

S U M M E R 2 0 1 8



# Sew Much Love

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

## From the Director

To God be the glory; great things He has done!

Every other weekend Joe and I take a "road trip", so to speak, to all the local NICU's and Labor & Delivery's in San Antonio to deliver what you have beautifully made and packaged. Nurses and receptionists that we have gotten to know over the years always cheerfully greet us. Often they give us prayer requests or preemie stories. Today we went to Johnson City on another "road trip." We enjoy the time together to catch up with each other, appreciate the scenery, pray for the babies and the staff that cares for them and maybe sing a song or two. We are very content with our "road trips" and are praying for many more. Thanks for caring and volunteering!

*Liz*



*Joe and Liz Page*



## Thank You Joanne!

Joanne Sanchez Gutierrez began volunteering at TOL almost four years ago. Joanne began by helping with the bimonthly packing of items to be delivered to hospitals. She also assisted with any other organizational needs that surfaced. One day a need arose that involved financials, and with a 15-year background in Finance and Accounting, Joanne stepped up to assist. Today her role has evolved into Financial Manager of TOL, Sarah Chapter.

Family, health and fitness are Joanne's top priorities. She enjoys a variety of physical exercises such as Pilates, running and yoga. But yoga has become her passion because it brings balance to not only her physical wellness, but also grounds her spiritual and emotional wellness. Joanne firmly believes that part of a healthy lifestyle is having grace for oneself and is honored to share her yoga journey with others. In addition to being a yoga teacher, Joanne is also a mother to three beautiful children. She feels blessed and honored to serve on the TOL Board.

*The ladies of Covenant Community Church*



*Beautiful diaper shirts and blankets*



*Sewing together*

## Meet Our Satellites

Meet more of our Sarah Chapter satellites and learn about the people and projects that make

### Covenant Community Church

The satellite at Covenant Community Church was started in memory of JaNayah, the granddaughter of the pastor. Queen Ester has directed the satellite from the beginning. The ladies are friendly and do beautiful work while creating a variety of items. Some people have moved and some are unable to drive any more so Queen Ester's prayer is that more ladies would join them. As with most satellites, the men are very supportive of what the members do.

Members of the JaNayah satellite meet from 11:00 AM -1:00 PM the second Saturday of each month. Their meetings are held at the church at 15651 Bulverde Road and are open to everyone.

Thank you, Ladies. We appreciate you!

### Knotty Knotters – Garden Ridge

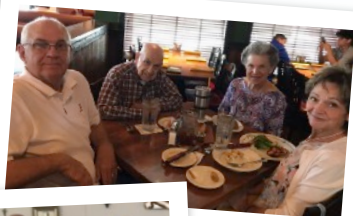
The Garden Ridge Women's Club is a large organization in Garden Ridge. The largest portion of the Women's Club, The Knotty Knotters, has supported TOL for the last 19 years. Debbie Marciniak is the TOL liaison. Bobby White is the Head Knot who directs the meetings. Ellen Coke is her co-chair who tends to all the paperwork for the Knotty Knotters. Several times a year Debbie plans a TOL sewing day. Last month the Knotters made over 500 blankets. We appreciate the many donations the Knotty Knotters have made to TOL over the years. Thank you!

The Garden Ridge Women's Club is open to women in Garden Ridge. Contact Bobby White at [bswhite69@gmail.com](mailto:bswhite69@gmail.com) for more information.



*A pinwheel of blankets*

*Filling the tables*



*Eddie, Joe, Liz & Becky enjoy catching up with each other*



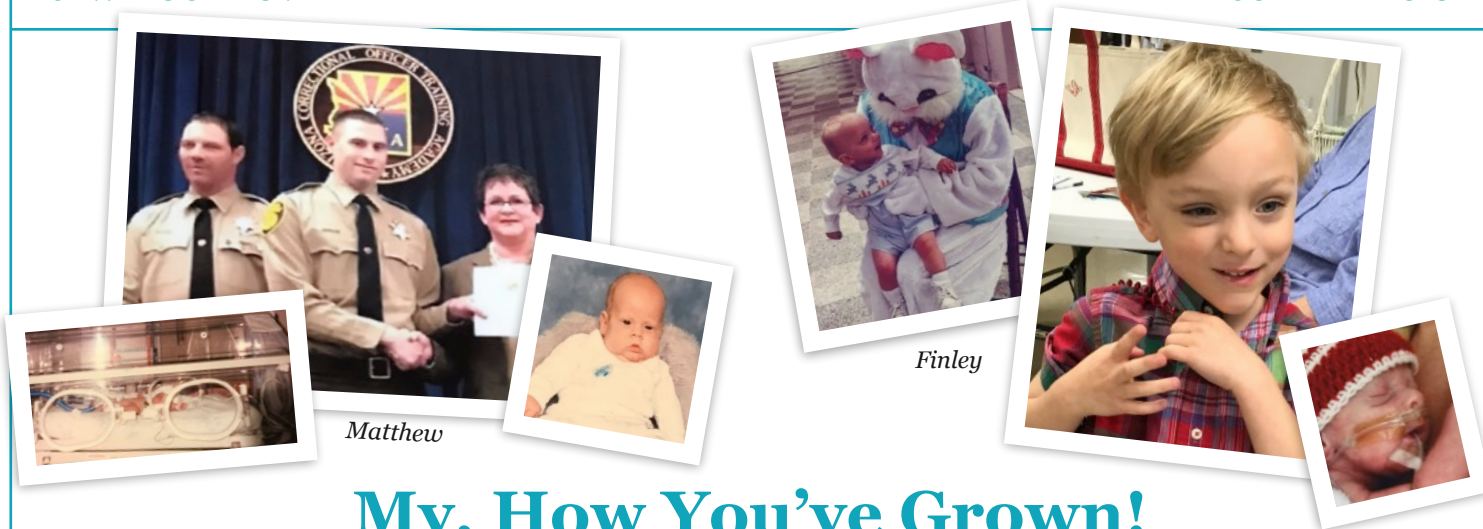
*Becky & Eddie stop by TOL before grabbing a bite to eat together*

