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From the Heart's Grateful Thread

November 2013

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Letter from Lois

We hope you enjoyed our October Stitch-A-Long. It doesn't have to stop there! Our help is needed not only by the kids in Caroline County but other children through Children Incorporated and Friends of the Homeless.

I spent the better part of a morning going through stacks and stacks of my stitching magazines, my 12+ year collection, looking for more sweater/jacket patterns that would work for kids and young adults, which could easily and quickly be made to add to our stitch-a-long collection for the cold, needy school children.

I did find a few patterns. Some are made in one piece, others require seam stitching (an opportunity to learn this procedure?). If you enjoy sweater making, one in particular I found might be a great knit pattern for you. It covers child sizes 2 - 12, is knitted from the top down ... no seams! This pattern with a sample worked in blue and red are available at our shop. Or just maybe you already have a favorite pattern you could use and possibly share with us. And if you happen to have one in crochet you could share please let us know.

For those of you with a short attention span like me, maybe a nice soft vest that will fit easily under outer garments would also be appreciated.

Whether you are stitching for the children, making blankets or blanket squares or working on your gifts for family holiday giving, stay busy!! It helps make the cold weather months pass more quickly ... at last count there are only 139 days until spring!!!!

See you at the shop!

Lois

Current Needs

We currently need solid colored scarves to put with hats. As always, please make whatever you enjoy as we can use anything you make.

Fredericksburg / King George Area Current Needs

We currently need baby blankets, blankets of any size, shrugs and shawls, chemo hats, hats and scarves for children and adults. As always, please make whatever you enjoy as we can use anything you make.

UPDATED... Cozy Kids Coat in Garter Stitch

This is a very simple to make, warm child's jacket made with large needles and bulky yarn. You will need about 800 yards of yarn and size 13 or 15 needles.

For the purpose of keeping disadvantaged or homeless children warm wool or wool blends are best but not required. Gauge is not important. Use whatever bulky yarn you have or consider using two strands of worsted held together on size 13 or 15 needles. This is a great way to use up lots of your stash leftovers. Carrying along 2 at a time, adding the next selection whenever one selection runs out, you'll get lots of great colors using this method.

This coat is worked entirely in garter stitch, knitting every row. Throughout the entire project, ***The first stitch of every row is slipped as a purl stitch with yarn held in front of work.*** Once this stitch is slipped on to right hand needle the working yarn is moved to the back, ready for knitting the row. ***The very last stitch of every row is knitted through the back loop.*** This method of working the first and last stitches creates perfect edge stitches, making the picking up of next sections very simple. Body is knit from buttonhole edge to button edge, all in one piece. The two fronts and the back are knitted from stitches picked up along top edges of body. Sleeves are worked from stitches picked up along side edge stitches of fronts and backs.

The only seams required are those along top edges of sleeves and shoulders. Collar may be added if desired.

Cast on 29 stitches. ***Beginning with that slipped stitch as described above,*** knit every stitch of every row. Always end each row by ***knitting through the back loop of the last stitch.***

Working in this manner, work this body part of your jacket for 100 ridges.

Button holes: Next row, slip first stitch as on other rows, knit 2 stitches then knit 2 together. Yarn over, knit another 7 stitches, knit 2 together, yarn over, knit to last stitch of row, knit 1 through the back loop.

Next row of buttonhole: work next row, knitting thru back loop of yarn overs. Work 2 more rows (this creates one more ridge for a total of 102 ridges) Bind off all stitches.

Right Front Panel:

With right side facing, buttonholes toward top edge, pick up 28 stitches along upper right edge of long lower panel through back of slipped edge stitches to begin right front panel. Work 21 ridges, ending with wrong side row.

Back:

With right side facing, beginning in same stitch as last picked up stitch for right front, pick up 50 stitches along upper edge of long lower panel through back of slipped edge stitches to begin back panel. Work 21 ridges, ending with wrong side row.

Left Front Panel:

With right side facing, beginning in same stitch as last picked up stitch for back, pick up 28 stitches along upper left edge of long lower panel through back of slipped stitches to begin left front panel. Work 21 ridges, ending with wrong side row.

Sleeves:

With outside facing, open out right front panel and back panel. Pick up and knit 22 stitches through back of slipped stitches down the right front edge, place a marker to indicate center, pick up and knit 22 stitches working along back panel edge. Total: 44 stitches. Knit 6 ridges.

Sleeve Decreases:

Row 1: Work to within 3 stitches of center marker, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over knit stitch (PSSO) and off end of needle. Knit 1, slip marker, knit 1, knit 2 together, knit to end of row.

Rows 2, 3, 4: Knit

Repeat these 4 rows until only 24 stitches remain.

Cuff:

With smaller needles, continue sleeve to desired length. With wrong side facing bind off all stitches.

Finish:

Beginning at right cuff, sew slipped stitches together up sleeve, sew back to front at shoulder, leaving approximately 13 stitches for neck opening. Attach buttons.

Rainbow Peaks Leftover Blanket

Adapted by Pam Greswolde & Sally Moore

Worsted weight yarn
K hook (for the gauge shown here)

Gauge - each group of [5 DC, ch 1 (2 DC, ch 2, 2DC) ch1] measures approx. 3.5 inches

Finished width of blanket approx. 34 "

Notes:

To increase width add 8 chains to the beginning chain

To decrease width subtract 8 chains from beginning chain

Any size hook or yarn can be used however it will change the gauge.

Chain 79



1st row

DC in 4th ch from hook and next 3 st (ch 3 counts as a DC), * skip next st, in next ch (2 DC, ch 2, 2 DC), skip next chain and DC in next 5 st. Repeat from * to the end of the row, chain 3 and turn.

2nd row

Ch 3 counts as 1st dc, dc in next 4 DC of previous row, * skip next 2 st, in next ch 2 space (2 DC, ch 2, 2 DC), skip next 2 st, DC in next 5 stitches.

3rd row (and all additional rows)

Repeat row 2 until blanket is desired length.

Stop by the Shop

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

Tricia Ennis is the November scheduler. Contact her at ennis1000@verizon.net or 804-683-9015.

The winner for the October shopkeeper prize will be listed next month.

Please Share

As a courtesy to others, please limit the amount of yarn you as an individual take from the shop each visit. As completed projects are returned more yarn may be chosen. Please remember, both the yarn taken out and the projects brought in should be legibly logged on your individual shop card found in the wooden box on the front desk.

'Group representatives are excluded from this request to individuals but are still required to list their in and out items on their log sheets'.

Donation Inventory Numbers

Previous Total

Mid 2002 - 2012 150,977

2013

Jan - Sept 16,665

October 2,775

Year to date total 19,440

Grand Total 170,41