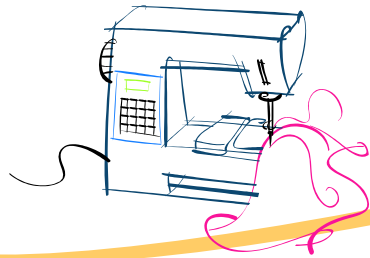


Just Sew You Know



Stitches of Love Newsletter

September 2016
Volume 11, Issue 1

New Clothing, New Beginnings Distribution 2016

Congratulations on a very successful distribution 2016!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped with 2016's distribution and helped to make our 46,101 items.! It was OUTSTANDING!!! If you came, thank you! If you made anything, thank you!

We had 3,284 smiles during distribution and then as an added bonus, we were able to make an additional 1,216 kids happy by using their size information supplied by their school to fill a shopping bag of school items and clothes/accessories from Stitches of Love. Both Back to School and Stitches of Love really wanted to have as many items as possible given to kids who need the items. So instead of storing the items, we made a one-time decision to provide items to the kids who had signed up but did not make it distribution. Isaac School District was not able to attend this year so we pulled a variety of gender and sizes so their 150 kids would receive our items at a special distribution to be held after school starts. 4,650 kids received items from Stitches of Love.

We also made kids happy with Judy's House (foster group home-465) and Family Promise (family shelter-536) and OCJ Kids (332). 1,333 kids received an outfit plus hats, scarves, purses and pillowcases. That makes a total 5,983 kids received items from Stitches of Love! Awesome job!

Judy's House will share clothing with other group homes in the West Valley area and OCJ Kids is having a clothing drive in August for foster children returning to school. We will continue to work with Judy's House and Family Promise throughout the year to provide emergency clothing as needed.

We were also able to provide 841 hats to Glendale Homeless Ministries, 137 hats to Banner Thunderbird Hospital chemo unit and 70 hats and 10 pillowcases to Catholic Charities in Prescott. A total of 1,058 items were donated to some very special places.

THANK YOU!!!!

We hope you enjoy the photos throughout the newsletter!

**Save the Date!!!! Next year's New Clothing-New Beginnings
Distribution will start on July 17 , 2017!**

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Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Many thanks to BHHS Legacy Foundation for our annual appreciation luncheon. The 2017 Annual Luncheon date and specifics are in the works! Please watch your email and RSVP.

SEWING EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

Many thanks to 35th Ave Sew and Vac for continuing to offer their location on Northern for our monthly events. They spotlighted purses for us this year and we were able to make sure all our girls received a purse! They also accept completed items and donated fabric.

35th Ave. Sew and Vac at 3548 W. Northern – 4th Sunday of each month from 10:00 – 3:00, focus: open sew, crocheting, knitting...bring your machine, yarn, para cord, etc.

We are ‘sew thankful’ for other locations hosting events and making items for the children we serve!

Rancho Reata at 9828 E. Pueblo Ave., Mesa – dates to be announced – focus: pillowcases, hair accessories and zipper pulls.

Bernina Connection at 4219 E. Indian School Rd, Suite 103, dates to be announced focus is dresses

We hope you are able to stop in and participate in one of the sewing/craft events and share in the fun!

