



SPRING/SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

June 6, 2014

Here are the headlines:

- Good reasons there hasn't been a Newsletter for a while.
- We've delivered 60,000 comfort scarves since we started at the end of 2008
- Union Bank made a generous grant to Handmade and now we're really looking for a workshop!
- Support Handmade by buying tickets for Macy's **Shop for a Cause**, August 23.
- Support Handmade by shopping at Ralphs
- Support Handmade by shopping at AmazonSmile
- Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers
- Shelters for abused women appreciate comfort scarves.
- Yarn companies and individuals provide very generous support.
- Summer shipping

And now for the details:

I guess I crashed many computers when I sent the previous Newsletter in February. I included many photos, and most of them were too big. That caused a problem for many of you. I am so sorry for that inconvenience. It took a while to figure out the problem, and when we did, **Ann Nye** resized all the photos and the Newsletter was then fine. But the damage had already been done. After that, I felt very wary of sending another Newsletter.

I was bowled over when I added the 2,000 scarves we sent for Mother's Day and the almost 1,000 we shipped in May. They brought Handmade's total of comfort scarves shipped since we started at the end of 2008 to 60,000! Incredible! Think how many you alone contributed. 800 volunteers have participated in Handmade over the years. Thanks to everyone!

Due to our huge accomplishments, our membership, and our dedication to providing abused women with comfort scarves, I have great news to share. **Union Bank**, where Handmade keeps its account, has donated \$2,500 to Handmade to get us started setting up a workshop. Thanks to **Kristie Allen**, (daughter of **Kathy Allen**, a longtime Handmade volunteer), who advised on the writing of the actual proposal to **Union Bank**, **Union Bank** made the decision to give us a grant. Being chosen by **KCET** for its **Local Heroes** award also figured in **Union Bank's** decision making process, since **Union Bank** sponsors **KCET's** program. The **Union Bank** reps who gave us this grant suggested it is a "stepping stone" to grants in the future. I agree. I hope it will be a launching pad for additional fund raising activities.

Obviously, setting up a workshop will require a lot more than \$2,500. Regular donors, **Annette and Alexander Maass** (our knitting couple from Germany), **Betty Watts**, **Isidore November**,

Marlene Segal, and **Vicki and Warren Ringer**, contribute a fixed amount each month which I know I can count on. Right now, we use their donations to defray the cost of shipping finished scarves to shelters. They're the greatest! To cover the cost of a workshop, we will need a lot more. Yes, we are writing additional proposals asking other institutions for grants. But we will need to raise money before those institutions make their decisions. So a lot of this Newsletter will be a shameless request for you to donate.

We hope you, our longstanding volunteers and participants, will come through for us. There are several ways you can contribute. First and most obvious, make an outright donation. You can write a check or contribute using **PayPal**. There is a link on the **Donations** page of our website www.handmadeespecially.org . Or you can contribute through **Network for the Good** <https://www.networkforgood.org> .

Macy's Shop for a Cause is coming up on August 23. We participated in this event last year and it was very good for **Handmade**. The discount tickets cost only \$5 each. The best part about buying/selling these tickets is that **Handmade** receives 100% of \$5. The benefit to you when you buy a ticket is that on August 23 you get 25% off your purchases at a brick and mortar **Macy's** or online. Directions for online shopping are on the coupon. In addition, you can drop your ticket stub into a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 **Macy's** shopping spree. You can buy tickets on the **Donations** page on our website www.handmadeespecially.org using **PayPal**. Once your payment goes through, you can download the coupon. Remember, the tickets are good at every **Macys** throughout the US so you can give them to friends and family everywhere.

To turn this occasion into a real fund raising event for **Handmade** please not only buy \$5 tickets for yourself, but also to spread the word about **Handmade** and **Macy's Shop for a Cause** to everybody you know, all the people in your address book. Here are some reasons you and they should buy the discount coupons and what you can do with them once you buy them:

Buy the ticket to support **Handmade** even if you know you won't use it at **Macy's**. Every \$5 donation helps **Handmade**. And your donation is tax deductible since **Handmade** is a 501©3.

Buy tickets to give as tips instead of giving cash tips to people who serve you such as your hairdresser. Or use them to create good will for yourself. Give them to your bank teller, your doctor, nurse, or the receptionist at the doctor's office, your dentist, hygienist, or the receptionist at the dentist's office, your mail delivery person, etc. Once you decide you want to support **Handmade**, I bet you'll come up with more ideas as to where you can give the tickets.

