



SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

July 28, 2013

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.
- Support Handmade by buying tickets for Macy's **Shop for a Cause**, August 24.
- A new horizontal scrap scarf

And now for the details:

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 have received many, many comfort scarves and we have been wrapping them and putting them in storage until we need them again in September. 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.

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, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, 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. **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 and **Karen Chan** punches 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 once a month 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, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Kathy Allen, Mary Barton, Nancy English, and Paula Weiner**, 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** 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 ball kits (knit or crochet) to dedicated volunteers throughout the country who want to make comfort scarves. We ship boxes of yarn to the really big scarfers, such as **Janet Deininger** and **Joanne Garlick**. Most contributors send scarves they made entirely from their own stash. 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:

Robin Sinclair, Executive Director at **Casa Youth Shelter**, writes: “We are honored to have your support. . . . We could not do what we do without generous supporters like you.”

Destani Hernandez, Women and Family Program Assistant at **Coachella Valley Rescue Mission**, tells us: “We want to . . . express our deep gratitude for your wonderful donation . . . of beautifully handmade scarves for the women and children in need. The joy and encouragement that you gave to the clients at our facility is priceless.”

Bonnie Campbell, Executive Director at **Domestic Violence Solutions** (Santa Barbara), explains: “Your gift of 25 comfort scarves gives women and children a promise to fulfill a dream of a home and life without violence, and an end to the intergenerational cycle of violence.”

Kathleen Harper, Chief Executive Officer at **DOVES** (Big Bear), tells us: “Your thoughtfulness and kindness . . . go a long way to brighten the lives of our clients.”

Lisa Watson, Chief Executive Officer at **Downtown Women’s Center**, writes: “You have made a difference in the lives of the growing number of women who depend on DWC for support.”

Sister Anne Kelley, Development Director at **Good Shepherd Shelter**, explains: “Scarves are so ‘in’ right now so (the families) LOVED the variety of colors and types of yarn. There was definitely something for everyone! . . . Know that you each have a VERY special place in our grateful hearts. ”

Teresa Trinidad, Program Manager at **Haven House** (Pasadena), tells us: “Your commitment to helping victims of domestic violence and their children . . . is greatly appreciated.”

Karen Earl, Chief Executive Officer at **Jenesse Center**, writes: “Our clients and their children all love the scarves. . . .Thank you for your support!”

Mario Galeano, Volunteer Program Supervisor at **Long Beach Rescue Mission** and **Lydia House**, explains: “The time and effort that are put into making the scarves are greatly appreciated by our residents. . . .Thank you for taking the time to create these beautiful handmade scarves.”

Liz Ward at **Morongo Basin Unity Home**, tells us: The ladies love the beautiful scarves you send us. . . . We appreciate your kindness.

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.”

Angelina Coe, Executive Director at **Shelter from the Storm**, explains: “Thank you to your wonderful group of ladies for 15 beautifully handmade comfort scarves. We appreciate your partnering with us to change lives one family at a time in the Coachella Valley.”

Jeanne Scovotti, Director at **Women’s Center – High Desert**, writes: “Your gift of comfort scarves . . . were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our clients who felt blessed by your thoughtfulness. We cannot always give each client an individualized gift so both your scarves and the gift itself are truly beautiful.”

Kathy Strong, Director of Contracts Administration at **WTLC**, expresses her appreciation: “Your kind donation . . . of 20 handmade comfort scarves . . . touched the hearts of all of us in the organization and will have a huge impact on our ability to help victims of domestic violence/human trafficking and their children. You have all helped us to save lives and we thank you for that.”

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. Almost more moving than all these letters from directors of shelters is an email I received from one of the scarf recipients herself. A resident at **House of Ruth**, the writer poignantly describes the impact of receiving one of our comfort scarves: “I have received the best help and support from beautiful women such as yourself. The support from other strong women has kept me going. . . Thank you for not judging and loving instead.”

