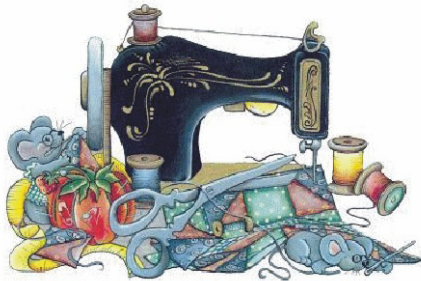




## Threads of Love San Antonio

Non-Profit Organization



Threads of Love San Antonio was founded to serve the needs of premature babies (living and deceased), and their families. In this newsletter we would like to share with you the stories of some of those who have been touched by this faith-based, Christ-centered ministry.

### *Why Threads of Love and premature baby care?*

In the mid 1990's our twin daughters, Margie Emig and Michelle Stewart, miscarried. We have seven grandchildren waiting to meet us in heaven. Margie named her miscarried baby "Sarah."

We started praying for ways to serve the Lord in memory of these special grandchildren. A few months later we learned of a sewing ministry named "Threads of Love." We knew this was God's calling for us. Shortly thereafter we identified a need for premature baby care in San Antonio hospitals and we knew it was time to begin the 36th chapter of Threads of Love.

In October 1999, the Sarah chapter was organized, and the need for premature baby nurture and care in the San Antonio metropolitan area and beyond was made known in very short order. God blessed His ministry beyond our expectations. Care for live and deceased preemies has also provided nurture for parents, families, and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff.

We thank God for sixteen years of exponential growth in meeting the needs of an infant population in South Texas and overseas military hospitals.

If you would like to learn more about Threads of Love San Antonio or how you can help, please visit our website at [www.threadsoflove-sa.org](http://www.threadsoflove-sa.org) or our Facebook page, "Threads of Love San Antonio."

Please contact us at (210) 279-1717 if we can be of service to you or to someone you know. We are here to serve.

*Liz and Joe Page*

(Director, and Chairman of the Board)



*Sewing And Reaching A Heart*

## From Grief to Peace—My Story

By Bonnie Cheatham  
(Board Member)



Our baby girl was born into the arms of Jesus 48 years ago. Young and alone in a foreign country with no one to talk to, we coped as best we could and moved on with our lives. All of our pain was buried in our hearts and we grieved in silence.

Soon after moving to San Antonio in 2008, I was introduced to Threads of Love—a ministry to preemie babies and their families as well as to those who had suffered a baby loss; my passion was instant.

In addition to sewing, knitting and crocheting, they hold a Service of Remembrance each December. It was while volunteering at this service that God brought healing to my heart. When I shared the wonderful healing words I had heard at this service with my husband, we were finally able to release the pain and find joy in knowing we would someday meet our daughter when we joined her in Heaven. My husband's words summed it up beautifully—"It feels like a big hole in my heart has been healed." Threads of Love brought us full circle in our healing.



**Marlene Sharer** holds the Threads of Love memory box she received to help her honor her son, Jacob. He had been born measuring only 9 inches and weighing a tiny 6.1 oz. Marlene's memory box included not only a small teddy bear and Jacob's hand and footprints, but also a beautiful, size-appropriate, blue blanket and hat, handmade by Threads of Love.





## Seeds Planted Often Take Time to Grow

By Dee Giberson

(Board Member)

Seeds are planted, but sometimes they don't get watered right away and that is where my story begins. My seed for sewing for preemies was planted in 1992 when an article in *Sew News* spoke of a need for people to sew clothes for premature babies in hospitals because clothes were not small enough to fit them.

I sent for the pattern but that was all – no water.



*Baby Jonathan's footprints*

In 1993, the seed was nurtured once again, when our daughter-in-law miscarried her second child.

Once again, my heart responded but only in thought. Then, in 2005, our youngest daughter had complications with her pregnancy and our precious grandson, Jonathan, was born at 20 weeks. He was such a beautiful, perfectly formed baby so small his whole body fit into his dad's hand. However, his little body was not big enough or strong enough to survive and he lived only three hours before Jesus called him home.

Our world was full of so much sadness but God provided us with a love kiss—a beautiful hand-made gown provided by Threads of Love for Jonathan's burial. This act of kindness and love provided so much comfort to our grieving family that I knew I wanted to become involved and do the same for other suffering families. My tears, shed at such a time of sadness, provided the water to grow the seed planted thirteen years earlier.



