



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2015

September 26, 2015

Today's topics:

- We just delivered **1,500** comfort scarves and have another almost 1,000 ready for shipping in October
- Handmade's dedicated volunteers are the greatest
- Generous contributions from yarn companies and individual donors make comfort scarves possible
- New pages on our website
- Handmade's affiliates
- October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
- We need at least 3,000 more scarves and about 1,000 hats for kids to deliver to shelters in time for their holiday parties
- Raising \$\$\$\$ to support Handmade

And now for the details:

We have been making and wrapping scarves all summer and have boxes and boxes of them wrapped and ready to ship to shelters for abused women so our huge September shipping was easier than usual to accomplish. Really, all we had to do was count finished scarves into the boxes, seal them, and stack them for FedEx to pick up. We even finished in time to have a great lunch! I am very proud of all the work we have done to make this possible.



Handmade is in such a good position to achieve our goals due to our dedicated volunteers! I want to thank them all, starting with our excellent kit making team: **Ann Nye, Carol Harrison,**

**Evelyn Dow, Karen Holz, Linda Whitson, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, Satoko Igawa, and Therese Shaffer.**

We make kits every Tuesday. Not everyone comes every Tuesday so we'd love to have you join us if you're available. We always need more kit makers because there is such a huge demand for our "magic balls." We provide about 70 each week to **Concepts in Yarn**, 50 per month to the **Culver City Senior Center Knitters**, and 25 per month to **Sister Mary** at the **Presentation Learning Center**. In addition, we send them to scarfers all over CA and throughout the US.

Thanks as well to our dedicated wrapping team: **Alisa Hoy-Prince, Ann Nye, Carlyn Gore, Carmen Chane, Carol Harrison, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Evelyn Dow, Karen Whitehead, Kathy Allen, Linda Whitson, Mary Barton, Satoko Igawa, Sharon Long, Sharon Taylor, and Shumi Ryu.** Thrilled by the huge piles of scarves, they keep wrapping and wrapping. They get the job done!

We have "wrapping parties" twice a month on Thursdays. Again, not every volunteer mentioned above attends every wrapping party. We always need more wrappers. We'd love to have you join the team. Or you can pick up scarves and wrap them in the convenience of your own home. Whatever works for you helps Handmade.

Other volunteers do a variety of important jobs. **Ann Nye** keeps our books and updates our website. **Karen Whitehead** posts on Facebook, to keep Handmade in front of the public. **Bea Abshear** adds fringe to scarves that arrive too short or too plain. Sometimes scarf makers use their own yarn, but don't have access to Fun Fur or other novelty yarn. Or they're unaware of our patterns. Bea enhances these scarves. Every scarf counts! **Paula Weiner** cuts Fun Fur and other novelty yarn, which we put at the beginning and end of each magic ball. The list of Handmade's really great volunteers is a long one. I haven't intentionally omitted any of our fabulous volunteers and the jobs they do, but if you are one who was left out, please understand that your contribution is important. Let me know so I will make sure to include you in the next Newsletter.

We all recognize that we couldn't make kits or knit scarves without the generous support of yarn companies and generous individual donors who provide the yarn we use to make "magic balls." In particular, I want to mention: **Berroco, Brown Sheep, Crystal Palace, Knitting Fever, Lion Brand, Trendsetter Yarns, and Westminster Fibers.** In addition, individual donors such as **Antoinette Fournier, Betty Watts, Felecia McClendon, Sharon Long, and Sophie Britten** keep the yarn flowing so kit making continues in an uninterrupted manner. Handmade is so lucky to have such great support for our scarf (and hat) project.

**Ann Nye**, keeper of our website, created two new pages: "**Other Knitting Groups**" promotes organizations that support Handmade by knitting scarves and hats. "**Making a Difference**" shares thank you letters and cards from directors of the shelters to which we send our scarves. Because I haven't written a Newsletter in quite a while, we had too many letters of appreciation to include in a single Newsletter. As I read the letters, I was overwhelmed by the emotions they expressed. I know you will be as well. If you ever thought shelters were getting tired of comfort scarves, once you read the directors' comments about what YOU do, you'll want to sit down and start knitting a scarf!

Affiliates are independent groups like Handmade who make comfort scarves and donate them to shelters in their own areas. Like Handmade, they have been busy supplying shelters with comfort scarves all around the US.

**Ann Miller**, coordinator of Handmade's affiliate in Pueblo CO, donates scarves and baby blankets to the **YWCA Crisis Center** there.

**Barbara Kochuba**, in Pittsburgh PA, is full of great ideas. For the start of football season, she asked her group to make scarves in the colors of local football teams. For **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, she has been collecting purple scarves to distribute to 11 shelters in Southwestern PA. Go Barb!

