



JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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Due to family needs (we have many birthdays in July), we did not ship comfort scarves in July, but we have more than 1,000 ready to go right now and will send them out at the end of August, just as soon as I return from celebrating our granddaughter's 14th birthday. So far this year, including what we will ship on the 23, we will have delivered over 7,000 comfort scarves to 60 shelters (not every shelter receives scarves every month). That means we have 8,000 more to go to reach our 2012 goal of **15,000 comfort scarves**. Sounds like a lot of work, but I feel very confident we are on the right track to meeting the goal.



Of course, we could not do all this without the hard work of many people. First and foremost, our kit makers—**Ann Nye, Eileen Yancone, Nancy English, and Sharon McCann** are doing the best they can to keep up with the huge and growing demand for our magic ball kits. **Judith Solomon** and **Shu Chi Liou** have come a few times are learning the ropes. If our team seems a bit scant, it's due to the fact that both **Cindy Blausey** and **Michelle Amira** have had bad accidents (Cindy was in an auto accident and Michelle had a bad fall) and are out of commission for quite some time. We wish them both speedy recoveries. We have plenty to do in kit making so if you want to volunteer, we're glad to have you. Starting in September, kit making will be on Tuesday and Friday. Let me know if you're available.

We had two wrapping parties in both July and August (once we come to the end of the month). That's the reason we have so many scarves ready to ship. Thanks to this dedicated group of volunteers – **Ann Nye, Chris Fung, Chris Needham, Guiliana Torelli, Jeanne Hanson, Kathy Allen, Mary Barton, Nancy English, Paula Weiner, Sharon McCann and Thu Alexander**. Not everyone makes it to both parties each month, but 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 our group every Wednesday evening. Some local scarfers (**Emma Buechs, Hannelee Uys, Maria Denzel, Su Wooley, and**

Wendy Baumring) make so many comfort scarves, we just give them yarn and they make their own 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 **Dawn Upperman, Janet Deininger, and Joanne Garlick**. Many 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 the shelters send us letters of thanks and appreciation. Following are samples from a few:

Robin Sinclair, the new Executive Director of **Casa Youth Shelter** in Los Alamitos, writes: “We are honored to have your support. We are grateful for your continuing kindness. With you support, we will continue providing Casa’s kids with basic needs.”

Judith R. Klein-Pritchard, Director, Legal Services, at **Center for Family Solutions**, in El Centro, tells us: “I want to thank you sooo much for the beautiful scarves. . . .most of our clients are victims of family violence. Any kind word or gesture is like a jewel to them. . . .their faces light up when they are offered one of the scarves (we let them choose). It brings a smile not only to their faces but to their hearts as well.”

Lisa Watson, CEO of **Downtown Women’s Center** in Los Angeles, expresses her appreciation: “The DWC would like to thank you for your donation of beautiful comfort scarves – we are grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity! . . . you have made a difference in the lives of the growing number of women who depend on DWC for support.”

Particularly moving was a card sent from the **Victor Valley Domestic Violence Center**. The women themselves made the card. They decorated the inside of the card with hearts. The women signed the hearts and added their own messages, such as: “Thank you so much for all the pretty scarves.” “We love them.” “God gave you a gift.” “Blessing hands and a warm heart.” “Thank you for dedicating your time and love. We truly appreciate.”

These notes just hint at the impact our scarves have on the women who receive them. Reading these letters keeps me motivated! I hope it has the same effect on you. We have a lot more scarves to make this year. We want to support abused women who have sought the protection of a shelter.



Needing 8,000 more scarves means we need to make a lot more kits. Needing to make more kits means we need lots more yarn. Luckily, yarn donations have been excellent since our SOS to all our very supportive yarn companies. **Susan Druding, Crystal Palace Yarns**, came through for us. So did **Tymon Warda**, at **Knitting Fever**. **Barry Klein** from **Trendsetter Yarns**, sent a huge box as did **Susan and Mark Moraca, Kollage Yarns**. **Coats & Clark** were very generous. They sent Handmade 4 boxes of yarn. **Sue Stuedle, Mango Moon**, sent a case of colorful yarn. **Andi Clark, Classic Elite Yarns**, supported Handmade as well with a box of lovely yarn. We need every contribution. 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 donated as well. **Cindy Allan’s** friend’s mother died. **Lois**, the mother, had a huge stash of yarn. Cindy suggested **Larry Clarkson**, the son, donate the yarn to Handmade. Lo and behold. Four cases of yarn showed up on my doorstep. I know this is complicated to follow, but this kind of experience is very important to Handmade’s success. Thank you, Larry, and especially Cindy, who I suspect packed and shipped all the boxes. **Annette** and **Alexander Maass**, our knitting couple from **Leutenbach, Germany** sent a box of pink yarn. They are so generous, both with yarn and \$\$\$\$. I thought they must own a yarn shop. But they don’t. They want to do everything they can to support **Handmade** because they like what we do. **Amy Powers** and **Linda Freige** also made significant individual yarn donations.

I am so moved by the outpouring of generosity from all our donors. **Handmade’s** participants are an incredible group! Even though lots and lots of yarn arrived in July, and lots and lots of yarn did arrive, it isn’t enough to make 8,000 more scarves this year. Please continue to donate. We will continue to appreciate.

