

S P R I N G 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



## Thank You Dee!

Dee Giberson, TOL Board Member, comes from a long line of seamstresses on her mother's side of the family. Her mother taught her the basics of sewing as a young child. As Dee got older, her aunt helped her advance her sewing skills. Her aunt was an accomplished seamstress who made EVERYTHING for her husband except his undershirts, including all his business suits and ties. Dee's biggest challenge came when she visited her paternal grandmother. She asked Dee to do some sewing for her on her treadle sewing machine. Dee did well sewing in reverse, but couldn't figure out how to sew forward – who knew you had to first start the wheel by hand in the direction you had to sew. :-)

Sewing is a stress reliever for Dee. Recently Dee shared, "I'm blessed to be able to use what talents I've gained to serve this ministry." Thank you, Dee, for everything you do for Threads!

## From the Director

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

Spring is here bringing Spring flowers, new baby animals, bright green grass, Easter bonnets, and, of course, Texas bluebonnets!

Thinking about new beginnings, let me tell you about two new events for the ministry. Two young women came to meet me last week. They are planning a **Shine On Bereavement 5K Run** on October 13, 2018, to benefit Threads of Love and Share, a support group for families with baby losses. They also suggested I contact Revolution Thrift. I will give you more details, as they are available. If you have a minute, look it up online and read about it. Let's learn together!

Believing in miracles!

*Liz*



*Joe and Liz Page*

## Meet Our Satellites

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

### King of Kings Lutheran Church

Lois Claridge and Liz Page have been friends for more than thirty years. When TOL began, Lois saw the vision and presented it to her church in 2006. With 15 members, *Kings Krafters* make caps, booties and blankets for TOL and beautiful afghans for Wounded Warriors. King of Kings has adopted TOL as their mission project having donated funds from their banquets and collecting yarn and fabric for TOL. Kings Krafters meet on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM at the church. All are welcome! Contact Lois Claridge at 210-653-5760.



Members crochet caps, booties and afghans



Lois Claridge, Director of Kings Krafters

### Valero

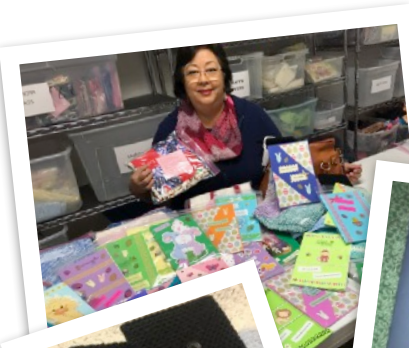
In 2005, Molly Mendoza and Darian Howarth started a satellite at Valero. When both retired, Debbie Chin and Bryan Biediger took over the leadership. They now have 65 volunteers who work mostly from home. On Thursdays, 5-10 volunteers meet at lunchtime to knit or crochet. Lessons are available for those that want to join them. Items are collected almost every day at a designated TOL space at Valero. When Debbie and Brian deliver to TOL, they need help to carry everything in! Valero is an in-house group and is open to all Valero employees.



Debbie and Bryan receive an award from Valero



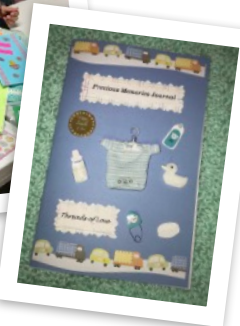
Valero Volunteers share their handcrafted projects



Maria displays journals designed by the Creative Stars



Graduation hats for NICU grads



### Randolph-Brooks FCU

In 2012, Maria Martinez started *Creative Stars* at Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. There are 6 members and all work at home to create small journals. Many parents use these journals to write their feelings or to record their baby's progress. Creative Stars provide handcrafted journals for the NICU and printed grievance journals that are packed with burial gowns, baby quilts and kangaroo blankets. Maria recently retired but continues to volunteer with Creative Stars. She recently created our newest item, the graduation hat! Creative Stars is an in-house group and is open to all RBFCU employees.

#### Correction:

In the Winter 2018 newsletter, Holy Trinity Catholic Church was inadvertently identified as Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Please accept our sincere apologies for the error.





## Joe & Liz Speak at The Pilot Club

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Joe and Liz spoke to the Pilot Club at the Canyon Lake Library. The Pilot Club has faithfully donated to Threads of Love for many years.

Pilot International was founded in 1921 in Macon, Georgia. It is a volunteer organization of executive, business and professional leaders working together to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the world by serving those with brain-related disorders and disabilities. The Pilot Club's mission is "Protect Your Brain for Life."

To help them accomplish this mission they educate themselves and their community on brain injury prevention programs, rehabilitation programs, coping programs and care-giving programs. Their

two premier brain injury prevention programs for elementary students are the Brain Minder Buddies puppet show which encourages children to "Play Safe, Play Smart" by protecting their brains and The Bicycle Rodeo which helps to develop skills to be safe when riding their bicycles.

The Pilot Club has fundraisers to send several traumatic brain injured adults to camps and they often serve when the camps are in session.

They are an active group and participate in many community activities. Thank you, Pilot Club!

Visit <http://www.pilotclubofcanyonlake.org> to learn more about the Canyon Lake Pilot Club.

## Crafter's Corner

**Meet Gert Buckland,  
Master Quilter and TOL Volunteer**

Gert Buckland joined Threads of Love several years ago after learning about it from the Quilt Guild at University United Methodist Church. We are so blessed to have her as a volunteer for TOL! Her passion is quilting but each Tuesday morning she designs an exquisite burial gown, using the fabric and trim from donated wedding dresses. Thank you, Gert, for using your talent to dress God's tiniest babies.

