

The Grateful Thread

Visit our website at www.fromtheheartstitchers.org

Letter from Lois

Thanks to all of you for your awesome help! Such a wonderful response from you, helping with the great need for blankets! The squares are coming in, and not just squares but 12 inch squares! It's amazing how much more quickly a blanket can be constructed when the squares actually fit together. Thank you so much. It certainly appears we can finally feel a little more confident about spreading the blanket joy to all those organizations who have requested them.

And for an even more involved feeling of giving, maybe you might enjoy helping stitch squares together. We use sometimes 6 squares, sometimes 12, or maybe 15 or even more for each blanket. Normally we crochet a nice edging around the completed blanket to help pull together all the wonderful colors from the squares. Of course, the stitcher putting squares together is not expected to add this edging but if that is something you enjoy, by all means, we welcome your help!

If possible when making the squares, please leave a yard of yarn at the start and finish corners on the squares. This way we always have the proper color to attach it to the next square.

At the shop, squares are being packaged, ready for blanket construction. Stop by and pick up one or two batches along with the yarn of your choice. We would love your help!

Lois

Urgent Needs!

Our urgent need continues to be blankets along with hats. Please keep in mind that we need them for women, men and children so colors appropriate for all would be greatly appreciated. The cold of winter continues and the needs are great.

As always anything you want to make we can really use to help fill the bins in the shop and warm the hearts and bodies of those in need.

A.S.K. Assistance, Support, Kindness

“Making life better for children with cancer”

Remember two years ago when we stitched Christmas stockings for the ‘Christmas in June’ party held for critically ill children with cancer? And continued to create them for their regular December party for kids? We have been asked to help with this event for 2010 as well.

Each June this organization hosts a party for the children who probably won't survive to enjoy all the joy and gifts a normal December Christmas brings. To be certain they have the excitement and family experiences the holiday season usually holds, each year A.S.K. throws a “party to remember” for these precious youngsters. We can help make this a success. Our ‘job’ is to stitch stockings for the kids.

Difficult to believe but this summer's celebration will include about 50 children. Possibly we may also be able to offer dressed teddy bears to go with the stockings. They will also need close to 300 stockings for their December party. If you would like to help with this, check by the shop for yarn in Christmas colors and textures. It may be in the store room right now, but within the next few days we will have it out, front and center! Also you might want to take a look at the several pattern books containing great ideas for stockings. As I understand, these children range from little babies to almost grown teenagers so stockings of all sizes will be needed.

Stockings may be just the carry along project for your stitching time during weekend trips or even that Spring Break vacation. Why not see if you can fit in a little time here and there to give a hand with this very worthy project?

Stop by the Shop

When is the last time you sat, stitched and enjoyed the camaraderie at the shop?

Kathleen VanPasscchen is the March Scheduler. Contact her at 804/320-5279, 804/617-5364 or imfkvp@netzero.com to volunteer for a shift.

Shopkeeping Prize Award

The February winner is Mary Jo Lesniak.

Please contact the scheduler to get your name in for the March drawing. Shopkeeping is easy, fun and a great time visit with other stitchers.

Thank you, Mary Jo for all your help; we can't wait to see what you make with your new yarn.

Donation Inventory Numbers

Previous Total

Mid 2002 – 2009: 70,550

2010

Jan 1,611
Feb 1,222

Grand Total 73,383

2010 Fox School Project

Help will be needed beginning in late March, on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. We will again be helping 'Fox School's' first grade class learn to knit squares for From the Heart.

This will be a six week session. Carpooling can be arranged.

This will be the 3rd year we have participated in this project. It has been a very rewarding and fun project in the past, so don't miss out on this year's fun! To join in contact Gail Patrick at ragslan@aol.com or give her a call at 804-347-9747 or 804-598-2317.

Prayer Shawls Needed

From the Heart has been given a nice yarn donation and request for twelve prayer shawls measuring 24 inches wide by 60 inches long. These will be made using Lionbrand Homespun in muted colors. These are for Bethel Ministry. If you could possibly help us honor this request please stop by the shop and choose your yarn.

