



SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

August 28, 2014

Here are the headlines:

- We have lots of comfort scarves wrapped and ready to ship to our 60+ shelters.
- Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers
- Shelters for abused women appreciate comfort scarves.
- Yarn companies and individuals provide very generous support
- Make a Ruffle Scarf evening (July 28) at Concepts in Yarn was a big hit
- Macy's Shop for a Cause August 23 was successful too
- Renew your Ralphs card so Ralphs will continue donating to Handmade
- Join Amazon Smile so Amazon will donate to Handmade every time you shop there

And now for the details:

Due to shelter preferences and the vacation schedules of many of our volunteers, we again decided not to ship scarves this summer. We will resume shipping in September. But don't worry. Many, many comfort scarves have arrived on our doorstep and we have been wrapping them and putting them in storage until we need them for shipping on September 18. Since we are shipping on a quarterly, rather than a monthly basis, we will need a lot of scarves in September. And we have them, thanks to you. Here are a few, wrapped and ready to ship:



We will continue shipping comfort scarves to shelters throughout the autumn. We will need around 6,000 just to match last year's total of 12,000 scarves. 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!

Of course, we could not keep up with kit making, wrapping and shipping without the hard work of many people. First and foremost, our kit makers—**Ann Nye, Evelyn Dow, Janet Schoenfeld, Linda Whitson, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, Satoko Igawa,** and **Therese Shafer** are doing their best to keep up with the huge and growing demand for our magic ball kits. Kit making involves many behind the scene volunteers as well. **Evelyn Dow** 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. and **Ann Nye** and **Satoko Igawa** punch holes in them. We add a gift tag to every kit so that every comfort scarf comes to an abused woman signed by its maker. We have plenty to do in kit making so if you want to volunteer, and 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've been having wrapping parties only once a month. We are trying to keep up with all the scarves that arrive every day. That's the reason we have so many scarves ready to ship. Thanks to our dedicated wrappers— **Ann Nye, Carlyn Gore, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Karen Whitehead, Kathy Allen, Linda Whitson, Mary Barton, Nancy English, Sharon Long, Paula Weiner, Satoko Igawa, Toni Fournier** and other volunteers who attend occasionally, and a few who actually wrap scarves at their own homes-- somehow, all the scarves get wrapped! 16 women participated in our most recent wrapping party. We got a lot done!



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 (**Emma Buechs, Maria Denzel** and **Su Wooley**,) love to knit comfort scarves so much, we just give them yarn and they make scarves without using premeasured kits. We also ship our magic ball kits (knit or crochet) to dedicated volunteers throughout the country who want to make comfort scarves. We ship boxes of yarn to volunteers who make many, many scarves, such as **Joanne Garlick**. A lot of contributors send scarves they make entirely from their own stash. We appreciate their contributions. Sometimes we receive scarves without fun fur or other novelty yarn. When that occurs, we give the scarf to **Bea Abshear**, who adds fringe to dress up and make it special. It takes a huge group of volunteers, a village, to make as many comfort scarves as we deliver. Thank you all so much.

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

Robin Sinclair, Executive Director at **Casa Youth Shelter**, writes: "We are honored to have your support. . . .With your support, we will continue providing Casa's kids with . . . remedial

education and critical counseling to help them through their crises. . . . We could not do what we do without generous supporters like you.”

Gina Vargas, Executive Director at **Center for Family Solutions** in El Centro, tells us: “A heartfelt thank you for all the time and effort you and your team put into the knitted scarves. Handmade Especially for You is truly a wonderful group of caring individuals. Your support means so much . . . to survivors of domestic violence and their families.”

Maria Barahona, Development Director at **Haven Hills**, in Canoga Park, explains: “I wish you could have seen the faces of the women in our shelters and counseling clinic when they received the scarves you so generously donated. They were fabulous. We appreciate your support. . . . When they leave the shelter . . . the women always say ‘you saved my life’ but we know they did it themselves. . . . We only gave them the tools. Thank you again for helping us provide these vital tools. ”

Tracy Brown, Chaplain and Resident Services Manager at **Lydia House**, in Long Beach, tells us: “Acts of kindness like yours bring so much joy to our women who are . . . beginning new lives. Your gift brings a message to our women that they are loved and valued. . . . Please express our deepest gratitude to the women who so lovingly knitted the beautiful comfort scarves for our ladies.”

