

Sew Precious In His Sight

Volume Six, Issue Three



January 2004

A Day in the Life.....

Ever wonder what it takes to run Threads of Love for a day, a week, a year, or the TEN years that we've been around?? With over 80 chapters that God is continually blessing every day, there's a lot of legwork that goes on behind the scenes. Sneak a peek here!

From the Diary of Sissy Davis, Director

This week I spent approximately 30 hours on Threads of Love business. Wait, I thought Bob (my husband) and I were retired!!! I'm working harder than I ever did while I was working full time. Here are some of the things that I've been doing....

- answer email addressed to Sissy
- entered chapter updates into database
- entered chapter updates onto notebook
- deleted dropped chapters into date base
- scanned and sent Courtney new update letters and new chapter requests
- entered new chapters into database and e-mail address book
- made up packets for new chapters
- filled orders for request of new handbooks, mailed at P.O.
- filled orders for request for labels, went to P.O. to mail them
- answer & return phone calls about starting new chapters
- prepare and gather materials to take to workshop
- hold monthly sewing workshops
- hold quarterly board meetings.
- accept speaking engagements
- set up booth for Threads of Love and then attend the 3 day sewing market with Martha Pullen
- Help with Sew Precious In His Sight news letter
- Make copies of all checks made to Threads of Love
- Make bank deposits as needed
- balance check book monthly
- Help embroider blankets for burial gowns
- Help cut out and make up packets for workshop
- Work on updating hand books
- Deliver gowns to hospitals as needed
- Visit other chapters when possible, sometimes hold teaching workshops
- This past year work on holding a national convention
- Package and iron all burial gown packets.
- Enter inventory into date base after workshops.
- Take out inventory when making deliveries to hospitals.
- Make all orders for Threads of Love Foundation.
- Pay all bills for Threads of Love Foundation.
- Help with the planning of Season of Hope each December
- Help with refreshments for Season of Hope
- Attend Season of Hope service, then stay and clean up after.
- Made christening gown to donate to church youth auction
- Try to spend SOME quality time with Bob and Buffy (the dog) and enjoy life!

From the Diary of Courtney McPherson, Assistant Director

This week I spent approximately 23 hours on Threads of Love business, in addition to teaching full time, commuting two hours a day, and raising a currently-potty-training three year old. Here are some of the things that I do.....

- answered email requests from the Internet
- entered chapter updates into database
- entered chapter updates onto website
- deleted members only access for dropped chapters
- sent out new kids on the block emails to new chapters that signed on
- entered new chapters into database and website
- Updated TOL information on Guidestar.org
- Uploaded tally form & label order form to the website
- Updated Members only menu on website
- Sent email to all chapters who hadn't reported their tallies
- Updated hospital list on website
- answered questions from new chapter about how to accept donations
- approved newly active chapters for members only website
- entered in chapter inventory donation tallies
- sent email to those who visited the website for general info on Threads
- Approved new members for email access
- Answered Thank you Emails
- Updating website with online donation information
- Finishing up tally sheet to send totals to all chapters
- Reconciling databases with Sissy to make sure active chapters are really active
- Answering email requests from website about pattern
- Approving members only website members
- Post convention work (Thank you notes; cleaning up database, etc)
- Fixing binder with update forms
- Tried to recruit new chapter in Australia
- Prepared the April newsletter
- Researched accepting online donations through the website
- Whew! Time to take a vacation!

THANK YOU * THANK YOU

Dear Threads of Love,

I have to tell you what a blessing your gift of a blanket, matching hat and prayer meant to me. Our baby was delivered at 36.1 weeks to try and prevent my uterus from rupturing. This is our 8th baby. After our 7th baby my doctor said my uterus was so thin he could almost see through it. To prevent labor and stress on my uterus the baby was delivered early. The day before Joshua was born the doctor did an amniocentesis and the test showed his lung ratio was above normal. Despite these readings the Lord had another plan. When the doctor did the c-section he said I had muscle now that I did not have when the 7th baby was born and that he had something to stitch together this time. Last time he compared it to stitching together tissue. The same doctor assisted this time and last time. He said there was a remarkable change and there is no medical reason my uterus would be thicker but it should be thinner. Praise the Lord! Joshua was taken to the NICU because of grunting and retracting. He also had pneumonia, a heart murmur and developed jaundice. Our other babies were in my room and able to go home after a normal hospital stay. Once my hospital stay was over Joshua was still in the NICU so I stayed at the hotel in the hospital and our 12 year old daughter stayed with me. She would push me in a wheel chair to the NICU where we would spend hours by his bedside. We would leave only to eat, sleep or pump. I told almost everyone at Brookwood Hospital about the miracle God had performed and I knew until the last person heard that Joshua would not be able to go home. I prayed for God to help me get through this difficult time. Each day He gave me something to be encouraged by. On the fourth day I was able to hold him for the first time. On another day his oxygen requirement was lowered. On the day I went in and saw his blanket and hat it was so special! I could not read the prayer without tears in my eyes. You have no idea what an encouragement this was to me. These are keepsakes I will treasure forever. We were able to bring Joshua home on the 12th day. Today he is very healthy and has 7 brothers and sisters that adore him. Thank you so much for blessing us and helping us get through this difficult time. God is so faithful. Please pray that someone will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through this trial. If Joshua had not been so sick many people would not have known about God's healing power. I can't leave out the support I had at home. My husband and oldest son (who was 14 at the time) were home taking care of the other 5 children. My husband stayed at the hospital one night and my oldest son stayed another before I was discharged and went to the hotel. Thank you for the special role you played in the life of our precious baby.