*Gert shares some of her beautiful quilts and one-of-a-kind burial gowns.*

*Barn quilts are a new creative outlet for Gert.*



# "Snippets" of Threads

## Meet the Hurlin Sisters

Volunteers come to TOL thru a variety of paths. Like many, Katherine and Sarah Hurlin began volunteering for TOL after a connection by a friend. Katherine, 17, and Sarah, 19, come from a wonderful family with seven children – 4 boys and 3 girls. The sisters make lovies, diaper shirts and laundry bags with the help of friends who donate fabric, crochet the drawstrings for the laundry bags, along with younger siblings and friends who stuff lovies. When asked how they began volunteering Katherine responded, "We just want to show God's love and care for families." What wonderful, young role models!



Katherine (L) & Sarah (R) have volunteered for TOL for 4 years

Diaper shirts sewn by the Hurlin sisters



## Special Gifts

Our volunteers create some of the most beautiful and unique items for families in need. Sometimes a volunteer may know of a family in the NICU who need a little extra support and request through Liz that a "Love Gift" be sent to the family. Love Gifts usually consist of a diaper shirt, cap, booties, lovie, laundry bag and blanket. The Santa Hats are a love gift that can be given as a set or individually.



Lavender Love Gift



Handcrafted items created with love

## CBC Celebrates Anniversary

Community Bible Church recently celebrated its one-year anniversary as a TOL satellite by holding a "Show & Tell" in the lobby of the church. Linda and Jerry Coward lead the satellite and arranged a beautiful display of items created by their volunteers. Church members had the opportunity to learn more about the satellite and how they could get involved. Congratulations Linda, Jerry and CBC!



Linda & Jerry Coward

The display inspired and educated church members



## Valentine Thanks From TOL Board

In honor of Valentine's Day and in appreciation of all the hard work our volunteers do, the TOL Board created a beautiful "Thank You" table with an oversized card and HUGE box of yummy chocolates in the kitchen area. The Board wanted everyone to know how much they are appreciated. Thank you and God bless you!



Joe holds a box of delicious chocolates





## Share – A Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support Group

Share is a national organization with a local chapter in San Antonio that supports those touched by the loss of a baby through early pregnancy loss, stillbirth or during the first months of life.

Share's goal is to ensure that families are given every opportunity to heal from the tragedy from the loss of their baby. The support encompasses emotional, physical, spiritual and social healing, as well as sustaining the family unit. Share also offers resources and educational opportunities to healthcare professionals and community caregivers to help them better understand and serve the needs of grieving families.

The San Antonio Share Chapter meets at University United Methodist Church at 5084 DeZavala Road on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the John Wesley Room on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

The chapter facilitators are Lauren VandeBerg, 210-250-1600 [Laurenvandeberg@yahoo.com](mailto:Laurenvandeberg@yahoo.com) and Andrea Riedel, 210-241-8502 [Ariedelo5@gmail.com](mailto:Ariedelo5@gmail.com). Childcare is available by reservation by calling 210-696-1033.

Those who would like to participate online can find Share on Facebook at *San Antonio Area Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Group*.



*Vanguard members decorate Christmas stockings, cut labels and assemble journals*



*Vanguard volunteers talk with Joe*



## Valero Vanguard

**Meet this wonderful group of volunteers and how they help TOLSA**

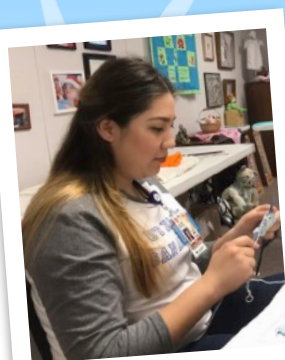
The Valero Vanguards are retired professionals from Valero. The volunteers arrive on time with smiles on their faces and immediately start to work on the many suggested tasks. We have to plan ahead to keep up with them and they are willing to do whatever we need. The Vanguard happily participate in a variety of activities– from decorating Christmas stockings, iron, label envelopes and books for the Christmas Parent Packs, assemble the Christmas Parent Packs, cut TOL labels, cut and remove wires from Christmas ribbon, and so much more! The Vanguard have fun visiting with each other and TOL volunteers as we listen to Christmas music and munch on homemade cookies. We always look forward to their visits and the fun we all have!



## UT Health School of Nursing

On Thursday, March 1st, and on Thursday, March 8th, Threads of Love had nursing students from UT Health Science Center School of Nursing tour the building and make lovies. The students are in the OB phase of training and their teacher, Debra Kilgore, brings students each semester to TOL to help them discover an important community resource.

These two groups had such fun. Many reported making the lovies with Phyllis was the highlight of their day. One group was all about technology so they had their lovies dancing on their iPhones! Another group stayed after making lovies to learn how to knit and crochet. It was such fun! We always enjoy hosting the students and sharing our ministry.



*Learning to knit*



*Baby Ruth snuggles with her lovie!*



### CONDOLENCES

On Sunday, March 4, 2018, 10-1/2 month old Kinston Carter Wilks, son of Adam and Ashley Wilks, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was laid to rest on Sunday, March 11th. The Threads of Love members and the Board of Directors send heartfelt condolences to the Wilks Family.



### Threads of Love (TOLSA)

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