



## **MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER**

June 8, 2012

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### Today's topics:

- With the help of many volunteers, we delivered just under 1,000 comfort scarves in May, and June will be a big 'end of quarter' shipping day
- We now supply 60 shelters
- Shelters love our comfort scarves
- Baby blankets
- Individual donors contribute a lot
- Macy's **Shop for a Cause** coming right up
- Domestic violence issues in the news
- More patterns for light weight comfort scarves

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### And now for the details:

In May, we delivered almost 1,000 comfort scarves to shelters for abused women throughout CA. We couldn't have done this without the support and participation of all of you. Our kit makers—**Ann Nye, Cindy Blausey, Eileen Yacone, Lori Meepos, Michele Amira, Nancy English** and **Sharon McCann**--wound magic balls like mad. All of you knitters and crocheters turned these magic balls (and lots of your own yarn) into beautiful comfort scarves. Our dedicated wrappers—**Ann Nye, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Cindy Blausey, Evelyn Dow, Kathy Allen, Mary Barton, Nancy English, Nannette Brill, and Paula Weiner**—tied ribbons around all the scarves, packed them in shipping boxes, and out they went. It was a huge job, but lovingly done. Thank you all so much. We expect June to be an even bigger shipping event because it is the end of the quarter and we will ship to almost every shelter as a result.



If you wonder why I am sending a Newsletter in the middle of the month, here's the reason. We were so overwhelmed with requests for kits at the end of May that I was busy making kits instead of writing the newsletter. I wanted to get kits out to all the volunteers who wanted them because I am leaving on a very special trip with my Granddaughter Jasmine Jolly. Had to get all those loose ends tied up. So time for writing the May Newsletter slipped by and I see the end of June will be very, very hectic. When I return from my trip, there will be so much catching up to do, especially on kit making, I have time right now to do the Newsletter, so here it is.



The response from shelters to our May shipping was very moving. Here are a few snippets from the pile of appreciations notes Handmade receives from shelters.

**Heather Frizzell**, Women and Family Shelter Manager at the **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission**, writes: *We are so grateful for our recent delivery of scarves.*

**Linda Davies**, Executive Director of the **Domestic Violence Center of the Santa Clarita Valley**, says: *The women in our Center love and appreciate the wonderful scarves each and every time they receive them.*

**Richard Kravetz**, Executive Director of the **Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County**, tells us: *Thank you for your support. Your gift of 25 comfort scarves gives women and children a promise to fulfill a dream of a home and life without violence. . .*

**Molly Moen**, CEO of the **Downtown Women's Center**, writes: *Your thoughtful contribution is very much appreciated – you have made a difference in the lives of the growing number of women who depend on DWC for support. . .*

**Vivian Clecak**, CEO of **Human Options**, says: *Thank you for your gift of the gorgeous handmade scarves for our clients. Your gift makes a great difference in the lives of our families dealing with domestic violence.*

**Ben Schirmer**, Executive Director at **Rainbow Services**, explains: *I want to tell you how thankful I am for your donation. Your gift of 30 handmade comfort scarves makes a real difference in the lives of the families here at Rainbow.*

**Betina Monterrosa**, Outreach Office Manager for **Domestic Violence Solutions for North County**, writes: *We thank you for your ongoing support. Your scarves are great for our ladies. We appreciate every bit we get.*

**Jeanne Scovotti**, Shelter Director at **Women's Center – High Desert**, says: *Thank you for donating 10 more handmade comfort scarves. They are beautiful and our clients really enjoy them. Many women who flee domestic violence situations must leave their belongings behind, and your donation helps provide them with the comfort items they need.*

Appreciations such as these keep us going. We are thrilled that our work continues to be so meaningful for its recipients.



If you remember, in last month's Newsletter, I mentioned the shelters need baby blankets and other baby items. On average, every woman comes to a shelter with 2 ½ children. Often, the ½ is born at the shelter. Beautiful baby blankets are a wonderful way to welcome the new person into the world. Baby blankets are the equivalent of about 6 scarves. So as a result of mentioning the need to all of you, **Nancy English** and **Sue Applebaum** sent absolutely beautiful hand knitted and crocheted baby blankets. I have alerted the lucky shelters who will receive them that they are coming with our June comfort scarves. The directors are excited and very grateful to receive them. If you want to make baby blankets or if have some waiting around your house just for someone to give them to, please consider donating them to Handmade. We will find a home for every one you send.



For the past few weeks, donations from large yarn companies have fallen off, I hope only temporarily. **Westminster Fibers** sent of box of novelty yarn, which we very much appreciate.

Thank you, Cara Tulloch. But that was it. We certainly need more donations. We're like the "Hungry Caterpillar." We always need more. Without yarn, we cannot make scarves.

Luckily, lots of individuals have taken up the slack. And, we sent out an SOS for pink yarn to coordinate with the huge donation **Susan Druding** at **Crystal Palace Yarn** made in April. Between the request for yarn in general and the specific request for pink yarn, several of you came through for Handmade with generous donations. Thank you **Ann Brinson, Betty Watts, Chris Fung, Judith Solomon, Lana Kapchinsky, Linda Freige, Marsha Kelly, R. Beckles, Sharon McCann, and V. B. Carter**. Please keep those skeins coming. By the way, once we put out the word for pink yarn, it turned out we needed white yarn. Really, it doesn't matter what colors you send. We need them all.