**Lois Anderson**, in Madison WI, tells me her group cumulatively has donated 900 scarves to two shelters since they started. Great job, Lois!

**Marg Grieves**, leader of our affiliate in Balfour, British Columbia, tells me: "**GIVINGHANDS** is still going strong. More and more needs in the area all the time as you can understand." She recently added a hostel in Calgary to her list of clients. She has added making hats and mittens to her group's repertoire.

**Renee Hoffman**, dedicated leader of Handmade's Long Beach group donates 20 scarves each month to **Interval House** in Long Beach.

**Susan Van Winkle**, organizer of Handmade's North County (San Diego) group donates to **Rachel's House** and **Hidden Valley**. **Hidden Valley** gives a woman her scarf before she makes her court appearance. The scarf gives the woman confidence in this stressful situation. So many different and wonderful uses for comfort scarves!

**Vicki Ringer**, coordinator of Handmade's West San Fernando Valley affiliate, donates 20 scarves and some baby blankets (whenever she can get them) to **Haven Hills** in Canoga Park. She just found out that Haven Hills will offer counseling only, no more residential services. Budgetary cutbacks negatively affect many of our shelters.

October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. The Good Shepherd Shelter will host the second Summit on Domestic Violence on October 20, 2015, **Safety in the Age of Technology**. The event is free (although you will have to pay for parking.) **Kathleen Buczko**, coordinator, describes the program: "Panelists will include survivors of cyberstalking, as well as representatives from law enforcement and technology companies." So far, four members of Handmade plan to attend. And of course, I will circulate a summary of what we learned.

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** (October) makes us think about the many victims who experience abuse on a daily basis, those who seek the protection of a shelter, and those who don't.

As our way of alleviating the terrible effects of abuse, Handmade makes and distributes comfort scarves. However, the 12,000 scarves we deliver each year cannot combat these statistics or cure the harm done to the women and children who experience abuse. Receiving a comfort scarf is a **START** to overcoming the negative effects of abuse. Comfort scarves help a woman feel important and valuable. The feelings a woman experiences when she receives a comfort scarf gives her hope that beginning the therapy and education offered by the shelter really will change her life. We who make comfort scarves have a big responsibility to keep making them, to continue helping abused women break out of the mental state that allows them to think abuse is OK or even "normal."

We need you. We need you to make scarves, enough scarves so we can supply all the shelters in S CA with the comfort scarves they have requested. We still need 4,000—5,000 scarves and 1,000 hats for kids in time for holiday parties at the shelters.

Macy's **Shop for a Cause** brought in \$250 to Handmade. That covers the cost of about a half of one regular month's shipping or a third of holiday shipping. A few weeks ago, I talked to employees at the **AT&T Call Center** in Tustin during their **United Way Giving Campaign**. I felt the audience was very receptive. I hope they will follow the lead of **Isidore November**, who has donated to Handmade on a monthly basis through this program for at least two years. More donors like Izzy will give us a big boost.

We also need your financial support. You can contribute several ways. Of course, you can go directly to the Handmade website: [www.handmadeespecially.org](http://www.handmadeespecially.org) where you will find a link to **PayPal**. You can make your donation directly that way. Handmade receives it immediately.

Another way to donate is by shopping at **Ralphs** (or other Kroger stores). This doesn't cost you anything, since **Ralphs** makes the donation based on a percentage of what you spend. We receive checks from **Ralphs** quarterly, depending on the amount our supporters spend there. To participate, all you have to do is join the **Ralphs Community Contribution Program**. Again, the link is on our website. Print out the letter. When you shop, show it to the cashier. The cashier will link the letter with your **Ralphs** card so whenever you shop you will also be donating to Handmade. **Ralphs** asks you to renew the connection every September. What could be easier, grocery shopping and supporting Handmade at the same time.

Amazon offers a similar program: **AmazonSmile**. Again, all the details are on our website. We started with Amazon about a year ago, and we see that their contributions to Handmade are small, but growing, so please keep shopping on **AmazonSmile**.

Finally, if you want to donate a check, you can mail it to the address below.

If you want to donate scarves or yarn, please mail them to the same address:

Handmade Especially for You c/o Leslye Borden

30065 Grandpoint Lane

Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275

Thanks for supporting Handmade Especially for You. I appreciate, and so do all the abused women who receive our comfort scarves.

Leslye Borden, Founder

Handmade Especially for You

501(c)3 EIN: 26-3529292

Handmade Especially for You is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit charity, so your donation is tax-deductible. We provide appropriate receipts for all donations. 100% of cash donations go toward helping abused women, paying for shipping scarves to shelters, etc.