



Newsletters

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Today's topics:

- We distributed 9,000 comfort scarves so far this year; just 6,000 more to go to reach our goal of 15,000 by the end of the year. WE CAN DO IT!
- Our success is due to a huge team of volunteers
- Shelters are very grateful for our beautiful comfort scarves
- Yarn companies and individuals have donated generously to our cause
- Attending Vogue Knitting Live was good for Handmade
- Our affiliated groups are making and donating scarves
- Scarves are coming in from all over Los Angeles, California, the USA, and the world
- Looking ahead

And now for the details:

We distributed 1,000 comfort scarves again this month! That means all of you did a lot of kit making, knitting, crocheting, adding fringe, wrapping scarves, packing boxes, and shipping. There's a lot that goes into the making and distributing of our comfort scarves. It used to be that just a few dedicated participants did it all, but our network of participants is growing and running fast to keep up with the demand for scarves. Thanks to **June Grossberg's** support, we meet every Wednesday evening at her shop, **Concepts in Yarn**. Thanks to **Sheri Schrier's** generosity, our kit makers meet at least once a week, if not twice, at the **Happy Hats** warehouse. To process all the scarves, we have two wrapping parties each month. By way of comparison, the 1,000 scarves we shipped this month doubles the 500 we delivered in September, 2010. The 9,000 scarves we've delivered so far in 2011 almost equals the 10,000 we shipped during the entire year of 2010. In October, we will equal 2010's total. Wow. Thank you all who spend so much of your valuable time to make and distribute the scarves. You're the greatest!

You'd almost think that after so long a time

(**Handmade** began in October 2008) and after so many comfort scarves, that shelters might tire of them. But not at all. Shelters continue to appreciate, need, and want our scarves. In a handwritten note, **Gina Galindo** of the **Fred Jordan Missions**, expressed her desire for MORE scarves. "What a wonderful blessing it was to receive these scarves. We would love to have more." Rest assured, Gina, more will be on their way soon.

Tracy Halstead, Director of **Haven House**, a shelter supported by **Jewish Family Services**, indicated her thanks: "Thank you for your generous donation of 20 handmade scarves. Your commitment to help abused women and children in our community is sincerely appreciated."

Margaret Bayston, CEO/Executive Director of **Laura's House**, described the two-fold impact of comfort scarves: "Not only does **Laura's House** value your contribution, but (also) your community support which helps broaden awareness about domestic violence. . . "

Shannon Fors, Executive Director of **The Domestic Violence Center of the Santa Clarita Valley**, puts her thanks in the context of our

difficult economy. “The 25 comfort scarves will be greatly appreciated by the women in our center. In our current unstable economy, we rely heavily on private donations to support our cause. . . . We realize there are many charities that you may choose to support. Thank you for choosing ours.”

Ditto from **Heather Finlay**, Chief Executive Officer of **YWCA of San Diego County**. “We can’t thank you enough for your commitment to those we help. . . . We are especially grateful for your commitment to us during these challenging economic times.”

Ben Schirmer, Executive Director of **Rainbow Services**, the very first shelter to which we donated comfort scarves, wrote: “Your gift of 30 beautiful comfort scarves helps the women and children recovering from lives of trauma.”

Carol Adelkoff, CEO and Executive Director of **1736 Family Crisis Center**, the second shelter to which we gave comfort scarves, said it again: “Your gift of 30 handmade comfort scarves makes such a difference to those most in need. . . . Your thoughtful gift provides comfort to the women and children who are working hard to reach a better tomorrow, and your continued support is truly appreciated.”

We, of course, could not make so many scarves or such beautiful ones, without the generous support of yarn companies who agree with the value of our project. September began with my coming home one afternoon to find 4 huge cases of yarn on my front porch. They came from **Susan Druding** of **Crystal Palace Yarns**. Susan knows just what we like and sends us regular shipments. But this was outstanding—106 pounds of yarn! When I wrote a thank you letter to Susan, I mentioned we needed size 17 knitting needles. Wouldn’t you know it. Susan packed up another box with size 17 needles and filled up the empty space in the carton with more yarn. It was waiting for me one afternoon the next week when I returned home.

Coats & Clark and **Skacel Knitting** both sent three boxes of solid colored yarn, which we’re always running out of. **Knitting Fever**, **Lion Brand Yarn**, **Plymouth Yarn**, and **Trendsetter Yarns** each sent a big case of yarn. I can’t tell you all how much I love it when I come home to find a

box of yarn on my front porch. I feel like it is manna, dropping magically from the heavens, to fill **Handmade’s** insatiable hunger for yarn. Thank you, **Susan Druding**, **Teresa Johnson**, **Becky Moss**, **Sion Elalouf**, **Jack Blumenthal**, **Pattie Tereskun**, and **Barry Klein**. Please, keep that manna coming.