## Behind the Scenes

Meet Becky and Eddie Everett,  
TOL Angels

In late-March, Becky and Eddie Everett made a visit to San Antonio from their home in Fort Payne, Alabama. Their company has gifted over 20,000 socks to TOL to be lovingly crafted into lovies for the babies. Each sock is milled, bleached and dried in preparation for delivery. During their visit to TOL, Becky and Eddie got to tour the TOL facility and learn more about the TOL mission. The Everetts were truly impressed by the handcrafted items created by our volunteers. Thank you, Becky and Eddie, for your generosity and kindness!





## My, How You've Grown!

### *Preemies Then & Now – Their Incredible Journeys*

**Matthew** - February 2, 1996, the day TOL board member Jan Mobley's grandson Matthew was born, was bitter cold, stormy and icy. Born by C-section and weighing 1 pound 11 ounces, 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. It was touch and go daily, but God heard the prayers of so many people across the country and after 101 days, Matthew came home. In 2015 he graduated from Smithson Valley High School. When he was 19 Grandpa took him to get his driver's license, he remembered back to that little boy who was given very little chance and praised God for the miracle. Matthew now is 22 years old and is a State Prison Corrections Officer in Arizona. He is married and has a beautiful son.

Eight years ago, while shopping for fabric at Hancock Fabrics, Jan heard one of the employees talking about a ministry involving sewing for preemies. She has been Sewing And Reaching A Heart ever since then. Jan leads the Bulverde chapter of Threads of Love and is a member of the TOL Board.

**Finley** - Those of you who were part of the TOL family back in January 2014 will remember the words "Fight Finley Fight!" The daughter of one of our volunteers, Lynn Smogur, gave birth to a 25-week, 12-inch long, 1 pound 6 ounce *micro-preemie* boy after it was discovered that she suffered from HELLP (Hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, low platelet count). Due to the HELLP it was necessary to deliver the baby immediately to try to save Becky's life. As they prepped Becky for a C-section, the doctors said the baby's chances for survival were not good and Becky's life was also in danger. You prayed.... and God answered those prayers! Finley was delivered and was crying (a VERY good sign) and Becky recovered. Many months of NICU care followed and they were indeed a roller-coaster ride. Through the experience Lynn described the NICU staff as "Unbelievable! Amazing! Miracle workers! Angels!" The doctors proved themselves to be near-saints in their care not only of Finley but of the family as well. When Finley took a turn for the worse, God provided a better medicine through the consultation of many doctors and Finley began to improve! As for the clothing and care items made by TOL for Finley, Lynn said, "the clothes you (TOL) provided were a God-send. Never doubt that the ministry you are involved in is appreciated."

Finley is now an active 4-year old boy and goes to school 5 mornings a week. He has acid reflux but most importantly, he has his life!

*Do you have a preemie story you'd like to share? Contact Liz so she can get your important story and photos in an upcoming newsletter.*



**The Benevity Community Impact Fund** at USAA now lists Threads of Love as one of their charities. We encourage USAA Threads of Love members and their co-workers to select TOL for their charitable giving. Benevity is the global leader in workplace giving, volunteering & grant making programs that engage people and make a meaningful social impact. Learn more at [www.benevity.com](http://www.benevity.com). Thank you USAA & USAA employees!

## “Snippets” of Threads

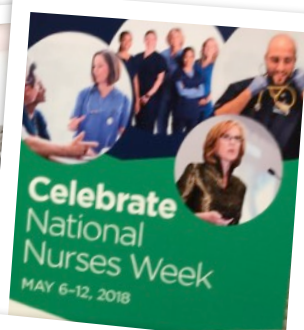
On March 20<sup>th</sup> our satellite TREA, The Retired Enlisted Association, Yellow Rose Chapter 80 Auxiliary, delivered boxes of beautiful, handcrafted items for premature babies. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



*TREA Volunteers make a large delivery*



*Joanne stores the cookies*



*Sandy & Kathy plate cookies*



*Liz & Joe deliver the treats*

## Honoring National Nurses Week

To honor National Nurses Week, May 6-12, 2018 TOL decided to deliver special cookie trays along with the regular NICU delivery of blankets, lovies, quilts positioning aids, kangaroo squares and clothes. TOL volunteers plated and stored the cookie trays before the deliveries. Joe and Liz loved seeing the faces of the dedicated nursing staff as they revealed the extra-special treats. Thank you to all the nurses who love and care for our smallest patients.

