



www.livingthreadsministry.org • 616-748-6505

Winter 2024

100 S. Pine St #145, Zeeland MI 49464

Ending 2023 Showered with Blessings!

“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)



\$35,660.02 Raised for the Kibera Bible Clubs

Families who receive memory quilts give so generously for the labor used to create their quilts. 100% of their quilt donation is given to support Bible Clubs for children who live in deep poverty in the Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. **Currently there are 9 Bible Clubs with 800+ children attending weekly!!**

94 Memory Quilts Ordered

Memory quilts reflect the story of a life—the life of a person deeply loved and dearly missed. What a privilege it is to bring comfort to a family by creating a quilt from their loved one’s clothing. **Praise God for His Comfort!**



Katie Warner one of our longarm quilters

514 Items Longarm Quilted

Our longarm quilting department of three staff were busy in 2023 with completing 514 items! They provide custom, edge-to-edge, and combo quilting for our clients and the community. **Thank you for servant hearts!**

3,135 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. **Grateful to God for gifts of talent!**



Year-end Match Results

Thank you For Helping Us End 2023 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 \$39,685.00. Together with the initial Match, **a total of \$54,685.00 was raised!**

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



Why I volunteer quilt at Living Threads: Lori VanKlompberg

I first heard about Living Threads when a friend asked if I would be interested in joining the Living Threads Bible Block of the Month class with her. I was interested and joined in 2019. The Bible study and quilt time were wonderful! That was when I learned about their mission of making memory quilts. This intrigued me because we had lost our first child at 6 days old, having been born 14 weeks premature. I have always loved sewing and as I learned more I became very interested in sewing for them, but the timing wasn't right.

In May of 2022 my husband of nearly 39 years passed away. He had cancer when he was just two years old. The doctors told his parents he had a 2% chance of living to the age of five. God had other plans! He gave Randy another 58 years along with a marriage, another daughter, and a son. In time we were blessed by God with a son in-law, a daughter in-law, and six grandchildren.

The Cobalt radiation treatments that Randy had as a toddler prematurely hardened his arteries and unfortunately affected his heart. He had open heart surgery in October 2021 and three weeks later our youngest granddaughter also had heart surgery.

In March of 2022, Randy and I started talking about selling our home and moving to a condo. We decided we were going to build a new condo. By the end of April 2022, we accepted an offer on our house. Randy died before we could close on our house. I then moved to a rental while my new condo was being built. It was only 2 blocks from our son and his family!! I am now settled in my new home. God was so faithful throughout everything as I journeyed the grief and adjustments of losing my husband, packing and moving from our home, and then through the process of building my new home.

My life has totally changed, but God had not. He opened so many doors for me and His provision was so evident in every detail, although sometimes I needed to look back to recognize it. I am now able to sew for Living Threads as a weekly quilting volunteer. It has been such a blessing to use my gift of sewing to help others as they remember their loved one. It has also been a blessing to sew with other volunteers at Living Threads, many of whom have also experienced the loss of a spouse.



Ways to Use Your IRA for Kingdom Work

If you are like many people who receive income from a traditional IRA, you're likely paying more in taxes each year. However, if you are 70-1/2 or older, you can distribute annually from your IRA to charities such as Living Threads. These distributions count toward any Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but DO NOT count as income. This strategy, known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), allows you to reduce your tax burden and provide for important kingdom work.

A traditional IRA is a great asset from which to make charitable gifts - both during your lifetime and upon your passing—because the proceeds can go to Living Threads tax-free but would be subject to income tax if given to loved ones.

We'd be happy to discuss this further with you by calling our office at 616-748-6505 or check with your financial advisor about the benefits of kingdom giving through your IRA.



“I had a desire to minister to the slum children for several years. I repeatedly asked my pastor for that opportunity and he always assured me that it was his desire as well but it never came into fruition. After many years I quit asking, but I began praying for open doors into the slums. I use to attend a fellowship at Galilaya Baptist church and during prayer requests I mentioned how God was leading me to minister to the children in the slums of Kibera.

The very next day after the fellowship the pastor told me that he now had a contact in the slum and would like to take me in to do a children’s program! God is faithful, God is willing, and God is able!! We visited Galilaya Bible Club and Pastor Aloise gave me an opportunity to volunteer at the center every Saturday.”

This was a golden opportunity for Jane Awinde to impact the children positively through God’s word. It was also a confirmation of her calling. Every time she shares the Gospel with the children, she likes to begin by sharing her own story and shares her experience growing up in Kibera as a child. This has been a great way to connect and build rapport with the children. *“No one escapes the challenges of childhood, but we can conquer them by trusting and anchoring our faith in Jesus Christ!”*

She encourages children to stop past pain and failure from hindering their future and also help them to value good and bad experiences and use them as building blocks for successes. Jane’s inspiration is derived from deep within, she endeavors to restore broken relationships and see victorious well-rounded children in God.

A while back, she received a call from a one of our Bible Club parents. They recently started using the Bible Club lessons for family Bible study. This mom told her that her son had been faithfully going to church from a young age with their family. When he hit 7th grade, he didn’t want to go to church any more. He faithfully memorized scripture from the Bible Club but grew tired of it. He knew the Lord from a young age, but church had become boring to him. She shared, “When he went through the lesson on “God’s Love”, it was as if the lightbulb turned on in his heart. He is completely different!! He is excited about spending time with the Lord daily.”

Praise the Lord for the faithfulness and dedication of all the Bible Club teachers and volunteers. God is using them to impact the lives of hundreds of children who attend each week.



61 “Bible Block of the Month” Students



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Our Bible Block class is called, “*Because of Bethlehem, He Chose the Nails*”. The study is written by Max Lucado focusing on Advent and Lent. The students come to study God’s Word and to make a portion of the quilt each month. We will be finished in May 2024.



New Executive Director Search Update

The prayerful search process toward the selection for a new Executive Director for Living Threads is progressing well. The Search Committee has received many resumes and cover letters from initial candidates ahead of the February 16 application deadline. There are definitely some intriguing applicants from a variety of backgrounds. Our Search Committee will be meeting the week of February 19 to review candidates and to contact those with whom we wish to talk further. We are excited to see where God leads the selection process as we move forward toward a final selection. We are definitely seeking the Lord’s guidance and your prayers are most welcomed and appreciated! ~ Dave Wright, Search Committee



Annual Living Threads Benefit Dinner

Please mark your calendars for an evening of glorifying God for ALL He has done through Living Threads. Hear testimonies, updates and enjoy a delicious meal and great fellowship. The Benefit Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at the Macatawa Legends Golf Club in Holland, MI.