

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of 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!!!!!!!
We want to highlight many Random Acts of Kindness and thank ALL who have helped Threads of Love in one way or another. Sadly there is not enough room for ALL the pictures we have.

Liz.



Joe and Liz Page



TRIVIA QUESTION #1: Why has there not been a newsletter since November?

Left: Terry Dunkum cuts Velcro for his wife, Fran.

Right: Cyndi Sherman's husband, Dale, helps turn z-flo covers.





Left: Kaleigh Stewart, nine years old, participated in the Nutcracker with Ballet Austin.

Kaleigh gave her Christmas and birthday money to "the babies." Her grandmother, Debbie Stewart, has been a long time TOL supporter.

Right: Elizabeth Walter, 10, and a friend had a neighborhood bake sale. She presented Liz with a check for more than \$73. "It's for the babies."



TRIVIA ANSWER #1: The ministry computer has been hacked twice since December and it has taken months to reestablish all the data required.

TRIVIA QUESTION #2: What is the newest care center TOL serves?

**THINK BLUE!** We want to thank all of our volunteers who responded to our recent appeal for little boy outfits and blankets. We haven't filled the need yet, so please keep those blue items coming!



Nurses at Main Methodist brought donations of fabric, yarn, money, and cookies made to look like our items. They also brought lots of snacks and Starbucks, and LOTS of love.



Liz and Laura — Laura Cadell of Project Hope hosted one hundred women who each made a Remembrance Box.

TRIVIA ANSWER #2: Bulverde/Spring Branch Pregnancy Center

## **CUDDLERS (AKA BABY ROCKERS)**

Cuddlers are growing in numbers across the United States as more and more medical staffs are recognizing their value.

Staffs are learning that parents who cuddle their babies greatly improve the bond they have with their newborns. Cuddling also enhances breastfeeding—clearly the best choice for a baby. When the parents cannot be at the hospital because of distance or other responsibilities, medical staff and volunteer cuddlers are able to reassure the moms and dads that their babies are being loved and cared for even in their absence.

The benefits of cuddling for the premature babies are many: Blood oxygenation starts to climb; there is more tolerance for pain, body temperatures are more stable; vital signs are stronger; emotional comfort is provided, and cuddling gives the preemies boundaries so there is less flailing.

Neonatal abstinence syndrome, or babies born dependent on drugs (sometimes called Koala Babies), have high pitched cries, trouble feeding, tremors, and sweats. Being cuddled by volunteers calms the babies and prevents them from having to go on medication. If they are already on medications, cuddling helps to wean them off the medications faster and definitely quickens the time to discharge. This information was provided by Dr. John Isaac of Baptist Medical Center.



Beverly Nolden was the first Threads of Love volunteer to receive her Cuddler's certification. She's holding her official Cuddler's badge to prove it.



Blue Birds from Main Methodist traditionally take the tree down as we pack for Christmas.



Another Threads of Love volunteer, Alene Velez, in her baby rocking (Cuddler's) uniform.

TRIVIA QUESTION #3: Which is the newest satellite?

TRIVIA QUESTION #4: Do we ship overseas?



Above Phyllis Gaiser donates a large roll of batting which is almost as tall as she is! Above right: Gail Sanders helps sort lace.



REMINDER: Blankets must NOT have holes, and hats must be 7 inches from the bottom to the crown.

Don't forget we need little boy blue items.

TRIVIA ANSWER #3: St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bulverde, led by Janice Walker

TRIVIA ANSWER #4: Yes! We ship to the military and, two weeks ago, we went INTER-NATIONAL and shipped to Escuela Hospital (a teaching hospital) in Tegucigalpa, Honduras!!!





Lee Cunningham helped Joe load the van with Christmas items to deliver, and then helped deliver to the hospitals.



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