Ben Schirmer, Executive Director at **Rainbow Services**, writes: “Your gift of 15 handmade comfort scarves . . . helps women and children recovering from lives of trauma. . . . Support from the community brings them a sense of belonging and aids their healing.”

Geri Schreier, longtime volunteer at **Su Casa**, expresses her appreciation: “We cannot thank you and your group enough for your generosity of spirit & faithfulness in supplying scarves to our clients over the years. . . . The scarves are worth their weight in gold. Thanks again.”

Every time I write a Newsletter, I am impressed by the comments from the directors. Their notes just hint at the impact our scarves have on the women who receive them. Almost more moving are letters from our volunteers, telling what participating in Handmade means to them. For instance, **Tara** tells us: “I was in an abusive relationship for 6 years and I wish I had someone to help me get out soon. Now I am married to a wonderful man. . . . It makes me happy that there is a charity out there to help women get out of an abusive relationship.”

Joanne speaks for many of us when she says: “Your organization has helped me personally get over a hump or two in my life. Having something to do with my free time, now that the grandsons are busy, keeps me sane. . . . Thank you for all that you are doing and allowing me to be a small part of it.”

Yarn donations over the summer have been excellent. Yarn companies have been especially generous. Thanks go to **Alison Green** at **Berroco**, **Cynthia Schnall** at **Coats & Clark**, **Susan Druding** at **Crystal Palace Yarn**, **Emre Koc** at **Feza Yarns**, **Tymon Warda** and **Jeff Denecke** at **Knitting Fever**, **Sue Steudle** at **Mango Moon**, **Laura Bryant** at **Prism**, **Kay Luck** at **Purlescence**, **Barry Klein** at **Trendsetter Yarns**, and **Linda Pratt** at **Westminster Fibers**. So many donors and donations (but never enough!) 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!” This truism is really **TRUE**.

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**. I often compare Handmade's kit making process to the **Hungry Caterpillar**. We devour yarn! We go through thousands of miles of yarn every Tuesday when we make kits. In fact, we have used about 9,450,000 yards of yarn since we started Please keep donating, so we can keep winding.

Handmade also has received generous cash donations that help us defray the monthly fee for shipping finished scarves to shelters. Our regular monthly donors, **Annette and Alexander Maass** (our knitting couple from Germany), **Betty Watts, Marlene Segal,** and **Vicki and Warren Ringer,** provide a certain amount of \$\$\$ I know I can count on. **Kathy** and **Ken Allen** and **Toni Fournier** have made notable donations as well. These put us farther down the path toward renting a work space. The generosity of Handmade's participants is outstanding. Thank you all so much!

At the end of July, **June Grossberg,** owner of **Concepts in Yarn,** and Handmade's first (and only) sponsor, put on a fund raiser, **Make a Ruffle Scarf,** for Handmade. 25-30 women attended. June served us all dinner, provided yarn and taught participants to make ruffle scarves. It was great fun. Many women new to Handmade, came to this event, and several have become active volunteers as a result, a very successful evening. Thank you so much, June! The photo below shows the fun event and the beautiful ruffle scarves we made.



Macy's Shop for a Cause took place on August 23. It was good for Handmade. We sold a lot of tickets, which cost only \$5 each and Handmade received 100% of each ticket. We had a table on the main floor near Lancome at the Del Amo Macy's in Torrance. We told a lot of people about Handmade, distributed info, and even recruited a few people to join our scarf project. The photo below shows our team, all except **Ann Nye,** who was taking the photo.



September 1 marks the date we all have to renew our desire to have **Ralphs** grocery stores donate part of what we spend to Handmade. All you have to do is take your **Ralphs** card and your scan bar letter (your old one is OK) to a cashier at **Ralphs**. The cashier will scan them to register you as a Handmade supporter and link your **Ralphs** card to Handmade's contributions account. So every time you shop at **Ralphs** and show your **Ralphs** card (if you use your phone number instead of your actual **Ralphs** card, you have to show the scan bar letter every time) your purchases will earn a donation for Handmade. Individual registrations are valid from 9/1-8/31. That's the reason you have to re-register on September 1. So far, **Ralphs** has donated \$400 to Handmade. Please, please re-register so you can keep these donations coming to Handmade.

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. Once you indicate on **AmazonSmile** that Handmade is the charity to which you want them to donate part of what you spend, 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>. The only trick to getting the donation for Handmade is you 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.

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

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 \$\$\$\$, 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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