



www.livingthreadsministry.org • 616-748-6505

Winter 2023

100 S. Pine St #145, Zeeland MI 49464

## BLESSINGS of 2022

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us." Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)*



### \$27,012.92 Raised for the Kibera Bible Clubs

Families who receive memory quilts give so generously for the labor used to create their quilt. 100% of their quilt donations go to support Bible Clubs for children who live in deep poverty in the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. ***Praise God for His Provision!***

### 88 Memory Quilts Ordered

Memory quilts reflect the story of a life—the life of a person deeply loved and dearly missed. What an honor it is to bring comfort and healing to a family by making a quilt out of their loved one's clothing. See page 2 to read about a family blessed by our memory quilts. ***Praise God for His Comfort!***



### 2,876.75 Volunteer Sewing Hours

Our 20 dedicated volunteers come once or twice a week to selflessly serve, using their God-given talents to masterfully create quilted heirlooms to help keep the memory of a loved one alive. ***Praise God for His gifts of talent!***

### 72 Bible Block of the Month Students

In this year's study we are learning about the great hope we have in Jesus Christ who will calm all our fears as we trust in Him. ***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13***



## Year-end Match Results

***Thank you*** For Helping Us End 2022 Strong!

We are humbled and overflowing with gratitude that God used **YOU** to provide *"immeasurably more than we could have asked or imagined"* for our Year-End Match campaign.

A Living Threads partner generously donated \$15,000 to be used for a Match Campaign. Through your sacrificial giving, you met the challenge by gifting an additional \$36,440.67. Together with the initial Match, **a total of \$51,440.67 was raised!**

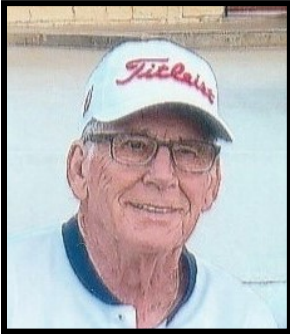
God has encouraged and blessed us with your generosity. ***Thank you "sew" much!***

## NEW Associate Director of Development & Operations



After many months of prayer and searching, we're pleased to announce that Hannah Pickart has been hired as our new Associate Director of Development and Operations. Hannah will be a wonderful addition to the Living Threads team. She has a deep love for the Lord and is committed to serve God and people. Hannah will be working closely with Jill on promotion, marketing, fundraising, and building relationships with our supporters and partners. Welcome Hannah!!!

## Remembering Ward with Custom Memory Quilts



A life lived is a treasure and at Living Threads we have the honor of creating heirloom quilts in memory of a loved one. Ward Talmadge was dearly loved and will be forever missed. He was a man with a great sense of humor who loved golf and coffee! Living Threads had the privilege of making three memory quilts for his family to reflect his life. His wife shared her experience and what the quilts meant to her family:

*"I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard on creating the beautiful quilts in honor of my late husband, Ward. Never in my dreams did I ever imagine that they would be completed in time for Christmas. Words cannot describe how happy you made me to hear that they were completed. All 3 of the quilts are beautiful and will be cherished forever. You all brought some joy in a very hard holiday season for me and my family. My stepdaughter Tami said it was "the greatest Christmas gift" she had ever received.*

*Again, thank you all for being selfless, generous, thoughtful volunteers. You have helped make a difference in many lives."*

*Gayle Talmadge (Ward's wife)*



## How to Share About Living Threads with Grieving Families

***"I wish I had known about Living Threads before I got rid of all the clothing."***

This is the most common comment I hear from people who have lost a loved one. There is a great way to share with your family and friends about having a memory quilt made before it is too late.

- As you go through visitation or talk to someone immediately following a death, please don't bombard them with all kinds of information. It's too early and too overwhelming.
- Instead, show you care in a non-threatening way. . . all you have to say is, *"I have something I'd like to share with you when you're ready but, until we talk, please don't get rid of your (child, husbands, etc) clothing. We'll touch base later when you're ready."* It's that easy!
- Later when things have settled down your grieving friend will call you to inquire. They will be so appreciative—they often haven't thought of this in the moment, but it will be a treasured possession in the future!



## Kibera Bible Club Christmas

Every Saturday, hundreds of children show up at the nine Bible Clubs with anticipation of *being fed physically and spiritually*. Christmas was celebrated with 600 children, 85% of the children who regularly attend. They were led in a praise and worship session as well as a morning devotion. Our facilitators had prepared the “Jesus Story” in form of a video that elaborated the birth of Jesus Christ, our children were glued to the screen!

The cooks came early and they prepared healthy and delicious meals such as pan cake, rice, stew of meat, cabbage and fruits.

Children were served generously and they ate to their fullest. The climax of the day was the cutting of a gigantic cake. What a moment! On behalf of these innocent souls, we say “Thank you” for the light in the children’s faces with memorable Christmas joy.



## Giving Back: From Bible Club Student to Teacher



Collins was a long-standing Bible Club student and now is a teacher at the Ebenezer Bible Club. He began attending the Bible Club as a young teen. Attending the Bible Club every Saturday was something he looked forward to every week. From reading the word of God, dancing, to playing with friends, these were activities that made church a go to place. This enabled him to stay away from vices like drug and substance abuse. His passion for God’s word kept aflame even as a mature young man. *“I love spending my time to reach out to children and young people. We desire that these young people will continually learn the word of God and use their talents in a way to glorify God,”* says Collins. Collins has been consistent in teaching and disciplining

the children at the Bible Club. Through your helpful support Collins has continued impacting hundreds of children in Kibera. Thank you!



Did you know???

**Our Longarm Quilters completed  
407 items in 2022!**

Spread the word to your quilting friends! **Living Threads provides longarm quilting services to the public.** It’s a 2-for-1 kind of deal—you not only have a professional quilter longarm your quilt, but you are also supporting the missional work of Living Threads at the same time. The longarm room is open Mon.-Thurs. 9:30-4pm.

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Annual Benefit Dinner

October 26, 2023

6:30pm-8:30pm

Macatawa

Legends Golf Club

4600 Macatawa Legends,  
Holland, MI 49424



*"Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber. She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy." Proverbs 31:19-20*



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[office@livingthreadsministry.org](mailto:office@livingthreadsministry.org)

Find us on:



*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth!"*

## Annual Quilters Retreat

The weekend of January 26-29, sixty-six quilters attended our annual quilters retreat held at Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference in Muskegon. It was a sold out event filled with lots of laughter, relaxation (even foot, neck and shoulder massages) friendships, pampering, and great food! We closed the weekend with an uplifting and challenging message from Psalm 100. What a special time to share the ministry of Living Threads in a fun and creative way!



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You shop. Amazon gives.



## Discontinued Programs

Unfortunately, both Amazon and Spartan have discontinued their donor directed programs of Amazon Smile and Direct your Dollars as of March 1. Thank you to all who supported Living Threads through their purchases at Amazon and turning in your Family Fare and D&W receipts to us. We were blessed to receive \$4,000 from Spartan Nash through the collection of their grocery receipts.