Reading this and all the above letters keeps me motivated! I hope it has the same effect on you. Additionally, I truly agree with the importance of loving and not judging. At the beginning of Handmade, we discussed whether the scarves should be used to reward the women for good behavior or for passing courses or reaching milestones in their therapy. I argued, and I hope correctly, that our scarves should be given for no other reason than the woman was successful in escaping from her abusive environment.

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 **Terri Geck** at **Coats & Clark**, **Susan Druding** at **Crystal Palace Yarn**, **Sion Elalouf** at **Knitting Fever**, **Susan and Mark Moraca** at **Kollage Yarns**, and **Jack Blumenthal** at **Lion Brand**. 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 truism is really TRUE.

Individuals have been very generous as well. The list is long, but I want to recognize every contribution. Thanks for the yarn generosity of **Anne Bauman**, **Betty Nakawatase**, **Cheryl Ness**, **Cheryl Oberle**, **Judith Solomon**, **Lillian Spring**, **Mary Henderson**, **Nita Stonehocker**, and **Toni Fournier**. If I omitted anyone, please excuse me. I tried to include everyone!

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. 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**, and **Vicki and Warren Ringer**, provide a certain amount of \$\$\$ I know I can count on. They're the greatest! Due to **Barbara Stach's** participation in the **Manhattan Beach Property Owners Assn.**, Handmade just received a very generous, one-time donation that will take us through several months of shipping. The Assn. decided to close up its operations and Handmade is one of lucky beneficiaries of their selling off their assets. Traditionally, they have donated to many Manhattan Beach charities. Because Barbara is on their board and active in Handmade, she suggested Handmade for the final list. Thank you Barbara and thank you Manhattan Beach Property Owners!

Macy's Shop for a Cause will occur on August 24. We participated in this event last year and it was very good for Handmade. The discount tickets cost only \$5 each and you can use them at every **Macy's** throughout the country. The best part about buying/selling these tickets is that **Handmade** receives 100% of the purchase price of the ticket. The benefit to you when you buy a ticket is that you get 25% off your purchases at Macy's on August 24 as well as a chance to win a \$500 Macy's shopping spree.

You can buy a ticket on our website www.handmadeespecially.org using **PayPal**. Once your payment goes through, you can download the coupon. Or if you don't want to go to **Macy's** on the 25th, you can send me \$5, and I will enter your name in the drawing. You can even use the coupon for online shopping. Directions are on the coupon.

What would be even better for **Handmade** than your buying a \$5 ticket (but please do that!) is if you would share this event with your email contacts. If you need more info, a blurb, etc. I am glad to supply it. We need to broaden our base so that we are not asking the same generous participants to donate again and again. And this might be a way for us to recruit new scarfers.

Honestly, I understand that many of you do not shop at Macy's, or don't know what to do with more than one ticket. But I can't give up trying to urge you to buy more tickets. Here are some reasons you 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 the 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. Remember, the tickets are good at every Macy's throughout the US so you can mail them to friends and family everywhere.

As we make more and more kits, and as you make more and more scarves, we have more and more yarn scraps. I discussed this in a prior Newsletter and even provided suggestions for making vertical scarves from scraps. It turns out that making vertical scrap scarves is harder to do than I thought if we want to keep the edges even. So here's another idea. Make a horizontal

scrap scarf. They are really easy to create because all you have to do is use a different 7+-yard piece of yarn for 17 different rows. You can use up a lot of scraps this way. We suggest using the same yarn for casting on and binding off because this frames the scarf. Then knit one row using each of 17 other scraps. The outcome will delight you. You can pick the yarns randomly or put them in some order but really, the order of adding the different yarns doesn't matter. We've had a lot of fun making these scarves and I think you will too. The photos below show two different versions: one where I picked the colors and yarns totally randomly, and the other where I chose textures and weights of yarns in the same four colors. Play around with the yarns. Have fun putting your scarf together. The knitting is very fast because you turn the scarf at the end of a row only 18 times!



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 \$\$\$\$ 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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