

Sew Precious In His Sight



Threads of Love Volume 3 Issue 4

Spring 2001 Clinel "Sissy Davis"

Hugs Are Free

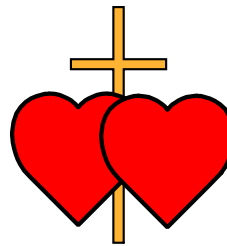
Mission Statement

Threads of Love is a sewing ministry meeting the needs of newborns and tiny premature infants. The ministry is about healing and binding together the hearts of parents at time of uncertainty about their baby's health, or when they lose an infant. Our mission is to show parents the love of Christ, especially at a time when their personal pain is hard to endure, and let them know that God is faithful. Through acts of obedience and donations, His work can and will continue. We pray that this ministry will have an impact far beyond our expectations.

We feel that this is a ministry the Lord would have others join in to blanket the country with Threads of Love. *There are three things that remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13* God has given us all a talent that we are to use to serve Him. If He is speaking to your heart now, please write us at:

Threads of Love
P. O. Box 2006
Baton Rouge, La. 70821

Or visit our web site at <http://www.threadsoflove.org>
E-mail: sissy@threadsoflove.org



What Are Hugs?

Webster's dictionary definition of a hug: 1. to put arms around and hold closely; to embrace tightly and affectionately. 2. to squeeze tightly between the forelegs, as a bear does 3. to cling to or cherish 4. to clasp or embrace one another closely. There are all kinds of hugs, friendly hugs, comforting hugs, affectionately given hugs, and then there are invisible hugs. Hugs make you feel warm and fuzzy all over and help to brighten a cloudy day.

Invisible hugs are the best kind, especially when you are having an unpleasant day or burdensome time in your life. Haven't you had the phone ring and heard a bright shining voice on the other end saying that they had been thinking about you and just wanted to call to say hello and see how you were doing; received a Thinking of You card or looked down at one of your toddlers and found a magnetic smile that would be an invisible hug.

You are probably asking yourself how would a hug and Threads of Love all accommodate one another. Threads of Love is happy to announce the arrival of Hugga Baby as the newest member in our family. Less than three months old, she has started giving comfort to young children in two hospitals here in Louisiana.

I would like to share with you the story of a little girl named Brooke. Her great-aunt Cely attends

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our monthly workshops here in Baton Rouge. Two years ago Brooke was born with a heart condition and she spent the first six weeks of her life in the hospital. She has undergone three surgeries, two of these surgeries for her heart, and has spent a total of nine months out of her two years in the hospital. At one of the monthly workshops her Aunt was given a Lovie doll for Brooke. Each time she had undergone surgery, she would wake up and ask "Where's Lovie?" The nurses fell in love with Lovie and wanted to know where the doll had come from and thought they would be great for the other little heart patients. We all know how an adult is given a heart pillow to hug after surgery, so we thought a Hugga Baby would be the answer for these little ones. Now Lovie's big sister has taken over when the babies outgrow her.

This is the note I received from Brooke's mother. You can see what Lovie has meant to this family.

Dear Sissy,

It really is good to know there are people that still care and want to help. Our family can't thank you enough for the Lovie doll you sent to Brooke and all the dolls you sent to Children's Hospital. Lovie brings comfort to Brooke. The smile on her little face when she saw Lovie was very touching to me. I felt the comfort also. We are grateful for all your group has done for Brooke and the other children that will get the same feeling that Brooke and I got, from Lovie. Thank you very much, Sissy. Please keep our precious baby in your prayers. She really needs these prayers. Thank you very much from Brooke and her mother Shady, grandmother Cheryl and great grandmother Sybil and the rest of our family.

Love always,

The first group of Hugga Baby's were delivered in January to Children's Hospital in New Orleans. The following note came from Children's Hospital:

Thank you for your considerate donation of "Hugga Babies" for children with cardiac problems. You know how special these dolls are from you personal experience with Brooke. Thanks so much for caring about our youth and their emotional well being.