Sincerely, James and Katherine

Joseph, Rachel, Nathan, Hannah, Andrew, Daniel, Samuel & Joshua

Dear Ladies of St. Mark's "Threads of Love",

On Tuesday, November 18, a little girl was born to our daughter and son-in-law at Women and Infants Hospital. This little child was born with severe medical problems. We soon found out that she would not pull through. It was very important to our family that she be baptized. Just before the priest arrived to perform the ceremony, a beautiful little dress, bonnet, and blanket trimmed with little purple embroidery, appeared by her crib. Needless to say, we were all stunned. None of us had even thought about anything like that. Our little angel was baptized. Because she couldn't be moved, we just laid the little dress and blanket over her and placed the bonnet on her head. She looked beautiful.

"Thank You" doesn't begin to say what we felt that day. We had lots of support from family and friends, but the kindness of strangers has overwhelmed us and you are on the top of that list. Thanks to all of you, Gillian had a baptismal outfit. We have an angel watching over us and we feel sure that she will also watch over you and your families.

We wish we could thank you all personally, but we want you to know that we thank you in our hearts often. Please accept this small token of our gratitude for all you do. We are sure it will help you with the "Threads of Love

Forever Grateful, Gillian's Grandparents



April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks 'Go.'

-Christopher Morley

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTERS!

Faith Hope and Charity Stitches - Threads of Love
Chardon, OH
Contact: Karen Munro mrsjvm@bright.net

Rosebuds Threads of Love
Ripley, WV
Contact: Bonnie Ludtman grandmaof2inwv@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church - Artesia Threads of Love
Artesia, NM
Contact: Beverlee Lanning dlanning@zianet.com

Southwest Fort Worth Threads of Love
Fort Worth, TX
Contact: Juli Zoot jzoota@charter.net

New Orleans Chapter Threads of Love
New Orleans, LA
Contact: Angelle Berry aberr1@lsuhsc.edu

Nicholas Threads of Love
Tehachapi, CA
Contact: Donna Harvey cleverthreads@yahoo.com

Angel Hugs - Threads of Love
Henrietta, TX
Contact: Donna Wheeler whee521@cs.com

Grandma Gwen's Garments of Gratitude Threads of Love
Mackinaw, IL
Contact: Gwen Nunley whtvr009@bwsys.net

Martha Pullen

**Don't forget to visit us at Martha's Machine
Embroidery, Quilting & Sewing market
June 3-5, 2004**

Arlington, TX

Arlington Convention Center

Admission \$17 per day or

order before May 10

1 day \$16- 2 days \$30- 3 days \$45.

www.marthapullen.com

**You can get more information about the
classes here. Over 90 classes offered.**

My son and daughter-in-law recently lost twin boys at 24 weeks gestation. we had traveled to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, Fl. hoping that a laser procedure would save them. they delivered the still born twins and they were so fully developed and beautiful. the nurse brought in two sets of a gown and blanket along with a fabric envelope for our treasured footprints, death certificates, etc. she dressed the babies in the beautiful gowns and wrapped them in the little blankets. as a life time sewer, I have heard of your ministry on sewing with Nancy program that I tape every day. I am a registered nurse that will retire in 4 more years. I can not tell you in words how much those gowns meant to us. it was truly a light in a room of broken hearts. I hope I will be able to join the group of sewers doing this wonderful work in the near future. thank you again for being God's visible hand of caring.

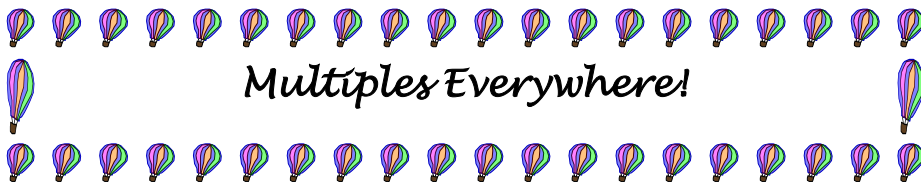
Dear "Threads of Love" - My name is Kelly and I am writing to say THANK YOU. I gave birth to my twin sons on January 12, 2004. My twins suffered from a placental disease called Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. Brennan was born still and Trystan lived only a few hours. They were at 27 weeks gestation. The first and only time I held Trystan, he was wrapped in the most beautiful crocheted blanket made by someone from "Threads of Love". I never realized how special a little blanket could be. Both burial gowns for the boys were made with such love, care and quality. I'm not sure who I can personally thank, but would like to thank your organization for creating such beautiful gifts. My mother was inspired by your organization. She has made seven blankets to donate to the hospital where my boys were born. I live in San Antonio, Texas and would like to know who I can contact about becoming a member. Giving back in memory of my boys is a goal of ours. It's part of our healing process. Thank you in advance for the information and for everything you do for mothers who have lost their precious baby/ies. God Bless.

