

Living Threads 2010 - 2020 Celebrating 10 years of Ministry

www.livingthreadsministry.org • 616-748-6505

Summer 2020

100 S. Pine St #145, Zeeland MI 49464

Living Threads is OPEN!



Sewing rooms have been set-up for social distancing so we can keep our Stitch'n Sisters safe!

We're delighted to share with you that Living Threads reopened on June 15! Our staff and Stitch'n Sisters (our volunteers) are healthy and back to work! It is such a joy to spend time with each other and re-start the important work of creating memory quilts and supporting the 600+ children who attend the Bible Clubs in the Kibera Slum. Since we re-opened we have:

- Completed memory quilts that we had begun before quarantine and started new quilts for clients who have been patiently waiting for us to re-open
- Began meeting with new clients that have been on hold since the pandemic started as well as those that have called since we re-opened
- Started longarming the 26 to 30 quilts that have come in since June 15



Social Distance Lunching!

We are "sew" **grateful** that we are able to continue our mission of providing memory quilts for grieving families, purposeful community for our volunteers and meet the spiritual and physical needs of the children who attend the Bible Clubs in the Kibera Slum.



Grateful, Thankful & Blessed!

We are so **thankful** for all the ways that God provided for Living Threads during Shelter at Home.

In Isaiah 41:10 God tells us: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

There are so many ways that God up held us. Consider:

- **Paycheck Protection Program:** Living Threads was approved to participate in this program which was to help with payroll and rent
- **Circle of Friends Monthly Supporters:** A big thanks to our Circle of Friends donors who continued to give during the pandemic despite financial hardships they may have experienced themselves.
- **Donor Generosity:** We were **blessed** by unexpected donations during the pandemic—what a gift to our organization!
- **Giving Tuesday Now Campaign:** We never thought we would participate in a giving campaign during the pandemic! We were humbled by your gifts!



For the safety of staff, volunteers and guests all those at Living Threads wear face masks.

Blessing Others During Shelter at Home

Living Threads staff and volunteers may have been sheltering at home, but their hands were not idle! Using the sewing skills that are so essential to making memory quilts they put their time to good use making facemasks. Masks were delivered to City on a Hill Health Clinic, Royal Park and Living Threads supporters. Masks were even traded to one area business for hand sanitizer! In all we delivered and mailed 1,030 masks. We hope that everyone who received masks felt hope and encouragement for their day. In addition, our volunteers and staff made hundreds more that they gave away.

And God Showed Up . . .



Did you know elastic was a hot commodity during Shelter at Home? It was virtually impossible to find, yet it is a necessary ingredient to making a face mask. ***We had two times when elastic was delivered on the very day that we ran out!*** Isn't that amazing? Proof that God cares about the tiniest details of our lives!



First day back with my homemade facemask.

#GivingTuesdayNow Campaign Results



Having never participated in #GivingTuesday we weren't sure what to expect or if we should even participate. Although we felt the timing wasn't great (we are in a pandemic after all), we decided to participate for the opportunity to gain matching funds.

Funds raised for Living Threads: \$5,395.00

Number of donations: 57

78 Michigan organizations participated in the #GivingTuesdayNow campaign! You blessed Living Threads by helping us to place 7th highest for donations raised, and we tied for first place with the most donors. Your outpouring of support is truly appreciated.

The organizers put everything they had into creating a positive outcome for participating non-profits. The goal was to raise \$500,000 in match funds. The actual amount raised was far less—\$27,425. As you can imagine, this was a disappointment to us, and, to them. This is what they shared with us:

Our team reached out to thousands of business across the country. The impact of COVID-19 had a bigger impact than anticipated, which made it impossible for businesses to provide financial support . . . We took on the task of hosting this event with the heart of a helper. We wanted, more than anything, to contribute to positive outcomes for organizations like yours in these challenging times. So, it's incredibly frustrating that we didn't attract more donors to give to the match fund pools. To be frank, knowing that we disappointed the very people that we were intending to help has caused us great sadness. Please know that the spirit of this project and the heart we put into it was well intended.