An invisible hug can also be given, without your even being there. My pastor's daughter, who lives in another state, received an invisible hug from Threads of Love in December. After a long time of trying to have children, she became pregnant with twin this past March. Just two days before the delivery date two

heart beats had been heard. After thirty-nine weeks of waiting with great excitement the time had arrived to welcome their twin's daughters into the world. When arriving at the hospital on the day of the scheduled delivery, it was discovered that one of the twins had died. How frightened John and Joanna must have felt, going to the hospital to deliver twins and then learning one baby had died. John and Joanna needed lots of hugs, so all I could do was send invisible hugs to them. We could not be there to give that hug, so through the little burial dress we embraced them at a time of pain in their lives. Just like the hug we receive from our Lord each day. He loves us in good times and especially in times of heartache. As you can see from the following thank you, you just know that they felt that hug.

Dear Sissy and Threads of Love,

Thank you so much for the beautiful burial gown booties, bonnet and blanket for Amanda and the lovely dress for Helene. What an incredible ministry you have! John and I were both so touched when we heard that you were sending this to us, and I admit, I didn't want to open the package at first, for fear it would make me get in touch with the reality of Amanda's death. John finally said it was time and with my parents and two sisters we admired the beautiful articles and cried together over the reality of our great loss. So delicate and precious were these items and it brought out Amanda's sweet, delicate features and her incredible preciousness. I had hardly time to think of burying her let alone time to think of what to bury her in and I am so glad that you just stepped in and sent us something beautiful, made with love and care, that we could bury her in. I just cannot express how important and meaningful your gifts were to us. Thank you so much. We have been blessed by you and your ministry. Love to all, Joanna, John and Helene

As you can see hugs, are free and they are returned. Invisible hugs can be given with a gift, a kind word or just a smile. When you are making those gifts of love with Threads of Love, don't you feel the Lord's arms around you? He's always there. We just get too busy and involved to stop and take the time to feel His arms around us each day.

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I consecrated you. Jeremiah 1:5

Making Hugga Baby

God's spirit comes
Just like a dove
To bring us help
From up above

Some loving folks
Have heard the call
Have prayed for you
And made this doll

A doll that loves
To be with you
And you can hug
And cuddle too

He'll help the nurses
Help the doc
Yet he's just made
From an old sock

And yet he brings
From up above
To you, dear child
God's healing love

By Donald MacKenzie

Materials Needed:

1. Boys tube sock (Large)
2. Fiber Fill
3. 8 to 10 inches of 1/4 inch sation ribbon
4. Non-toxic permanent fabric markers (red & black)
5. One Threads of Love label
6. Yarn or crochet thread
7. Thread and needle
8. Plastic bag to hold doll when finished
9. Printed Poem

2. Tie open end of sock securely with yarn or crochet thread. (See #2)

3. Tie 1/4 inch ribbon about four from top to form head & neck. Tie into a bow. (See #3)

4. Fold where sock is tied off (down), then fold this up in half forming a bonnet.
5. Sew bonnet, & bow in place. Sew label at bottom on front. (See # 3)
6. Using fabric markers draw eyes and mouth.

1. Fill Sock up six inches from the top. (See # 1)

7. Place in plastic bag with poem.



Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for the Holiday blankets and prayers for our babies. You truly made the holidays brighter for our families.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the infants in our hospital.

Betsy

Dear Ms. Davis:

On behalf of Woman's Hospital Foundation, I would like to express our sincere thanks to you and Threads of Love for your generous contributions. The hats and blankets for the babies in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are so appreciated by staff members and the families of our little patients.

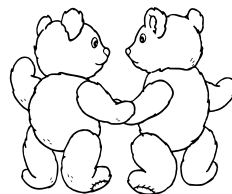
Generous contributions, from dedicated community groups like yours, help us to fulfill our mission: *to improve the health of women and infants*. We are grateful for your on going support.