Hopewell Library Group Growing!

The excitement at the Appomattox Regional Library in Hopewell is spreading! Volunteers have traveled to the Hopewell area several times during February to work with the new "Southside From the Heart". The 2 evening gatherings consisted of about 25 stitchers, some new to our crafts and others with a few years of experience. The morning group count was over 30 members! Already these stitchers have contributed enough 12 X 12 squares to create two blankets to be donated in the Hopewell area. They are such quick learners! We look forward to upcoming hat making workshops with these eager stitchers and know they will be such a blessing to their community.

Stitching Hints & Tips

Do you have a favorite hint you would like to see posted in the newsletter? Please email your favorite stitching hint to pgreswolde@comcast.net so we can get it in the next newsletter.

Knitting

- When putting my knitting project away for the night I place a small slice of cork from the wine bottle over the ends of the needle to stop it from slipping off.
- If you have trouble remembering when to knit and when to switch to purl, especially when it is hard to see because of the new fluffy yarns, or which side is the right side, tie a different color yarn on one needle. I use this to mark my "purl needle", or the needle the right side ends up on!

Newsletter Suggestions?

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Do you have ideas on how we could improve the newsletter?

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the newsletter please send to lois@ftheart.net.

Donations

If you are interested in making a donation to help From the Heart aside from stitched items we can use any of the following items:

Office supplies such as:

- Postage stamps
- Staples
- Rubber bands of various sizes
- White cardstock paper
- Paper clips

Cleaning supplies

Paper towels

Toilet paper

We can always use yarn or cash donations. Remember the website is setup to accept secure monetary donations to make it very easy for you to make a donation.

Crochet

- I like to crochet with wood hooks as I used to be a very tight crocheter. Working with the wood is easier on my hands and because I'm scared of breaking them I don't hold them as tightly. This in turn makes my crocheted item looser than it used to be.
- Having trouble working that first row of crochet onto the chain stitches? Work your chain stitches with a hook just a smidge bigger; a half-millimeter or millimeter should do it. Then the first row is a breeze. This has saved me LOTS of frustration and missed stitches.

General Stitching Hints

- I put my patterns into sheet protectors, and then use dry-erase markers to cross things off as I go along. Also handy for making notes about the pattern.
- Measure your index finger - finger tip to first joint and in total. That way you will always have a ruler with you. Mine is 1" from tip to knuckle and 3" total.
- The simple washrag pattern makes an easy afghan by just increasing the stitches and using larger needles!

Recycling Ideas

What is your favorite item that you have recycled? Have you found a new use for an otherwise unused item? Please email your favorite hint to pgreswolde@comcast.net so we can get it in the next newsletter.

- A nice storage container for crochet hooks, markers, measuring tape, cable holders are empty disposable wipe containers. It's great storage for small crochet or knitting supplies when traveling.
- I love to crochet and to keep my steel crochet hooks together; I store them in a plastic toothbrush holder.
- The giant snack containers from Sam's Club or Costco are great for the giant 1 lb. skein of yarn or they also hold 4 regular size. I just punched 4 holes in the top of the plastic lid and put all of my tools inside along with the yarn. Then I pull my working end through the hole. The needles and project fit inside too when not in use.

