

W I N T 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!

The preemie population has gone from 350 to 250 in San Antonio after receiving an "F" in premature baby care. A survey recently revealed that there are many 14 year-old pregnant single girls who cannot afford prenatal care. Many free prenatal care clinics opened which has greatly reduced the number of premature births and deaths. Praise the Lord!

Thankfully, even though we are well stocked, we did not deliver as many items in 2017. During virus season the numbers increase. We are now contacting more NICUs in and around San Antonio. There is still a real need.

Believing in miracles,

Liz



Joe and Liz Page



Thank You Phyllis!

Over three years ago TOL was truly blessed when a unique, gracious lady, Phyllis Gaiser, joined our group. She comes early, stays late and helps on non-meeting days. Phyllis is a skilled crafter in everything we make. She is welcoming to everyone, patiently teaches and encourages new members, advises volunteers with production questions and is our "go-to gal". Phyllis faithfully serves on the Board of TOLSA and is willing to whatever she is asked. Thank you Phyllis!

Meet Our Satellites

Meet more of our Sarah Chapter satellites and learn about the people and projects that make each group special.

First United Methodist Church - Kerrville

Bethel Nickel started the Kerrville satellite sixteen years ago and directed it until her health made her step down. Cynthia Arnold, who started with TOL Saint Thomas satellite, moved to Kerrville and now directs their satellite. Their very active women, about 25, meet the second Thursday of each month from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. They start work immediately to reach their goal of 200 items per month. Some members work at home. Cynthia's mother-in-law, Mildred Landrum, joined the group six years ago and sews diaper shirts. She is in her nineties and attends the group frequently. All are welcome!

Contact Cynthia Arnold at 830-496-0313.

Cynthia chats with Joe



Members work hard to meet their monthly goal



Johnson City Quilt Guild

Louise Patterson directs the twenty-eight member satellite in Johnson City. The satellite meets the 3rd Thursday of every month, except November and December, from 1:00 – 6:00 PM to make quilts and lovies. They then have their meeting at 7:00 PM the same day at the Johnson City Library. All are welcome!

Contact Louise Patterson at 830-765-0970.



Lovies and quilts are customized for both boys and girls

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

For nine years Carol Short has been the Ministry Facilitator at the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Holy Spirit. They started a satellite when they realized several of their older members were unable to work with the large prayer shawls. Kay Barrett contacted TOLSA and started a satellite. They have 50 active members and meet the 1st Tuesday of every month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM to create knitted and crocheted items. The satellite is open to parishioners only.

Contact Holy Spirit for further information on their Prayer Shawl Ministry.



A handcrafted blanket and hat

Blue Skies of Texas, West

In 2007, Betsy Baldwin called to invite Liz to present to Blue Skies of Texas, West. Many ladies attended and were very interested. When Betsy had to move, Jo Dobbs took over as the director for the satellite. There are four active members who make laundry bags, the ties for the bags, small quilts, and several crocheted items. They are a diligent and faithful group. Blue Skies of Texas, West is an in-house group who meet as needed.



A laundry bag and small quilt



Oak Hills Church - Fredericksburg

Over four years ago, Barbara Turner founded the Fredericksburg satellite. Today, Vici Wray and Jennifer Petler co-direct the Oak Hills Church satellite Loving Hands Sewing Ministry with 24 active members who meet each Monday from 9:30 AM – noon. A unique feature of this group is that they are extremely flexible. They started in a very small trailer and have moved five times as the church has grown and needed more space. They will soon be moving again but they continue to send in handcrafted donations. The satellite also contributes to the community through projects such as providing baby items which pregnant mothers earn by attending prenatal classes, making items for cancer patients, meeting the needs of local nursing homes, and baking cookies for prisoners. Thanks Loving Hands!

Contact Vici Wray at 830-669-2293.



*Members of the
Loving Hands
satellite*



Calvary Baptist Church - San Marcos

Diana Owens directs the satellite at Calvary Baptist Church in San Marcos. Diana stepped in one year ago when Donna Dees, the director for many years, had family health concerns and had to step down. Six members usually meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 PM and create a variety of items. A unique feature of this group is that they have two members in their nineties, one of whom says this is her only activity so she really looks forward to it. Diana says that the group enjoys being together.

Contact Diana Owen at 512-787-8497.



*Friends and fellowship create beautiful
items for families in need*

TREA – The Retired Enlisted Association

Elaine Moreland has directed TREA, The Retired Enlisted Association, for five years. Members meet at the Lackland Officers Club the 4th Wednesday of each month. Elaine is the President of the Ladies Auxiliary that supports the men in their activities. Elaine hosts a social in her home to welcome new members. They have a meal and make items for TOL. TREA is very involved in community activities by supporting SAPD's Blue Santa, donating food to the San Antonio Food Bank, donating to Storks Nest for the prevention of premature babies and birth defects, donating to Haven for Hope and to Project Cool to provide electric fans for Seniors during the summer. The group is open to all TREA members.

Contact Elaine Moreland at 210-659-6911.



*Jan Mobley
and
Nancy Keyes
attend a TREA
Luncheon*



*TREA presents a check to the Red Cross in
Sutherland Springs*

Meet more satellites in our next newsletter!



