are struggling to keep up with the demand for quilts. If you are a quilter and could do even a few extra each month it would be appreciated. Remember you can also just make quilt tops which we can then sandwich and sew.

If you are dropping off finished items at Sew-N-Save in Westerville, please remember to mark your bag or box that it is for TLL. Their new address is 5900 Westerville Rd. They collect for many others and we want to make sure your items get to us. Also let Sally B. or Joyce P. know when you drop items off.

With the holidays fast approaching there are two easy ways to help raise money for TLL by turning your on-line shopping into donations for Touching Little Lives. Sign up for **iGIVE** at www.iGive.com and designate Touching Little Lives as your charity. It is totally free plus you get access to free shipping deals and exclusive coupons, on top of great deals. www.smile.amazon is another on-line shopping site that contributes a percentage of your purchase to TLL. The entire shopping

experience is the same and most products available on amazon.com and amazon prime are available at **smile.amazon**. Designate TLL as your charity and start shopping!!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We would like to thank Parson's Baptist church for again hosting our TLL-a-Thon.

Thanks go out to the Moose Lodge 1245 in Groveport for their continued support by providing a space for our meeting as well as monetary support!

We again received a generous grant from the GE Community Service Fund in Cincinnati. We thank them for their on-going support of TLL.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



A big thank you to all the Delaware Work Group Volunteers! The group turned in 833 finished items for August. That's a lot of time, talent, and love given to others.

Thank you Sue T. from Ashville who donated 1825 yards of cotton fabric, 25 yards of fleece and 20 yards of interfacing to TLL. This was dropped off at the Sew Silly group who makes quilts and blankets for TLL. Looks like some beautiful quilts will be coming our way,





Received a huge box in the mail from Barb F. of Columbus. 100 hats, afghans, sweaters and booties. Yea!!! Thank you Barb.



TLL received a GENEROUS and much needed donation today from one of our long time volunteers! It is paying for all the fabric, yarn and batting bargains that we've been buying this past month or so. Thank you to this volunteer for supporting TLL! ❤️

THANK YOU'S TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have been receiving regular delivery items from your agency and are very pleased. The parents have been extremely appreciative of the supplies and for that I thank you. It is so good to be able to hand them material items that you know are needed. I do want to tell you that the sleep sacks are a huge hit! Everyone loves them. Also the quilts are lovely. *Peggy B., - LSW Doctor's Hospital*

Thank you very much for dropping off the beautiful handmade baby items. They are going to good use with our families. What an awesome labor of love each piece is! Thanks again. Blessings. *Elise M.- Stowe Mission of Central Ohio*

This note is almost 5 years over due now. We received a blanket from you folks almost exactly 5 years ago for our baby boy. He was about to be taken to Akron Childrens' and the staff at Med Central gave us the most beautiful quilt to put on his "little house" as we called the incubator. Somehow that brought his mother's heart lots of comfort as the blanket went with him on the ambulance. Everything turned out fine for him and the blanket is now a reminder of Gods work in his little life. Thank you, thank you for our blanket and for all the work you do. *The Eric B. family Mansfield, OH.*

Thanks you so much for the quilts and bottles that you so generously gave to Heartbeats. They will be a blessing to new parents! May God bless you. *Heartbeats Newark, OH.*

Thank you so much for your recent donations to our hospital. Your contributions mean so much to our families. Our bereavement program would be lacking without agencies like yours. *Michelle C., Bereavement Coordinator - UC Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH*

The Grant Outpatient Clinic recently received our June delivery of bibs and rice warming bags. As always each item is lovely and very much appreciated. Our pregnant patients receive the rice bags at their second visit and can't wait to use them! They really help with the normal "aches and pains" of expecting. Thank you each and every one for your dedication to the babies of Ohio. *Grant Hospital Outpatient OB Clinic*

Thank you so much for your recent donation of bibs, booties and hats. These handmade items continue to bring comfort to new mothers and their babies. We truly appreciate your generosity and dedication to our patients, our community and to Licking Memorial Hospital. *Veronica L. - VP Public Relations- Licking Memorial Hospital*

Thank you so much for the generous handmade baby items. Your gifts help our moms and dads receive the practical pregnancy resources needed to help nurture their babies. These beautifully made items help welcome our precious newborns to the world and are so appreciated by the parents. Your gifts are truly "touching little lives" and we are so grateful for your long standing support. *Barbara F., Life Pregnancy Center Director- Washington Court House, OH.*

We couldn't thank you enough for Ramsey's sweet blanket!



She loves being snuggled up in it! Thank you!



This is such an amazing organization! Thank you for everything. You've given me hope in some dark times. *Mina Z.*



Madison Marie at 3 months. She loves her blanket she got it at the hospital after our stay at the hospital Thanks again for your generosity. *Pamela B.*



Original quilt



Fixes by Sally B.

I wanted to give my thanks for the newborn package given to my daughter when she was born. Though she is too little right now to fit into the outfits, they will be much of use this winter. I appreciate the thought and hard work put into each blanket, hat and outfit given to her. Once she is big enough to fit into the outfits, I will be sure to send pictures of her! In the meantime, I have attached a photo of her so you know who you have helped! *The Robinson Family*



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/Changes

The November Chillicothe meeting is changed to November 18 and the December meeting is cancelled.

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My son is a year and a half old. After his birth I sent you a picture of him and the blanket we received at the hospital to say thank you. Today I'm sending you an updated picture of him and that same blanket, it is his favorite. We don't leave home without it and he sleeps with it every night. Thank you for this sweet and precious gift.

About a month ago, we received a message from a parent whose baby boy received a quilt from us while he was in the NICU 12 years ago. She wanted to see if we did repairs. The quilt was VERY worn in some spots, but her son still sleeps with it today. Such a sweet story! We agreed to give it a shot as she wanted to give it to her son for his 12th birthday in August. You can see what the quilt looked like when we got it, and what it looks like now after we made repairs. If you ever doubt that you touch lives by volunteering, here's living proof that you do!