Sincerely, Nancy

Dear Ann and South Orange County Chapter,

I'm hoping this thank you note falls under the "one year rule" but I'm afraid my Ann Landers etiquette book isn't handy. I can't tell you how many times I have had families ask me to tell you all how much they appreciate your kindness in making the beautiful items which we share with parents of premature infants and those whose baby has died. Last week I had a couple return to pick up a plaque of their son's footprints and they were so very grateful for the pictures we took after his death and for the memento items, the booties,

hat, cross, and small blanket. We use these items in the pictures we take so they have something which truly belonged to their child if only for a short time. This morning I sat with a first time mom and her son who is now a chunky 3 1/2 pounds and mentioned that he was out-growing his little beanie. She was thrilled that he needs a bigger hat and I told her I would be getting a "holiday delivery" of new goodies. She asked if that would be from Threads of Love and was very complimentary about how lovely the little gowns and hats were, how beautifully made, and how wonderful



it was to come in and see her little guy dressed up and the sweet card on his isolette. So, I wish I could convey each and every thank you I have heard and smile I have seen. I know that these parents hold you in their hearts and will always remember how you have helped them cope with a very difficult time in their lives. I will try to take pictures and send any notes I receive to let you know that indeed, your hard work is helping bring some hope and cheer to our little ones and their families.

Sincerely, Carole Poe, LCSW

Going To Market

If you remember last year Threads of Love was the guest of Martha Pullen in Arlington for the Martha Pullen sewing market. She has invited us back this year, so Retta and I are making plans now to have a Threads of Love booth Arlington, Texas, June 20-23, so we can share our ministry with the ladies attending. If you have the opportunity to attend one of Martha's Sewing Market's, by all means do so; they are a lot of fun and you will learn much from the seminars. Bring money for it's a sewer's paradise. If any of you come to Arlington, please stop by and say hello. I would love to be able to meet and visit with some of you at the sewing market. If you wish more information on the market E-mail diame@marthapullen.com or call 1 800- 547-4176 for information. The cost is \$15.00 a day. That amount gets you into the shopping mall and you can attend five seminars daily. Hours are 10am to 6pm Thursday and Friday, 10am to 4pm on Saturday. Seminar hours are:

8:00 am, 9:15 am, 12:00 noon, 2:00pm and 4:00pm (no 4:00pm class on Saturday) with 75 seminars daily.

Help Needed

Threads of Love web site has added a place for hospital to be adopted by someone wishing to start a Threads of Love chapter. This will also help match chapters and hospitals together. The following inquirer was submitted asking for help in ministering to family at the time of loss of their babies. If you would like to help meet the needs of Holy Cross Hospital, by sewing and mailing Threads of Love items, please contact Allison Harris. We are in hopes of having someone start a Threads of Love Chapter in Maryland, until then help is needed at Holy Cross Hospital. Can you help?

The following is the contents of a form submitted on March 22, 2001 at 08:48 AM:

HOSPITAL NAME: Holy Cross Hospital
DATE: 3-22-01
ADDRESS: 1500 Forest Glen Road
CITY: Silver Spring
STATE: Md
ZIP: 20910
PHONE: (301) 754-7564
CONTACT NAME: Allison Harris, head of perinatal grief and loss committee

Help is also needed to replace a chapter in Englewood, Co. Due to health Lucy Newam has to resign as a chapter. We are in hopes that a reader will be willing to step forward and take over to serve the St Joseph's Hospital.

God has given us all a talent that we are to use to serve Him. We have been taught to see where God is at work and join Him.

Chapter News

The mail has continually been coming in at a steady pace asking for information about Threads of Love. I have started including a list of the different chapters along with the contact person for each chapter. The idea behind this is that when the information is received and ladies wishes to sew and mail things to a chapter in their state or one closest to them. This would help the different chapters, as well as giving the ladies a place to donate their sewing to. Hope this helps ladies.

New Chapters

Entertaining Angels-Threads of Love
Highland Church of Christ

425 Highland Ave

Abilene, Texas 70605

Contact person:

Emily Burkhalter or Brenda Chrane

email: emilypurple@hotmail.com

Pittsburg-Threads of Love

Pittsburgh, PA.

Contact person: Dawn Jackman

email: dawnjackman@hotmail.com

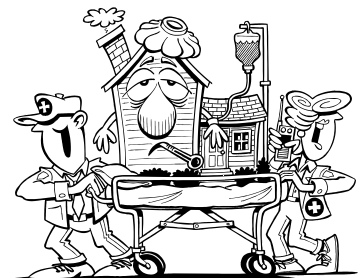
Threads of Love

Ft. Myers Beach, FL.

Contact person: Cathy
Bakalich

email:

CABAK@WEBTV.NET



God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as

you have helped His people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6:10