The Beautitudes



35th Ave Sew and Vac



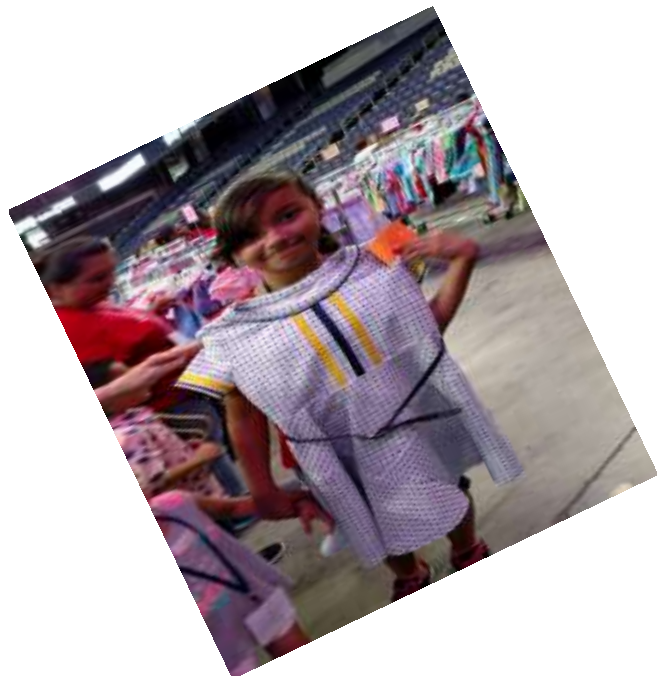
Yarn it Forward



2016 DISTRIBUTION - WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY...

This year we had our volunteers complete a survey after their shifts and guess what the favorite color is for girls?? Yep, pink and purple. For boys, they like blue and green. Red and black was a popular color for both. Brown is still a thumbs down for both.

The surveys indicated some girls liked the long skirts/dresses and other girls did not. Some like tops/skirts put together, others did not. This tells us we need to continue to make a variety of items in order to meet the needs and desires of our kids. One little girl said our items were not handcrafted but professional! The girls loved picking out a purse.



DID YOU KNOW????

You can use the Albertson's Back to School key tag when you shop and Back to School Clothing Drive will receive a donation of your purchases. The key tags are available to pick up at the next Open House.

When making a purchase on Amazon.com, select Back to School Clothing Drive in the Amazon Smiles program and we will receive a donation from your purchases.

Select Back to School Clothing Drive thru your Fry's Grocery Stores reward cards program.

If you participate in your employers United Way Campaign, check to see if you can to donate to Back to School Clothing Drive and select Stitches of Love to receive your one time or ongoing donation.

Check out where you work to see if you can apply for a grant for us. If you need help, please contact Sandy Whitver at 602-339-8746 or email us at stitchesoflove@btscd.com



RECOGNITION!!!

THANK YOU To the following groups who have made it possible for Stitches of Love to serve the thousands of children each year. Some of these groups have supported us financially; others have sewn and crafted items for the children.

BHHS Legacy Foundation

Skyline Stake

Wells Fargo

Beatitudes

Ripper Quilting Club

Church of Joy

Fountain Hills 4 Peaks Women's Group

Bank of America Unsecured Collections

35th Ave and Northern Fabric World

Hooked on Yarn Crochet/Yarn Group

Rancho Reata

Sun Dial Crafter

Beatitudes Campus nominated the Back to School sewers and knitters for Arizona statewide Volunteer of the Year award, from their professional organization, LeadingAge Arizona, and they won this coveted award back in June! LeadingAge made a video with both the sewers and the knitters (Leading Age Award Videos 2015). The group received the award at a special recognition dinner, and Estelle Bernstein, 101 years young, accepted the award on behalf of the group. It was an evening of many great memories, and such a source of pride for our residents who work throughout the year.

If you have received any recognition, please be sure to let us know so we can add your accomplishments to our newsletter next year.

HAPPY FACES AT 2016 DISTRIBUTION!!!



DISTRIBUTION RECAP AND 'JUST SEW YOU KNOW' GUIDELINES FOR SEWING AND CRAFTING...

Stitches of Love attempts to have enough inventory to provide each child with one outfit and six accessories. For boys, an outfit will be two shirts – shirts may be handmade by Stitches of Love seamstresses or purchased t-shirts. For girls an outfit may be a dress or a top and skirt. Our coordinator seeks to have sufficient patterns available at the Center that are currently in style and suited for school age girls.