Handmade's volunteers and participants are very generous, both with their time and their money, as you can see from the above list of individual yarn donors. Happily, we have a similar list of cash donors who answered my emergency request for \$\$\$ to defray the cost of shipping finished scarves to our expanded list of shelters. In addition to our regular monthly donors, **Annette and Alexander Maass**, our knitting couple from Germany, **Betty Watts**, and **Vicki and Warren Ringer, Bonnie Jacobs, Leila Jennings, and Tony Rosado** have made generous contributions. Thank you all so much. **Michelle Amos**, an **Avon** rep who offered to donate 20% of her sales of Avon items to Handmade participants, raised \$32 for Handmade. I think Michelle and I both hoped for more, but there were a lot of concerns within our circle about Avon's financial situation. Thanks for your willingness to donate 20%, Michelle. Every bit counts!

We have several other very important donors who never get mentioned because they're local. Our core knitting group that meets every week at **Concepts in Yarn** deserves appreciation. And so does **June Grossberg**, owner of **Concepts in Yarn**, who invited us to meet at her shop, and provides space for volunteers to pick up kits and drop off finished scarves. In addition there are those volunteers to whom we just send yarn and they send back finished comfort scarves. **Emma Buechs**, right here in PV, sometimes knits as many as 30 scarves per week. So does **Hannelie Uys**, in Torrance CA. **Joanne Garlick**, in Sunnyvale CA, crochets huge numbers of scarves. I send her boxes of color coordinated scraps and, just like magic, she turns them into beautiful comfort scarves. So does **Janet Deininger** in Bryant TX. And **Elizabeth O'Connell** in Lompoc CA. Thank you all! We depend on you. We're so glad you're dedicated to our cause.



Just this week **Macy's** contacted us asking if we would participate in **Shop for a Cause** on August 25. Of course, we will. The tickets are \$5 each, all of which goes to Handmade. Purchase of a ticket gives you a discount (up to 25% on some items) all day (on August 25) at **every Macy's**. In addition, the ticket makes you eligible for a drawing for a \$500 shopping spree. What's great about this opportunity is that Handmade keeps 100% of the \$5 cost of the ticket and you, no matter where you live, get to enjoy the benefit of the discount at Macy's. **Lori Jeskey**, our volunteer webmaster, is putting the flyer on our website: [www.handmadeespecially.org](http://www.handmadeespecially.org). Plus you can purchase your discount tickets directly from our website. Thank you, Lori, for setting this up. **Shop for a Cause** was very successful for Handmade last year. I hope it will be again in 2012.



Our affiliates continue doing well. At risk of being too repetitive, let me say:

- **Renee Hoffman** donated 20 comfort scarves to **Interval House** in Long Beach CA
- **Vicki Ringer** donated 20 comfort scarves to **Haven Hills** in Canoga Park CA
- **Barb Kochuba's** group, Comfort Scarves, has expanded its reach from Pittsburgh to all of Southwestern PA. Last month, I said her group covered Southeastern PA. Sorry for the error. She now serves nine shelters!



We have been working hard on developing lighter weight scarf patterns. Check out **Easy Lacy Scarf** (knit) and **Granny Flair Scarf** (crochet) on our website. Thanks to **Ann Nye** and **Lori Jeskey** for getting the patterns and photos posted. **Easy Lacy Scarf** is a purl pattern, but uses only 9 stitches on size 17 needles. It works up very quickly. **Granny Flair Scarf** uses less yarn than our regular magic ball kit. Usually crochet scarves use 50% more yarn than knit. So this pattern also benefits Handmade by using less of our assets.

Easy Lacy Scarf



Granny Flair Scarf



Domestic violence has been in the news a lot recently. The events that caught my eye indicate the position of abused women in our society. They are extremely underrepresented and easily ignored. Domestic violence often is viewed as just naughty boy's behavior, tolerated so long as there isn't "evidence," as in the case of the San Francisco police chief who abused his wife and thought he could keep his job if he just said "sorry." He ended up getting three years probation in a plea bargain. But the mayor of SF waited a long time before asking him to resign. Outrageous! I think a person in such a high position as police chief of a major US city should have to resign after engaging in violence against his wife! What kind of role model is it for other boys and men if he didn't?

On the national scene, Congress threatened not to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act because Democrats and Republicans couldn't agree over whom the bill covered and how it should be funded. Only the fear of being viewed anti-woman in an election year convinced enough Senate Republicans to vote for the reauthorization. Really. Helping battered women shouldn't be a partisan, or even a political, issue. I believe we should take a strong stand against violence toward women, no matter who they are, where they come from, and no matter how much it costs. And now, back to making comfort scarves!

Finally, as I have said many times, we should be crying that there is such demand for our comfort scarves, not cheering that we are making and delivering so many. I wish that statistics showed a lessening in the demand, but domestic violence is increasing. In Annette Kosker's thank you letter, she wrote: "Unfortunately, the need for our Domestic Violence Service increases every year," especially since one in four women are affected by it. Incredible statistic, isn't it. Yes, there is too much domestic violence and too few scarves, no matter how many we make. That doesn't mean our work is fruitless; it just means that every scarf we contribute is important, that we need to keep on making and distributing them.



I am thrilled with **Handmade**'s progress and success. After lots of winding, knitting, crocheting, wrapping and packing, we're right on path to make and distribute at least 15,000 scarves in 2012. We couldn't do all this without each and every one of you. You make it all possible. Thanks so much.

Please mail scarves, yarn, or checks to:

Handmade Especially for You  
c/o Leslye Borden  
30065 Grandpoint Lane  
Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275

Please use the **PayPal** link if you want to donate \$\$\$\$.

Thanks in advance.

*Leslye*

[www.handmadeespecially.org](http://www.handmadeespecially.org)

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