Home with the Lord: Sharon Berkompas

Our dear Stitch'n Sister Sharon went home to be with her dear Lord and Savior on June 30. Sharon loved all her friends at Living Threads and spending time at the ministry. Volunteering, Bible Block of the Month and the Quilt Retreat were highlights for her. Even though our hearts grieve her loss on earth, I can only imagine the joy on her face as she saw Jesus face to face. She will be dearly missed!



Kibera Bible Club Pandemic News

In a recent survey by InfoTrack it was found that most Kenyans cannot afford food, rent, electricity, water, etc.—in short, the things they need to live day to day. As you can imagine, the situation is much worse for the families living in the Kibera slum. So many cannot make ends meet. We're told that the pain and wailing from these families sound like that of the Israelites during their slavery in Egypt. For this reason we are happy to report that the money that we donate to the Bible Clubs is being put to good use while the clubs cannot meet. Some examples are:

- Food support for volunteers and families of the children that attend the clubs
- Food Hampers (baskets of necessities once a month)
- Rent assistance so volunteers, teachers and cooks of the Bible clubs do not lose their homes
- Stipends for club works to keep them sustainable even though Bible Clubs are not officially meeting

We are so thankful the Bible Club workers and families can be blessed with some of their basic needs while

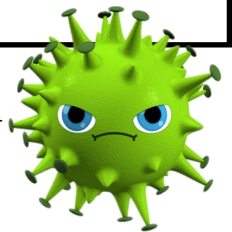


Samuel was an eager and faithful attendee at the Bible Clubs each Saturday. One Saturday he walked to Bible Club and it was closed. Samuel was worried. His father was too ill to work, his mother couldn't do laundry for the wealthy families she worked for because the Coronavirus made it impossible to travel to her customers. His family had no food left to eat and no way to buy more. Samuel decided he would walk all the way to the Home Care Office (they oversee the Bible Clubs in the slum). The long walk was hard for him but he knew he had to get help. When Samuel got there the office was closed. But then Samuel ran into the volunteer cook at his Bible Club. She knew something was wrong and when he told her his family was hungry

her heart was broken. But, the cook knew how to help Samuel. She contacted the staff and they sent home enough food for his whole family! Living Threads is so grateful that the quilt donations are helping hungry families get the food they need!

10 Year Anniversary Celebrations Delayed

But don't be dismayed—we'll celebrate in 2021!



Proverbs 19:21 tells us “You can make many plans, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails” Who could have had any idea we would be living through a worldwide pandemic in 2020 and have to delay so many gatherings? Though we might feel unsettled, God is still “the Blessed Controller of all things” (1 Timothy 6:15) and “He is still on his throne” (Psalm 103:19).

We look forward to celebrating with you when we can gather together safely once again.

Events to be rescheduled include:

- Learn to Quilt Classes
- Color Class with Beth Ann Williams
- Shop Hop Bus Trip
- Open House/Kenya inspired Dinner

We are trusting the Lord that we will still be able to hold our Bible Block of the Month classes and the January quilt retreat.

You're Invited!



Living Threads 10th Anniversary “Virtual Event” October 22, 2020

Special Guest: Meredith TerHaar from WZZM 13

Virtual Banquet Event?? But wait, if we can't get together physically how can we have this event? Well, God is providing a way through technology!

- No need to dress up, get a babysitter, find a parking place, or even leave your home
- ***Instead, stay safe and join us virtually***
- Invite your family, friends or neighbors to come over and watch with you*, or if you prefer, invite them to join us from their own homes.

We look forward to creatively sharing with you the ways that God has miraculously and providentially provided for Living Threads over the last 10 years.

Invitations with more details will be coming to your mailbox in September.

**It is recommended that you follow the most recent guidelines for safely gathering during the pandemic.*



**Please mark
October 22 on
your calendar for
our Annual
Benefit “Dinner”
Event!**