From the Heart Newsletter

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 Episcopal Church of Our Savior 10-noon</p> <p>Harvest Glen Stitchers 2 - 4 pm</p> <p>Park @ Ridgedale 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>2 Panera Bread Breckenridge Shop Center 10 - noon</p> <p>Hopewell Library 6:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>3 The Virginian Retirement Center 2 - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>4 The Mall Group @ Chesterfield Towne Center (food court) 9-12</p> <p>Hopewell Library 6-8 pm</p> <p>Panera Bread Midlothian 6:30-8:00 pm</p>	<p>5 Starbucks - Huguenot 11 am 1:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Starbucks Oxbridge Square 10 - noon</p>
7	<p>8 Episcopal Church of Our Savior 10-noon</p> <p>Park @ Ridgedale 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Hopewell Library 10 - noon</p> <p>The Virginian Retirement Center 2 - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Chamberlayne Hts United Meth Church 1:30 - 3:00</p> <p>The Ladies of Gayton Terrace 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Starbucks - Huguenot 11 am 1:30 pm</p> <p>Kay's Krafters 2 - 6 pm</p>	<p>13 Atlee Library 10 - noon</p>
14 Fun Day 2-5 p.m.	<p>15 Episcopal Church of Our Savior 10-noon</p> <p>Harvest Glen Stitchers 2 - 4 pm</p> <p>Park @ Ridgedale 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>16 Panera Bread Breckenridge Shop Center 10 - noon</p> <p>Hopewell Library 10 - noon</p> <p>Tuckahoe Library 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17 The Virginian Retirement Center 2 - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>18 The Mall Group @ Chesterfield Towne Center (food court) 9-12</p> <p>Hopewell Library 6-8 pm</p> <p>Panera Bread Midlothian 6:30-8:00 pm</p>	<p>19 Starbucks - Huguenot 11 am 1:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Starbucks Oxbridge Square 10 - noon</p>
21	<p>22 Episcopal Church of Our Savior 10-noon</p> <p>Park @ Ridgedale 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Hopewell Library 10 - noon</p> <p>The Virginian Retirement Center 2 - 3 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Starbucks - Huguenot 11 am 1:30 pm</p> <p>Kay's Krafters 2 - 6 pm</p>	<p>27</p>
28 Fun Day 2-5 p.m.	<p>29 Episcopal Church of Our Savior 10-noon</p> <p>Park @ Ridgedale 2 - 4 pm</p>	<p>30 Summerhill Retirement 1:30 - 3:30 pm</p>	<p>31 The Virginian Retirement Center 2 - 3 p.m.</p>			

March 2010

Name	Address	City	Day of Month	Time of Day
Atlee Library	9161 Atlee Rd	Mechanicsville	Saturday 2nd	10 am-noon
Chamberlayne Hgts Methodist Church	6100 Chamberlayne Rd	Richmond	Thursday 2nd	1:30-3 pm
Colonial Heights Senior Center	157 Roanoke Avenue	Colonial Heights	Wednesday Every	10 am-noon
Episcopal Church of Our Saviour	4000 Stigall Drive	Richmond	Monday Every	10 am-noon
From the Heart	1114 Westbriar Drive	Henrico	Tuesday every	10 am-2 pm
From the Heart	1114 Westbriar Drive	Henrico	Wednesday every	10 am-2 pm
From the Heart	1114 Westbriar Drive	Henrico	Thursday every	10 am-2 pm
From the Heart	1114 Westbriar Drive	Henrico	Saturday every	10 am-2 pm
Harvest Glen Stitchers			Mondays 1st, 3rd	2-4 pm
Hopewell Library	209 E. Cawson Street	Hopewell		
Kay's Krafters	3105 Three Bridge Road	Powhatan	Friday 2nd, 4th	2-6 pm
Louisa Hardee's	881 Jeff Davis Hwy	Louisa	Saturday 2nd	10 am-noon
Panera Bread	12540 Jeff Davis Hwy	Chester	Tuesday 1st, 3rd	10 am-noon
Mall Group	Chesterfield Town Center	Midlothian	Thursday 1st, 3rd	9 am-noon
Panera Bread	11649 Midlothian Tnpk	Midlothian	Thursday 1st, 3rd	6:30-8:30 pm
Park at Ridgedale	5001 Ridgedale Pkwy	Richmond	Monday Every	2-4 pm
Starbucks	5001 Huguenot Rd	Richmond	Friday Every	11 am-1:30 pm
Starbucks	10009 Hull Street Rd	Richmond	Saturday 1st, 3rd	10 am-noon
Summerhill Retirement Center	3158 Lake Village Drive	Richmond	Tuesday Last	1:30-3:30pm
The Virginian Retirement Center	300 Twinridge Lane	Richmond	Wednesday Every	2-3 pm
Tuckahoe Library	1700 Parham Rd	Henrico	Tuesday 3rd	6:30-8:30 pm