We received incredibly positive responses from the children we served. As a result of feedback from the children, here are our guidelines for 2017 Distribution:

Accessories and Clothing for Boys

- **Beanie** – Please follow these guidelines:
 - 1. Use washable 4-ply worsted-weight yarn (**NO WOOL**)
 - 2. Use colors appropriate for boys NO BROWN (sports team, red, blue, green, green camo, yellow, orange)
 - 3. Always put a stripe (or more than one, if you choose) somewhere in the beanie. (Solid-colored beanies promote gang activity). Think that stripes are a pain? No worries, Cindy will be leading clinics at Open House to show you how easy putting a stripe in a hat can be.
 - 4. Another option is to use variegated yarn. With variegated yarn, you do not need to put in stripes. Be sure the variegated yarn is in boy appropriate colors. If you are using the Knifty Knitter, use 2 contrasting solids and you will have a great look!
 - 5. If using the Knifty Knitter, use the loom with 36 pegs: if crocheting use I, J, or K hook. Please do not use the smaller knitting loom. Our kid's heads are just too big for that size hat.
 - 6. Fleece beanies are also acceptable, kits will be available.
 - 7. Test fit your hat to make sure it is big enough and stretchy.
- **Wallets** – If you are interested in making wallets, please get with Sandy
- **Zipper pull/key rings** – sport beads are very popular.
- **Bookmarks** – Use plastic canvas for bookworm design or scrap book materials with card stock. (**Please do not use craft foam**). We have easy patterns on the website, flat head snake and crocheted snake.
- **Pillow Case** – Please use prints that will appeal to boys of various ages. Instructions can be found on BTSCD website under programs look for Stitches of Love and patterns for the standard size pillow case with contrasting borders. Fabric does not need to be washed prior to sewing. Please iron pillow cases if they are badly wrinkled.
- **Para Cord Bracelets** – We have groups that will be making these with the SOL supplies. If you wish to purchase your own supplies, please purchase boys colors. Instructions can be found on youtube.com for the Cobra bracelet or there are instructions on the BTSCD website under SOL patterns.
- **Button-down dress shirt w/pocket** – Please make these in sizes 5/6 to 8/10, boy's colors/prints and they love to find a car, truck, etc. in the pocket! We do need a small amount of size 4, 12, 14 and 16. If you want to make this size, please check with Sandy so we don't have too many.

Accessories and Clothing for Girls:

- **Knitted or Crocheted Skinny Scarf – Please follow these guidelines:**
 - 1. Please see yarn at Open House...Eyelash, Fun Fur. Use soft yarns that are bright and colorful. They can be made with solid or variegated yarns.
 - 2. Scarves should be 3 to 4 inches wide. The lengths can vary from 32 inches to no longer than 40 inches to fit girls of different ages/heights.
- **Beaded bracelets** – Please make sure to use **stretch** cording and secure knot! Use decorative beads for a fancy look. Please make sure ends are securely tied.
- **Purses** – They can be knitted, crocheted or sewn. The older girls like non-embellished items and all requested cross body bags. Please make sure they are in colors and styles the girls will enjoy.
- **Hair accessories:** Headbands decorated with yarn, ribbon, small crocheted flowers, silk flower on a hairclip, ribbons, etc. We are no longer making scrunchies, but you can certainly make one to match your outfit.
- **Bookmarks** – Look for some great styles at Open House or scrap book materials with card stock. **(Please do not use craft foam).**
- **Beanie** – Please follow these guidelines:
 - 1. Use washable 4-ply worsted-weight yarn **(NO WOOL)**
 - 2. Use colors appropriate for girls **NO BROWN** or **PINK CAMO**, (they just didn't like it!) The girls **LOVED** the hats and especially requested pink, purple, and turquoise. They loved bright and happy colors! Please consider hair and big ponytails when making your hats. Larger sizes are the best!
 - 3. Always put a stripe (or more than one, if you choose) somewhere in the beanie. (Solid-colored beanies promote gang activity) or attach flower(s). Think that stripes are a pain? No worries, Cindy will be leading clinics at Open House to show you how easy putting a stripe in a hat can be.
 - 4. Another option is to use variegated yarn. With variegated yarn, you do not need to put in stripes. Be sure the variegated yarn is in girl appropriate colors.
 - 5. If using the Knifty Knitter, use the loom with 36 pegs: if crocheting use I, J, or K hook. Please do not use the smaller knitting loom. Our kid's heads are just too big for that size hat.
 - 6. Fleece beanies are also acceptable, kits will be available.
 - 7. Test fit your hat to make sure it is big enough and stretchy.
- **Clothes** – Please use modern, age appropriate for size colors/prints and patterns that are hip, modern and up to date with today's fashion. **Please use fabric and patterns provided at our sewing center.** We will have a special team to help us make sure we have great items for the older girls. If you would like to be part of this special team, please let Sandy Whitver know. Girls of all ages loved dresses! Please continue to focus your energy on dresses. We had lots of requests this year for blue in addition to our normal girly colors.
 - When you turn in Girls' clothing items, measure the **FINISHED** waist and length to determine size. Do not go by the cut length of elastic or fabric!!!
 - We are working on having standard measurement guidelines for 2017.