**Yolanda P. Puente**

(Board Member)

While I was attending mortuary school, I mentioned to one of my classmates that I was having difficulty locating baby burial clothing for the families we serve at our Funeral Home. Doll clothes and preemie clothes bought at the local stores don't fit babies who weigh sometimes only ounces. There were times when I was given a dress or gown for the baby and I would take the outfit home, take it apart, trim some fabric and remake the outfit to fit their baby. My classmate was so excited because he had a resolution for me. He told me about Threads of Love's ministry and introduced me to his wife who is a member. I have been a member ever since. This was three years ago. I am so blessed.



## Valerie and Roger Taylor

Valerie and Roger Taylor represent many couples who have suffered the tragic loss of a baby. Such couples, when they have no other outlet for their grief, often withdraw or direct their pain at each other. In the Taylor's case (as they shared at a 2008 Threads of Love SA convention), grief from the loss of their babies nearly caused their marriage to disintegrate. And then they found Threads of Love and attended Threads of Love's annual Service of Remembrance. Finally, years after their loss, they were able to talk about their grief, and honor the memory of their precious babies. Not only was their own marriage restored, but they were now equipped to help their own daughter through the loss of her premature baby.



"Threads of Love is a ministry that not only sews small garments for premature infants, but mends broken hearts and families by helping them get through some of the roughest moments in a family's life."

## Stacey Strauch Pfeiffer

My son turns 10 in a couple of weeks. He spent 3 months in the Methodist NICU at birth. All of his clothing, blankets, bedding and "lovie" were such a blessing during such a difficult time. As was the burial gown made for his twin sister. I still have many of the items today. Blessings to all of you in this precious ministry.



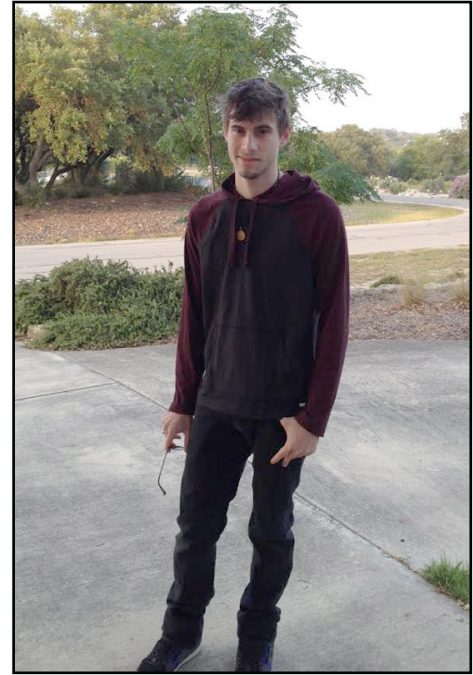
Born November 13, 2014, baby Artie weighed 3.4 lbs. He was not sickly, just pre-term (30 weeks), so his lungs were not fully developed and he had a hemorrhage on his right hemisphere (brain), described as a small bleed. Thankfully, it did not grow but is still being monitored. Artie weighed 5.3 lbs when he was discharged on December 23, and by January 5, 2015 he weighed 6.5 lbs. God is so great to provide healing miracles. We all thank Threads of Love for their help and prayers.

Very appreciative,  
**Lisa, Carlos & Artie**

**My Grandson**  
**By Jan Mobley**  
(Board Member)

February 2, 1996, the day our grandson Matthew was born, was bitter cold, stormy and icy. So icy that our daughter, in labor and only 24 weeks pregnant, had to climb over our chain link fence to get to the car because the gate was frozen. Born by C-section and weighing 1 lb 11 oz, the doctors gave him a 50/50 chance of survival and said if he survived there was an 80% chance he would suffer severe birth defects. He was transported from NE Baptist to University Hospital via ambulance with a police escort. His hands and toes were webbed, his eyes were fused shut and he had a feeding tube. It was touch and go daily, but God heard the prayers of so many across the country and after 101 days, Matthew came home.

Today, Matthew is 19 years old and will be graduating from high school on June 6, 2015. His plan is to pursue an electrical apprenticeship program. He has no health issues and has not seen a doctor in over 5 years. Grandpa recently took him to get his driver's license and watching him drive off in the car, he remembered back to that little boy who was given very little chance and praised God for the miracle.



The Sarah Chapter of Threads of love was not even a vision when Matthew was born, but 8 years ago, while shopping for fabric at Hancock Fabrics, I heard one of the employees talking about a ministry involving sewing for preemies and I have been “sewing and reaching a heart” since then.