There are two more ways to financially support **Handmade** and these won't cost you anything. You will support **Handmade** by shopping at **Ralph's**, **Food 4 Less**, or any **Kroger** markets. The information is on the **Donations** page on our website www.handmadeespecially.org . Or go to <https://customer.ralphs.com/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/ManageCommunityRewardsStep1.aspx/> and link your **Ralphs Reward Card** to **Handmade** using our name and/or NPO number (94175). Then, **Handmade** will automatically receive a rebate each time you shop for groceries and swipe your Rewards Card. It's that simple. There is no cost to you, and you will be donating to **Handmade** just by shopping for groceries.

In like manner, **Amazon** has started a program by which it donates 0.5% of your purchases to a charity of your choice, just like what **Ralphs** does with groceries. Go to the **Donations** page on our website, www.handmadeespecially.org , click the **Get started** button. Whenever you shop on **AmazonSmile**, **Amazon** will make a donation directly to **Handmade**. Or, to start shopping

on **AmazonSmile**, just click on <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-352929>. You just have to remember to go to <https://smile.amazon.com> when you want to shop at **Amazon**.

It's that simple to donate to **Handmade Especially for You**. And **Handmade** really needs your support. Thanks in advance for whatever you contribute.

Until we set up our workshop, all Handmade activities continue as they have in the past, at my house. Many thanks to our dedicated kit makers, who come every Tuesday to make "Magic Balls," so all knitters have to do is start knitting at one end of the ball and finish at the other end. And then, like magic, they will have a beautiful comfort scarf! **Ann Nye, Evelyn Dow, Janet Schoenfeld, Linda Whitson, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, Satoko Ikari-Igawa,** and **Therese Shafer** are doing their best to keep up with the huge demand for "Magic Balls." Kit making involves many behind the scene volunteers as well. **Nanette Brill** winds skeins of yarn into balls so we can use the yarn in kits. **Paula Weiner** cuts lengths of novelty yarn which we add to the beginning and end of every scarf. My husband, **Phil**, makes the gift tags. **Ann Nye** and **Lori Jeskey** maintain our website, the repository of all our patterns, newsletters, and donation links. We have plenty to do in kit making so if you want to volunteer, we're glad to have you join us. We make kits every Tuesday, starting around 10 a.m. We welcome all participants.

Over the summer, we're having wrapping parties once a month to try to keep up with all the scarves that arrive every day. We want to have many scarves ready to ship in September, when we start shipping again. Thanks to our dedicated wrappers— **Ann Nye, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Evelyn Dow, Kathy Allen, Linda Whitson, Mary Barton, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, Satoko Ikari-Igawa,** and other volunteers who attend occasionally, and a few who actually wrap scarves at their own homes -- somehow, all the scarves get wrapped!

We wouldn't have so many scarves to wrap without our core group of knitters at **Concepts in Yarn**. Thanks to **June Grossberg**, owner of Concepts, who hosts us every Wednesday evening. Some local scarfers (**Maria Denzel, Emma Buchs,** and **Su Wooley**,) make so many comfort scarves, we just give them yarn and they make scarves without using premeasured kits. We also ship our Magic Balls (knit or crochet) to dedicated volunteers throughout the country, who want to make comfort scarves and are willing to make a donation to cover the shipping. We send boxes of yarn to **Joanne Garlick**, who crochets at least 100 each month. Many contributors, such as **Janet Walsh** (in MO) send scarves they make entirely from their own stash. Janet just sent 6 boxes filled with 120 she crocheted over the long, hard winter. It takes a huge group of people to make as many comfort scarves as we deliver. Thank you all so much.

Every month shelters send us letters of thanks and appreciation. Following are excerpts from a few:

Gina Vargas, Executive Director at **Center for Family Solutions** (El Centro), says: "You and your team . . . seem to really care about making a difference in those we serve. . . . Thank you for caring for the well-being of those individuals."

Chris Dentice, Women and Family Program Manager at the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission**, writes: "I want to say thank you all for the beautiful scarves that have blessed our ladies so much. They love them. It makes them feel as though someone cares for them."

Rebecca Patrick, at **Fred Jordan Missions**, tells us: "Thank you for your donation of comfort scarves. . . . We give the scarves to women who have no other way of keeping warm. The impact you have is far beyond what you know. We are grateful for your partnership."