Karen Ing, a longtime supporter of **Handmade**, decided to whittle down her stash again. This time she found 350 skeins of yarn to donate. She must have some stash! **Jeff Stemler** gathered his deceased wife’s stash—3 cases and 2 huge trash bags worth-- and donated it to **Handmade**. He lives in San Diego and so does my son, Mitch. He gave the yarn to Mitch and then my husband and I used the opportunity of Mitch’s birthday to pick it up. What a treat! **Meredith Zelaya**, Founder of **Knits for Needs**, saw **Handmade’s** request for yarn on **Ravelry**. She sent a huge box of yarn. Manna—I’m not kidding.

I attended **Vogue Knitting Live’s** first event held in Los Angeles, at the Hyatt Regency in Century City. There were many classes and vendors. I took a class on **Yarn Substitution** because I wanted to learn how to adjust the amount of yarn we put into our kits when the weights of the yarns vary. I didn’t learn that, but the class was interesting. I learned a lot about many different varieties of yarns and confirmed some things I suspected about yarn, most notably that yarn manufacturers sometimes make a yarn look thicker by spinning a lot of air into the threads.

At **VKL**, I visited every vendor in the Marketplace where **Virginia Gibbs** of **Tootsie Yarns** was displaying her fancy yarns. I met her several times previously at **Concepts in Yarn**. It was nice to see her again, especially since she filled up a bag with novelty yarn and gave it to me on the spot!

There also I met **Steve Be**, owner of the **Yarn Garage** in Minneapolis MN. I told him we had a lot of volunteers in MN. He said he wanted to support **Handmade**, but didn’t want to ship yarn from MN to CA only for me to ship it back again. He offered instead to donate yarn directly to MN **Handmade** volunteers. I already have emailed them and they are very excited about this prospect. What a nice outcome. I made many other contacts

who said they would ship yarn once they returned home from the show.

Linda Friege, a dedicated local volunteer, has a sister in Philadelphia PA who had a lot of yarn to donate but, like Steve in MN, didn't want to pay the shipping to send it to CA. I told Linda that **Dr. Laura Guertin**, organizer of a **Handmade** affiliate in Philadelphia might like it. Linda gave her sister the info and Dr. Laura is thrilled with the donation.

That tells us that the Philly affiliate is doing well. And so are others. I ran into **Renee Hoffman** at **VKL**. She was with several members from her local Knitting Guild. They all contribute to her affiliate in Long Beach CA. In my yarn class at **VKL**, I met a woman who wants to join our San Fernando Valley CA affiliate, headed by **Vicki Ringer**. She and Vicki have already touched base. Vicki is going strong. She has all the scarves she needs through the end of this year wrapped and tagged! **Ann Miller**, in Pueblo CO continues to deliver scarves to her local YWCA. **Barb Kochuba's** group, **Comfort Scarves**, is growing. She now delivers 80 scarves each month to shelters in Pittsburgh and Southwestern PA.

Comfort scarves arrive every day from everywhere. **Marsha Parkhill** brought 185 scarves she collected from members of **All Crafts for Charity. ACFC** picks a charity each month and their members do the craft that charity specializes in. I was amazed when Marsha handed me the address labels she saved from the packages of scarves that came to her. **ACFC** has lots of members and the members come from at least as many places as **Handmade's** contributors do. Luckily, Marsha said I could write one big thank you letter and she would distribute it to the membership.

Bonnie Jacobs (from Burlington NJ) hand delivered scarves to me. You may remember Bonnie. Last year, she wrote a pattern for an indoor crocheted Frisbee for Handmade. And she taught her daughter's Girl Scout troop to knit so they could make comfort scarves. A multi-talented craftswoman, Bonnie was in LA to attend the dedication of a stained glass window she made for the Hollywood United Methodist Church (<http://www.bonniejdesign.com/creations.htm>). She knows how much **Handmade** needs comfort

scarves so she stuffed 7 into her suitcase and gave them to me when we met for brunch. We were happy to meet in person. And aren't her scarves beautiful! By the way, Bonnie is tall and I am short. In the photo, I am standing on the curb.



To donate scarves or yarn, please mail them to:

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

To donate \$\$\$\$, mail your check to the above address or make a donation through PayPal. You can access it here.

Leslye Borden, Founder
Handmade Especially for You