**Georgia Heisler**  
(Board Member)

In 2003, I was new to San Antonio and looking for someplace to serve with my knitting and crocheting skills. At a missions day conference hosted by my church, I was referred to a nearby Threads of Love satellite. It was through that satellite that I met Joe and Liz Page (the founders and directors of Threads of Love San Antonio). Though not a parent myself, I was drawn to the services this ministry provided to the tiny, helpless babies and their families. I was also impressed to learn that all work was done by unpaid volunteers, and all items were provided to families at no charge. More importantly, it was (and is) a work of faith, done with love in Jesus's name. That spirit permeates all that Threads of Love San Antonio does, and now, almost 16 years after its founding, God still receives all the glory. Because I work full-time (and don't sew), I have volunteered more behind the scenes, originally with things like technology and photos, and more recently by helping Threads of Love with things like name tags, newsletters, and publicizing special events. There is a place for everyone to serve, even if you don't sew, knit, or crochet.

One year, I volunteered to help with Threads of Love's annual Service of Remembrance. To my surprise, I found myself grieving a cousin I had never met—weeping for the little one whose life had been taken many years earlier by abortion. How I wish that baby's mother and grandmother could attend a Service of Remembrance. I know they would find comfort and healing, too.





*Sewing And Reaching A Heart*

## How I Became Involved with Threads of Love San Antonio By Lara R. Ramirez (Board Member)

By profession, I am an Information Technology Director. A sales executive team member from our company shared with me in passing conversation about a couple he had met at his gym—Joe and Liz Page. He went on to tell me about the ministry they have to sew little clothes and blankets for premature babies. As he explained more about the ministry, I thought to myself how beautiful this was; I had never heard of such an outreach before. Our conversation ended that day, but it was not the last conversation we would have about it.

A few months later, that same team member—Michael Morlino—asked me to prayerfully consider helping Liz and Joe with their website. Michael knew that I would pray about it and seek the Lord's will. I received confirmation pretty quickly, so I arranged for a phone conference to discuss further details about the project. The blessing of the Lord was clearly on our conversation, and we agreed to meet face to face at the Threads of Love building.

Touring the facilities that day was both a blessing, and heart breaking, especially when I saw the little coffins lined with satin from donated wedding dresses. My husband had accompanied me on this first meeting, and we were both touched deeply by the passion of Threads of Love's ministry. My husband gave me his blessing to be involved, so I began my participation in the website reconstruction.

As my relationship with Threads of Love San Antonio progressed, I saw struggles that felt like certain defeat, only to see the Lord provide miracle after miracle, causing hope to be strong through our common faith and love of Jesus Christ. Threads of Love is a God-given ministry rooted in the passion of Joe and Liz Page through Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory for what He has done in this ministry, and what He is doing, and what He will continue to do! I am blessed to say that I have contributed in a small way, by using my God-given technology gift to complete their website transformation. Prayerfully, our Heavenly Father will allow me to continue my participation for some time. I serve joyfully, as time permits. And each time I am allowed to serve, the beautiful smiling faces of the other volunteers greet me, and encourage me. Thank you Lord for having Threads of Love San Antonio in your plans.

### Vicky Hunter Kleen

My baby, Levi, is a 24-week micro preemie. He was born weighing 1 lb. 14 oz., but quickly dropped to 1 lb. 3 oz. It was such a surprise to come in and see the beautiful blanket, caps and diaper shirts. What a blessing your organization is to us! Now my little one has a warm hat during our kangaroo care snuggle time and he looks so cute! Thank you for your ministry.



## ANNOUNCING AN UPCOMING EVENT



## Parents, Preemies and Pink Lemonade

If your preemie was a recipient of items made by Threads of Love San Antonio,  
we want to celebrate you.

Please join us on May 5 from 1 PM – 3 PM  
at the Threads of Love Building  
located on the Oak Hills Church Campus  
19595 W IH 10, San Antonio, TX 78256

From the frontage road, turn in at the second driveway and proceed to the back of the parking lot.  
Our building sits alone at the back of the lot.  
Call if you need further directions: 210-279-1717

Our volunteers have a passion and love for our ministry and pray over each item they make for your babies. This time of celebration would not only allow us to celebrate with you, but give our volunteers an opportunity to connect with the parents whom they have so lovingly given of their time to encourage.

## We Look Forward to Meeting You