

"From the Heart"

Volunteers are angels in disguise.



From the Heart's

September 2013

Grateful Thread

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Letter from Lois

September - the beginning of cooler weather, beautiful leaf color, school buses, football, harvest moon, pumpkins, *pumpkin-spice coffee!*
It's all coming, ready or not!

With the drop in temperatures and kids out early on school mornings comes the need for those cozy, warm hat and scarf sets we collect each year. Last year we donated over 3,500 sets to school children in 5 or 6 counties and the City of Richmond. We covered heads and ears from kindergarten sizes up to the adult sizes needed to fit high school students. We've had this program in place for 4 or 5 years and each year the number needed has grown. Sometimes the needs of our community are almost overwhelming but, together, we can handle it!

Along these same lines, our friends at the McGuire Veterans Home host a holiday party each year for veterans who are homeless or near homeless and each year we have been able to lend a hand by offering hats and scarves for the occasion. In the early

stages of this program we provided 75 or 100 sets. This project has grown to hundreds needed as well!

We certainly have the proper yarn for these projects this year, thanks to a large donation of wool and wool blended yarns we received during the summer. You can see this supply waiting for you at our shop. I'm hoping to have it organized, labeled and ready when you next come in. Remember we do have a late Fall deadline on this project so come early and come often!

And please, let's not forget the continuing need for warm, *soft*, chemo hats in little child sizes through adult sizes. And remember the guys...they enjoy a little warmth as much as the ladies enjoy it.

So sad, all the people who are sick or in need of our assistance. But...so wonderful that we are able to come through for them! The yarn continues to come in to the shop. Our members continue to create these wonderful projects. Our distribution team continues to organize and prepare our offerings for pick up or deliver. And have you heard? **SINCE OUR BEGINNING BACK IN 2001 WE HAVE STITCHED AND DELIVERED ALMOST 164,000 ITEMS! THAT'S BIG!!!**

It all works like a "well oiled machine" as they say. Without you we couldn't exist. Without you our community might not feel the warmth and love we continue to send their way. Come to the shop for supplies and patterns. Come often - and - **BRING A FRIEND!!**

See you at the shop!

Lois

Current Needs

We currently need baby hats, lap robes, Suzy bags and baby blankets. We need both premie blankets - 24 x 24 inches and the regular size baby blankets. As always, please make whatever you enjoy as we can use anything you make.

Fredericksburg / King George Area Current Needs

We currently need baby items - newborn through toddler, no preemies currently needed (blankets, hats, layettes) . We also need blankets of all sizes, shrugs, shawls, chemo hats and hats and scarves for children and adults. We are servicing many more groups this year so the requests will be greater. As always, please make whatever you enjoy as we can use anything you make.

Schedulers Urgently Needed

VOLUNTEERS GREATLY NEEDED TO HELP WITH SHOPKEEPING SCHEDULING.

From the Heart currently has 4 ladies working on the shopkeeping scheduling. These ladies coordinate shopkeeping hours with our wonderful shopkeepers. With YOUR help, this would allow the scheduling rotation to be spread out more. It is NOT a difficult job, but it must be done. Won't you give it a try?!? Contact any one of the current schedulers for more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity with From the Heart.

Gail Patrick ragslan@aol.com
Tricia Ennis ennis1000@verizon.net
Eleanor Cannon e-cannon@msn.com
Ann Robbins aerobbins@live.com

One Stitch at a Time Retreat

Well, it's over but what a great time it was. We had more people and, hopefully, more fun than ever before at our Retreat on August 24th. We learned how to knit with beads, how to crochet the Crocodile Stitch, how to beautifully and flawlessly seam squares together and how to embellish inexpensive gloves so that they look like they cost a small fortune. We played Bingo and guessed how many needles were in a spaghetti jar. We bought chocolate and jam, notecards and jewelry, soaps and yarns, crochet hooks and so much more. We had tea (or coffee) and cake. We had lunch - boy, did we have lunch ☺ We won prizes that anybody would envy and we raffled for squirrels, gnomes, many legged creatures and fairies. We all wanted to walk away with a table decoration and some of us did. We had our very own Fashion Show and we all received a calendar and a CD to take away to remember it by and to actually make what we saw modeled. We even learned how to relieve our stress by rubbing our ears and pretending our hands were geese, stick insects and bears. We left well fed, well entertained, relaxed, having started on our Holiday shopping, more knowledgeable than we had been and greatly looking forward to next year.



From the Heart Goes High-Tech

Many, many thanks to our own Beth Carter who volunteered at the Retreat to create a Facebook page for From the Heart and completed it by the next day. We will be putting quite a few items on as time goes on so that Facebook From the Heart members can share photos, tip, patterns, etc. What a boon this should be to us. To see what we currently have, click on

<https://www.facebook.com/FromtheHeartStitchers>

and please 'like' us. You can then post comments, links, etc. and be in FB touch with other members.

We are also online at www.fromtheheartstitchers.org and we have a functioning blog at <http://fromtheheartstitchers.org/Blog/>. You have to register to use the blog but, once you do so, you can ask a question about any knitting or crochet matter you want. We try to answer as quickly as possible. Join us as we move forward into the technological world and try to make our group as accessible as possible to our members.

Don't forget that you can always reach a Board Member through our emails, which are posted at the shop. Mine is ennis1000@verizon.net.

Tricia
Board President

Holiday Season is Coming...

And From the Heart can help if you are stuck looking for a gift for that special somebody that already has everything. We have some items at the shop that are unusual and, in the case of a From the Heart member, would be definitely special. We still have some copies of our last year's (2012) Pink Retreat book and also have the Red Book from a couple of years ago. The pink one is primarily patterns although it does contain a handy-dandy chart with information about yarn gauges and has a built in ruler on the back cover. The Red Book also has some patterns but covers a fair amount of information about the history of From the Heart. These items are available for a suggested donation of \$10 each.

We also have a limited number (25) of this year's Retreat item which is a calendar with photos of the items designed and modeled by our members for the Fashion Show Extravaganza and includes a CD with all the patterns for these items. The beauty of the CD is that you can mail it to yourself and access it on your Nook, I-pad, tablet, or email so you are never without a pattern. We are also suggesting a \$10 donation for this.

Finally, we have From the Heart tote bags which have our logo on one side and would be perfect for any form of shopping or for keeping your current project in. The

suggested donation for the bag is \$2. These are the bags that were used to hold some of the door prizes at the Retreat this year.

Check these out when you are at the shop next time - you might be glad you did.



The Third Annual "Let's Stitch" Charitable Event Saturday, October 12, 2013

The Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers Guild will once again give area knitters and crocheters a chance to ply their craft at "LET'S STITCH," held at LibertyTown Arts Workshop, 916 Liberty Street, from 10-4PM. Guild members, in conjunction with From the Heart of Richmond, will host this charitable event as a way to do what they love while serving those in need in the community.

From the Heart needs volunteers to mingle in the stitching rooms to meet people and help us let people know what From the Heart is all about. If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer please contact Pam Greswolde pegreswolde@comcast.net.

Donation Inventory Numbers

<u>Previous Total</u>	
Mid 2002 - 2012	150,977
<u>2013</u>	
Jan - July	12,690
August	<u>1,568</u>
	14,258
Grand Total	165,235

Stop by the Shop

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

Eleanor Cannon is the September scheduler. Contact her at e-cannon@msn.com or 804-282-0440 or 804-514-1168.

Congratulations to Fran Topper who is the winner for the August shopkeeper prize. Fran, there will be a nice bag of yarn at the shop for you to pick up for a special project.