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Preparing for the Holiday Season

So much love, effort and care went in to preparing for the holiday season this year. Nearly 500 TOL volunteers crafted 3,040 items that were packaged and delivered to 14 area hospitals with 309 premature babies. New items were added to our list of gifts this year- from “present” baby covers, to a Christmas stocking with a prayer and angel ornament, to a “Parent Pack” that included two board books, two candy canes and a beautiful card with original art work. We know each gift blessed the parents and helped the nurses minister to the parents at a very difficult time. Overall, TOL had an incredible year by providing 51,608 items to families in need. Thank you!

Photos:

1 – Caroline Wilson of Methodist Hospital accepts delivery of our holiday gifts; 2 – Dawn David and Darlene Kurtz perform their Christmas tradition of setting up and decorating the TOL tree; 3 – Darla Bowles and Louise Sikes won the door prizes at the Christmas luncheon; 4 – Our Christmas Pot Luck was a big success; 5 – A delicious treat with the perfect holiday message; 6 – Valero Vanguard Volunteers assembled over 300 Parent Packs; 7 – A Christmas stocking with a prayer and angel ornament; 8 – Kinston models his hat and quilt while sitting on Santa's lap; 9 – Packed and ready to deliver!; 10 – Santa admires a new friend dressed in a TOL hat and “present” cover; 11 – Another friend dressed in the holiday spirit; 12 – Items from the Parent Pack delivered to over 300 babies and their families; 13 – The beautiful card in our Parent Pack designed by Luke Harshbarger, husband of TOL member Norma Harshbarger.



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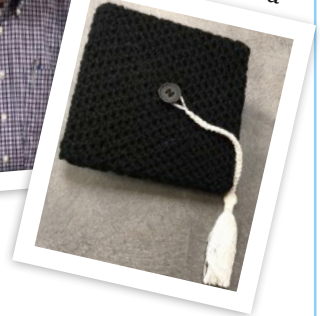
Preemie Graduation Hats

What do you give to a baby who has spent more than 200 days in the NICU and is ready to go home for the first time? A TOL graduation hat, of course! Main Methodist Hospital's Child Life Specialist Caroline Wilson was making them from paper but found they just were not sturdy enough. So Caroline asked TOL to create an actual miniature graduation hat. Maria Martinez, RBFCU satellite, designed and crochets the hats and Molly Mendoza, Valero Vanguard Volunteer, creates the tassels. Together they help families and hospital staff celebrate the "graduation" of these precious babies.



Maria and Joe model
TOL's newest creation

The mini
mortarboard



Laura and Liz



The beautiful
memory boxes



Project Hope

On August 4, 2009, Laura Caddell delivered a baby girl at 23 weeks whose first breath was in the arms of Jesus. That night she was given a Memory Box. One gift in the box was a pink love bear with angel wings. Her sadness and loss disappeared and a new hope began in her spirit. Laura felt called to found Project Hope to give hope and to shine in other's darker moments. For five years Laura has hosted an annual Project Hope Box Making Party. Hundreds of women have lovingly filled and decorated boxes that convey a message of love which prayerfully help women find peace, faith and a new HOPE to hold on to. Thank you Laura!



TOL members attend the Box Making Party

TOLSA Board Celebrates the Holidays

On December 6th the TOL Board gathered to celebrate the holiday season and enjoy a delicious dinner together. This special evening was also a time to honor the Board for their excellence and hard work. Carrabba's Italian Grill donated the delicious meal that was graciously served by TOL member Kathy Caruso and her three beautiful children. Connie Ehr, caretaker of the TOL facility, beautifully decorated the dining room. It was a memorable evening for everyone. Thank you TOL Board!



Kathy with her
three beautiful
children



Pursuing Your Passion

Joanne Sanchez, Marathon Runner



Joanne on race day

Joanne is a TOL Board Member and recently participated in the 2017 Chosen Half Marathon advertised as “the prettiest race in Texas”. **Chosen** is a South Central Texas organization supporting families and children with adoption assistance, mentoring and outreach. Joanne shared that the race is special to her because of the families impacted by foster care and adoption. This year the foster children and their families cheered the racers on during the marathon and were involved in awarding the medals to the racers at the finish line. Congratulations Joanne!

For more information on Chosen go to <http://www.chosen.care>.

Danielle Montes, Quilter

Danielle works for RSM- an audit, tax and consulting firm. RSM employees are encouraged to apply for an in-house grant to pursue their passion. Over 200 RSM employees from all over the country applied and Danielle was one of 9 employees to receive a \$10,000 grant with 10 days off work. Danielle’s plan was to take quilting classes to fine-tune her sewing skills and then teach other interested RSM employees to sew and quilt. From there, Danielle and her co-workers got to serious work. Together they sewed and quilted 24 quilts and 50 receiving blankets to donate to TOL, Seton Home and Quilts for Kids. Congratulations and thank you Danielle!



Liz and Danielle admire the quilts

Danielle and two co-workers display their beautiful work



Condolences

On Tuesday, January 16, 2018, Gabriel Eduardo Velez, son of Alene and Gabriel Velez, passed away after a long illness. He was laid to rest on Tuesday, January 23rd. The Threads of Love members and the Board of Directors send condolences to Alene and her family.



Threads of Love (TOLSA)

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