## 5K Run to Benefit TOL & SHARE

Shine On Remembrance Run is a 5k dedicated to the memory of babies who have been lost prematurely, and for the families who have grieved these losses. Their mission is to promote hope and healing by means of community. The run will take place October 13, 2018, as October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, at Lady Bird Johnson Park. There will be a balloon release, where you will be invited to write a message to your loved ones, while kids are invited to participate in the Rainbow Baby Run and will get to sprint with a cape! Proceeds will be donated to the TOLSA and the SHARE. Learn more and sign up at <https://bit.ly/2xX2J7u>.



## Oh the Places You'll Go!

Do you have exciting summer plans? Are you traveling abroad or do you have plans to stay closer to home? If your answer is yes to either question, email or text Liz your summer travel pictures with a brief description so we can feature you in our fall newsletter.

We'll see you in our next newsletter!





Photojournalist JesseRey Huerta, Joe Page & KENS 5 reporter Audrey Castoreno



Liz & Joe being interviewed



A screenshot from the TV segment on TOL

## KENS 5-TV Visits TOL

Publicity for non-profit organizations can sometimes be a challenge. Imagine our good fortune when KENS 5 – TV photojournalist JesseRey Huerta asked to bring a reporter to TOL to interview our volunteers and learn about our mission.

JesseRey, also known as JR, learned about TOL when talking to his grandmother, Yolanda Ybanez. Yolanda has volunteered at TOL for many years. She leads a team of TOL volunteers to cut, sort, sew, iron and package Z-Flo covers.

JR arranged to bring his co-worker, KENS 5 Reporter Audrey Castoreno, to TOL for a full morning of filming and interviewing in late-April. Audrey interviewed several volunteers and then sat down for a longer interview with Joe and Liz. They had the opportunity to share how Threads of Love Sarah Chapter began and has been sustained by the dedicated volunteers, both local and in our satellites and around Texas.

Once the interview was complete JR took the footage back to the TV station be scripted, edited and prepared for the upcoming newscast. It was a very exciting day for all of us at TOL and even more exciting when the interview was seen on TV. Thank you JR, Audrey and KENS 5!

Watch the interviews at:  
Threads of Love SA - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS3oBzRoA6Q&sns=em>

Made in SA: Threads of Love - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RMuuPzOzAo>



## Crafter's Corner

Meet Stacia FitzSimon,  
Miniaturist, TOL Volunteer &  
Newest Board Member

Creating dollhouses and the miniature items that go inside are a passion for Stacia FitzSimon. Currently, she has three dollhouses that are in various stages of completion. "Working on miniatures is so fun. I get to sew, paint and decorate houses, just in a smaller scale," Stacia said. Some of the favorite items in her collection are her fully decorated Santa dollhouse, her Stuart Little luggage created by the artist that made the actual luggage for the movie *Stuart Little*, and her Albert Einstein and Little Red Riding Hood dolls. Stacia travels to Chicago yearly to attend a miniature convention to take workshops and learn new techniques.



The



# Thank You!



## Cards By Chris

When TOL volunteer Yvonne Pfister visits her Mother in England, she not only brings home fond memories but also beautiful handcrafted cards from her mother's creative friend, Chris. Chris prefers to remain anonymous as she said it "is her service to Jesus." Chris makes beautiful cards for Liz to send on behalf of TOL. Each card is exquisite and so appreciated. God bless you, Chris, and THANK YOU!



## Bunny Quilt

Kim Grice, TOL volunteer, enjoys creating new patterns for lap quilts. Her "Bunny Quilt" is the newest addition. The beautiful quilt is sure to make its recipient "hoppy"!



## Delivery of Love

Diana Owen, satellite leader in San Marcos, delivers a donation of handcrafted blankets and visits with Board Members Jan Mobley, left, and Dee Giberson, middle.

## Small Hands Help Smaller Hands

Taylor Tucker, 8, is the youngest TOL volunteer. Taylor irons fabric (on low), strings laundry bags and counts items for her grandmother, Sharon Tucker (left). Taylor is learning about volunteering through her grandmother's example. The Bulverde satellite leader, Jan Mobley, is very proud of Taylor's servant heart.



## Volunteering Together

Father-daughter team, Rick and Holly, volunteer time together at TOL to create beautiful lovies to give to preemies. Holly is a member of the American Heritage Girls, a premier national character organization for girls ages 5-18 that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. Learn more about AHG at [www.americanheritagegirls.org](http://www.americanheritagegirls.org).



## CONDOLENCES

On Saturday, May 5, 2018, Mae Reininger, passed away. Mae sewed beautiful quilts for TOL for many years. She is survived by her four children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The Threads of Love members and Board of Directors send heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.



## Threads of Love (TOLSA)

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