Michelle Roberts, Executive Director at the **YWCA Glendale**, writes: “Thank you for your contribution of handmade scarves to the YWCA of Glendale. We truly value your support which makes a huge difference in the lives of our clients and in turn to the Glendale community.”

Teresa Trinidad, Program Manager at **Haven House** (Pasadena), tells us: “Thank you . . . for your generous donation of 25 comfort scarves to our Clients. Your commitment to helping victims of domestic violence and their children . . . is sincerely appreciated.”

Dro Abrahamian, Fund Development & Marketing Director at **Interface Children Family Services** (Camarillo), says: “Your support is critical to our ability to offer children, families, and communities an opportunity to be safe and to heal from the serious life challenges that threaten to overwhelm them.”

Chaplain Tracy Brown, Resident Services Manager at **Lydia House**, Long Beach Rescue Mission writes: “We thank you so much for your beautiful gift of handmade comfort scarves! The scarves are so soft and colorful and will bring warmth and comfort to our women. Acts of kindness like yours bring so much joy to our women who are in transition. . . .Your gift brings a message to our women that they are loved and valued.”

Margaret Diaz, at **A Better Way** (Victorville), encouraged the women in her shelter to write notes to Handmade. Here is one of them, from Kimberly: “I would like to give you my sincere thank you for such a beautiful scarf. I shall wear it with a blessing!”

Every time I write a Newsletter, I am always impressed by the comments from the directors. Their notes just hint at the impact our scarves have on the women who receive them. Reading these letters keeps me motivated! I hope reading excerpts has the same effect on you.

As you know from what I have written above, we have a lot more scarves to make this year. We want to support abused women who have sought the protection of shelters. This means we need to make a lot more kits. Needing to make more kits means we need lots more yarn. Luckily, yarn donations so far this year have been excellent. Yarn companies have been especially generous. Thanks go to **Paula**, at **Blue Moon Fiber Arts**, **Kathy Muhr** at **Brown Sheep Yarns**, **Claudine Monique** at **Classic Elite Yarns**, **Terri Geck** at **Coats & Clark**, **Susan Druding** at **Crystal Palace Yarn**, **Jack Blumenthal** at **Lion Brand**, **Kathleen** at **Mountain Colors**, **Robin** at **Pagewood Farms**, and **Barry Klein** at **Trendsetter Yarns**. So many donors and donations make for a good yarn pool from which our kit makers can select. We always mix and match yarns. One company’s donation works with another company’s. That’s the reason we call our kits “**magic balls**.” It’s magic how we put them together and magic how volunteers make them into beautiful comfort scarves. Thank you all so much. I always say “Without yarn we cannot make scarves” and this is really TRUE.

Individuals have been very generous as well. I know the “thank you” list is long, but I want to recognize every contribution. Thanks for the yarn generosity of **Judith Solomon**, and **Toni Fournier**. I hope I didn’t leave anyone out. If I did, please excuse me.

Don’t for instant think that due to this impressive list, we have enough yarn. We never have enough yarn. We need every contribution. And we always need MORE. We go through thousands of miles of yarn every Tuesday when we make kits. Please keep donating, so we can keep winding and scarfing.

Finally, here’s what we’re doing this summer. Due to shelter preferences and the vacation schedules of many of our volunteers, we decided not to ship scarves this summer. We will

resume shipping in September. But don't worry. We are still making kits, still receiving many comfort scarves, which we plan to wrap and put into storage (until we set up our workshop) until we're ready to ship in September. We will need a lot of scarves in September. Thanks to you, I am sure we will have them.

We will ship comfort scarves to shelters throughout the autumn. We will need around 6,000 just to meet the requests of the shelters. Sounds like a lot of work, but I feel very confident we are on the right track to meeting the goal. Please, please keep scarfing!

You all do so much for Handmade and for the women in the shelters. I thank you all. Over and over again.

If you want to donate scarves or yarn, please mail to:

Handmade Especially for You c/o Leslye Borden

30065 Grandpoint Lane

Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275

If you want to donate \$\$\$\$ or buy a discount coupon for **Macy's Shop for a Cause**, visit our website www.handmadeespecially.org and use **PayPal**. Or send a check to the address above.

Thanks again for whatever you contribute,

Leslye Borden, Founder

Handmade Especially for You

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