Handmade has received generous cash donations that help us defray the \$500 month fee of 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. Ann Nye and Judy Eisenberg added to that. And **Cindy Vanisi**, a crocheter who works at Xerox, arranged for Xerox to make an astounding donation, the equivalent of two months shipping. Really, I thought it was clear sailing ahead until. . . .



For the past year, Sheri Schrier, founder of **Happy Hats for Kids**, has allowed us to use her warehouse rent free as a workshop and place to store our yarn. Starting in September, she has notified us that we will have to pay \$200 per month rent. Having to pay rent adds a dimension to Handmade’s day to day activities. Now we really have to face fund-raising. Up until now, our fund-raising has depended on word of mouth, begging in our Newsletters, etc. And we have had pretty good results. Now we must do better. We have to make a concerted effort to come up with \$200 per month for rent as well as \$500 per month for shipping. We have some offers for fund-raisers. We’re open to more.

Lynn Epton-Siler, a long time Handmade volunteer, is also a jewelry maker. She has designed a special group of earrings for Handmade and has offered to donate \$1 from the proceeds of every sale to Handmade. Every bit counts.

Gail Swan, another long time Handmade volunteer, is also a **Mary Kay Cosmetics** consultant. When a Handmade supporter makes a Mary Kay purchase from her, she is willing to donate 20% of the sale to Handmade.

Do either or both of these sound like plausible fund raisers to you? If so, let me know and I will work with Lynn and Gail to get them going. If not, do you have some other ideas?

While we figure out what fund-raisers to promote, we do have **Macy’s Shop for a Cause** coming right up. 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 25 as well as a chance to win a \$500 Macy's shopping spree.

You can buy a ticket right [here](#) on our website using **PayPal** and then download the coupon or you can send me \$5 and I will mail you a ticket. 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 donors over and over to donate. And we might recruit new scarfers this way as well.

Finally, an added benefit of buying a discount ticket to the **Macy's Shop for a Cause** event is that **June Grossberg**, owner of **Concepts in Yarn** and Handmade's sponsor since the minute we began, has offered to give all discount ticket holders a 25% discount at her store as well. If you're local, I suggest you start at Concepts, use your discount ticket there, then go on to Macy's, use your discount ticket there, and then, when you're done with it, enter the ticket into the drawing for the \$500 shopping spree.

In all honesty, I understand that many of you do not really shop at Macy's, or don't know what to do with more than one ticket. Here're some suggestions.

- ♥ Buy the ticket to support Handmade even if you know you won't use it at Macy's. Every \$5 donation counts. And your donation is tax deductible since Handmade is a 501(c)3.
- ♥ Buy tickets to give as tips instead of giving cash tips to people who serve you: your hairdresser, manicurist, etc.
- ♥ 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.



A few months ago, I mentioned that many shelters needed baby blankets. I learned that on average, every woman who comes to a shelter arrives with 2 ½ children. She and her children have nothing but the clothes they all were wearing when they fled their abusive environment. That means she has nothing with which to welcome the new baby into the world. Handmade's volunteers donated some baby blankets and other baby items. We distributed them to 10 shelters and received very moving thank you letters from those shelters. **Joanne David**, Director of Development at **Haven Hills** in Canoga Park, writes: "I wish you could have seen the faces of the women in our shelters and counseling clinic when they received the scarves and blankets you so generously donated. They were so fabulous!"

In like manner, **Carol Williams**, Executive Director of **Interval House** in Seal Beach, tells us: “thank you for your generous contribution of two baby blankets. Your encouragement for the work we do here at Interval House is appreciated more than words can adequately express. . . Your support literally saves lives. Lives that, with your help, will find peace, purpose, and a bright future.”

Laura’s House in Ladera Ranch, just requested 10 baby blankets. We have 2 on hand. They will take whatever we can send, of course, but if any of you have made baby blankets that ended up stored in a closet, Handmade would love to find a home for them. Thanks in advance.



Every once in a while, something happens at Handmade that is really exceptional. I want to share one of those events with you. It is a long story, so please be patient. In January, **Annie Alpers**, another volunteer with Handmade since its inception, called every shelter to which we donate comfort scarves to find out how many scarves they would need in 2012. One shelter, **Peace Over Violence**, said they really couldn’t use our scarves. They said they saw women immediately after they suffered rape or beating. They said what they needed was underwear—bras, and especially panties—because their clients came to them without underwear. Either their underwear had been ripped off or kept as evidence. Annie understood that we couldn’t supply these items, but was sympathetic to their need. She and I talked but felt their need was out of our ability to meet it.

Annie and I talked in the morning. That very afternoon, **Thelma Lager**, another Handmade volunteer since our beginning, called to ask me if I knew any shelter that needed panties. Really. What an amazing confluence of events. Thelma owns a PR company and one of her clients, **Love Fifi**, a panty maker, heard about Handmade and wondered if there was any way they could help. I immediately gave Thelma the info about **Peace Over Violence**. She has been in touch with them ever since, and only now the deal has gone through. **Love Fifi** donated their first batch of panties to **Peace Over Violence** on July 25. Shelters need so much. I’m glad Handmade can meet any of their needs.

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, baby blankets, 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 can contribute,

Leslye Borden, Founder
Handmade Especially for You
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