We will not accept handmade shorts, skorts, capris or pants. These items will be purchased.

Please make sure you have checked all sewn garments to make sure straight pins have been removed.

MORE HAPPY FACES WITH OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Quilt Raffle Winner was Andrea Chavez from Bank of America.
Thank you to Kay Rapp for this beautiful quilt!



Helping Others

So many of us help others besides making items for our kids! We are also going to be helping others. At every Open House we will be collecting items for Family Promise and Judy's House. Family Promise is a family shelter where they assist the family getting back on their feet by providing housing, enrichment classes and job training. Judy's House is a home with 5 boys between the ages of 5-10. The house manager will forward our items to other group home in need.

June Gregory and Viola Yoder make dresses for Dress a Girl Around the World

June also makes personal hygiene items for girls in under developed countries

Georgia Romij makes Christmas Stockings for St. Vincent DePaul

Kay Rapp makes quilts for homeless Vets at Mana House

Sue Hulton (and team) knit, crochet and sew for newborns at Phoenix Indian Medical Center

Ferne Zabezensky makes quilts for Helen's Hope Chest who serve foster kids in Arizona

Patty Albers crochets hats and scarves for the homeless, hats for the premie babies at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center and hats and blankets at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center.

I am sure many of you are also helping others and we appreciate all that you do!!

SEW GRATEFUL and ADDITIONAL THANKS...

Again this year, we had enough of every item we make for the boys and girls and we were able to accomplish this because of all each of you do!!! Plus we were able to help kids at Judy's House and Family Promise. It takes a village of good people and we have them!!!

Gloria and Sandy for hosting open houses, 35th Ave. & Northern and all the behind the scenes tasks they do!

Again this year Dave H. our wallet tailor made the majority of our wallets!

Steve Whitver (Sandy's husband) cut and sealed all of the Para Cord material to the proper length so no material is wasted!

Bank of America Unsecured Collections and Pam Baxter for making the majority of the Para Cord bracelets!

Walter and Kay Rapp then cut and sealed the ends of the Para Cord bracelets after they were made!

Diane Reynolds for purchasing hundreds of cars to put in the pockets of the boy's button down shirts!

Kathy McCarthy for purchasing the majority of our store items for the girls. This was a great compliment to our handcrafted clothes.

Jane Cox for working tirelessly to use coupons and discounts and purchase all our wonderful fabric

June Gregory and her crew for cutting the fabric and having our Sewing Center ready to go for Open House

Cindy Adams for showing us how to improve our knitting and crocheting skills. As she says-ask her a question and try to stump her. If she doesn't know, she will find out!

Loretta and Chris Wilhelm for supplying and coaching the Sun City Sundial Crafters

Connie Sanders for supply and coaching the volunteers in the Apache Junction-Mesa area

Patty Albers and Chris Wilhelm (and whoever else they wrangle) to accept your items at Open House and oversee the raffle and door prize drawings

Mary Cotterman for tracking all our inventory, 46,101 items last year!

Mary Jo Kruse and Connie Chelgren for hosting the sewing events at The Beatitudes and Bernina Connection

A very special thanks to Karl Gentles , Joanne Grady, Robert Smith and John Baca for all they do for Back to School Clothing Drive