Most Sincerely, Kelly

Mommy to angels
Trystan Thomas and
Brennan Alecander

NEW CHAPTERS (and anyone else!)

Don't miss out on ordering one of our Threads of Love documentaries left. This video, 20 minutes in length, tells the story of Threads of Love in a beautiful way. The suggested donation for these videos is \$5. If you want a copy of the documentary, please email Sissy Davis at sissy@threadsoflove.org.



Multiples Everywhere!



Dawn Smith's precious conjoined twins, Brynleigh and Victoria, are pictured at left, dressed in Threads of Love gowns from the San Antonio chapter. They went home to Jesus on Friday, January 29th. Below is an email we received from Dawn...



Hi Ladies,



We have wonderful

news from Birmingham. A lady from Guin, AL and her husband have announced the birth of their four Daughters, conceived naturally, the babies are identical!! A one in 8 million pregnancy. The babies appeared on tv last night and again this morning on "Today". They had their "Threads of Love" sleepy vests on!!!

When asked how they would take care of so many babies, the Dad said: "The Lord gave them to us, he will provide."

Their picture was also in the "Birmingham News" this morning!!! Our God is awesome. He gives us these little lifts just when we need them. Sissy I will be calling you soon to talk about the quick growth of our Chapter and how to handle it. I know, pray, pray, pray!!!

God bless you for answering God's call on your life.

You have been and continue to be a



blessing to so many.

Courtney,
You are welcome to use whatever you want in your Threads of Love newsletter. The people from Threads of Love have become our forever friends. They laughed with us, and cried with us until there were no more tears to cry. Most importantly though, they PRAYED with us. Threads of Love has been such a blessing to us, from helping us dress our girls in their first custom made gown, until the last evening we had with the twins, when we dressed them in their beautiful white dresses, garnished with ruffles and pearls and sent them to be with Jesus. May God bless you all richly for what you do.

Much love,
Dawn Smith and family

Chapter Testimony

Hi Sissy & Courtney:

Just came from our Bible study at church and our Busy Bee meeting and was well received. The Reno chapter is now under South Reno United Methodist Church. PRAISE THE LORD!

Still in the growing stages haven't gotten any converts yet but they will follow all in the Lords time. Everyone at the meeting was awed by the documentary tape. Oh yes if you haven't already sent a second one I think mine will be just fine if treated with kid gloves.

I am so excited as of tomorrow I will be delivering my first batch of Lovie Dolls/Hugga Babies and Surgery lifts as well as a few Kimono's and caps as well as 21 hand knit caps that I did between hospitals. That's another time and story. I am not sending you any totals of items delivered tomorrow as the list for March grows every day. Will email you the end of the month

The Lords Blessings to you both for getting me started on this wonderful journey. My presentation sold itself by just showing the documentary in fact they thought it worthy enough to present to our next church Council meeting with the city wide Council. I want to be able to approach our whole congregation to see if any of them want to contribute in any way they can but have to get the Councils permission first. One step at a time!

Sharon

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a

C'mon over and bring the kids.
-God

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.

What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand?
-God



Dear Sissy,
The nurses from U M C in Lafayette attended our Feb. Threads of Love meeting. They are so appreciative of the clothes we are making

, that they wanted to meet the ladies who are making the clothes. One of their suggestions, which we thought was very good, is concerning the fetal wrap. They suggested that we place a piece of batting in-between the two layers of fabric so that when the parents hold their baby it would feel soft. We took their suggestion and found that it really works well. One of the ladies used flannel with the batting and it is just so-oo-oo soft. We make the wraps the same, except we add the batting. I thought that you might be interested

Wish you and Sissy could have been here for our Tuesday meeting. We had five girls on probation join us and the love of Jesus overwhelmed them. Our ladies brought lots of food; helped them sew and/or serge; and just loved on them. Each girl apologized to me. They did not want to come. I am sure they thought they would be sewing with old ladies!!!! Well, they ALL want to come back. We sent them back to their Ranch (15 kids in all) with 2 sacks of snacks and sodas. They LOVED coming. God is good in using TOL to reach many.

I sent two ladies from Fresno, CA, to you to start a chapter. Well, they are flying in this week to see our chapter. I am so thankful Sissy started TOL and you are now on board. It is so neat to guide us and lots of doors have opened but, of course, we need lots of advice and you have "been there, done that." Thanks!

-Liz Page, SARAH Chapter

Threads of Love
 First Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 2006
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821
 Website: www.threadslove.org
 Sissy Davis, Director
 sissy@threadslove.org
 Courtney McPherson, Assistant Director
 courtney@threadslove.org

- 1 Corinthians 13:13
There are three things that remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

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

Mission Statement

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What does it take to run Threads of Love?
New Chapters
Multiples, Multiples, everywhere!
Chapter Suggestion Box
Come visit us in Arlington!

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 A Ministry of First Presbyterian
 Church of Baton Rouge
 763 North Boulevard
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 Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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