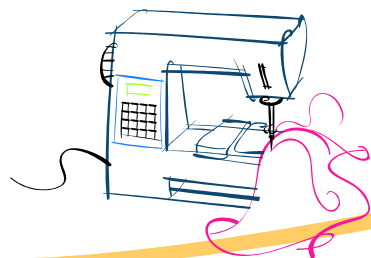


Just Sew You Know



Stitches of Love Newsletter

September 2017
Volume 12, Issue 1

New Clothes, New Beginnings Distribution 2017

Congratulations on a very successful distribution 2017!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped with 2017's distribution and helped to make our 38,139 items! It was OUTSTANDING!!! Many thanks to all of you who helped out with the kids or made items for the kids!

We had 3,291 smiles during distribution and then as an added bonus, we had two more distributions in August. At Childrens First Academy, 263 kids received items; then Arizona Helping Hands arranged for 248 foster kids to come and receive items. We then went to Sequoia Charter School and 540 more kids received items from us. A total of 4,342 kids received items from Stitches of Love. It was a lot of work but totally worth it for all the smiles! Many thanks to all who helped out at the additional distributions.

We also made kids happy with Judy's House (foster group home-80 pieces of clothing, 2 boxes each of hats and purses) and Family Promise (family shelter-263 pieces of clothing and 2 boxes each of hats and purses). We are so happy to be helping more kids in need! Judy's House will share clothing with other group homes in the West Valley area. 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 2 boxes of boy and girl hats, 2 boxes of pillowcases and 2 boxes of skinny scarves to Phoenix Rescue Mission.
THANK YOU!!!!

We hope you enjoy the photos throughout the newsletter!

Save the Date!!!! Next year's New Clothes-New Beginnings Distribution will start on July 23, 2018!

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Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Many thanks to BHHS Legacy Foundation for our annual appreciation luncheon and for their check for \$30,000.00.

The 2018 Annual Luncheon date is scheduled for January 13 at the Beatitudes Campus! They have awesome restaurants and a large meeting room. Please watch your email and RSVP.

SEWING EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

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, etc.

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

Beatitudes Campus at 1610 W. Glendale, 2nd Wednesday from 9:00-4:00 open sewing, focus: dresses. Please call Norma Buckwald at 602-361-0068

Thursday Terrors sewing group at our BTSCD sewing center. Last year we were called Third Thursday Terrors (TTT) where we met the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:30-2:30. This year we will be meeting the first and third Thursday of the month at the same time, so I guess we will be called Thursday Terrors. Please stop by and join us!

Yarn it Forward at our BTSCD office the Monday after Open House 10:00-2:00. Stop by to learn something new with Cindy or just chat and play with yarn.

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

The Beatitudes



35th Ave Sew and Vac



Yarn it Forward



2017 DISTRIBUTION - WHAT THE CHILDREN SAY...

Again 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 thumb 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 asked if our items came from Goodwill; we explained that we bought the fabric and yarn and made the items. She asked again if we got everything from Goodwill. She could not believe that we bought our supplies brand new and made the items. One little boy said this was the best day of his life!



Girls love the knit dresses!!

DID YOU KNOW????

You can still 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. You can not use the tag at Safeway.

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 and we will receive a quarterly donation.

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.



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. Many thanks to 35th Ave Sew and Vac for continuing to offer their location on Northern for our monthly sewing event. They spotlighted pillowcases for us this year and we learned many new serger techniques. They also accept completed items and donated fabric.

BHHS Legacy Foundation

Wells Fargo

Beatitudes Sewing Group (2,879 items)

Joyful Hand (612 items)

Project Linus

Connie Sanders and AJ crafters (5,313 items and 1,260 size tags)

Bank of America Unsecured Collections (most of the survival bracelets)

Fountain Hills 4 Peaks Women's Group

35th Ave and Northern Fabric World

Hooked on Yarn Crochet/Yarn Group (1,663 items)

Sun Dial Crafters (3,988 items)

Raverly Group Sharing our Gifts (132 items)

Sharon Wheeler received \$2,500 to benefit Stitches of Love from her employer Swift Transportation.

Perla Gordo received the Volunteer of the Year Award from her employer Wells Fargo Bank and \$5,000 to benefit Stitches of Love. Shirley Halsey received \$500 from her Telephone Retirement group to benefit Stitches of Love. Many thanks to all of you for these monetary donations.

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 2017 DISTRIBUTION!!!



SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



MASCOTS WHO VISITED WITH THE KIDS



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, purchased/donate graphic t-shirts or purchased t-shirts. For girls, an outfit may be a dress or a top and skirt. Our coordinator seeks to have sufficient patterns and fabric available at the Center that are currently in style and suited for school age girls. Please remember to snip all threads and all seams must be finished by either using a serger or a tight zigzag stitch. We want our items to be as professional as possible.

We received incredibly positive responses from the children we served. As a result of feedback from the children, here are our guidelines for next 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 colors, red, blue, green, green camo, yellow, orange are always popular.
 - 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.
 - 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, especially soccer.
- **Bookmarks** – Use plastic canvas for bookworm design or scrap book materials with card stock and then laminated. (**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, Stitches of Love Blog (upper right), click on Pattern and you can see all our patterns. Fabric does not need to be washed prior to sewing but please iron pillow cases if they are badly wrinkled. **Seams must be finished by either using a serger or a tight zigzag stitch. We want our items to be as professional as possible.**
- **Para Cord Bracelets** – We have groups that will be making these with the Stitches of Love 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 can be found on BTSCD website, Stitches of Love Blog (upper right), click on Pattern and you can see all our 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 attach to your outfit.
- **Bookmarks** -- Look for some great styles at Open House or scrap book materials with card stock and then laminate. **(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! Messy bun hats are popular
 - 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. Hello Kitty and Disney fabric should NOT be made in sizes 10 and up. Also do not use calico fabric. **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. No more than 3 fabric styles in the panel skirts. **All seams must be finished by either using a serger or a tight zigzag stitch. We want our clothing to be as professional as possible.**
 - 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 sizes on the pattern, Please use our standard measurement guide.

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

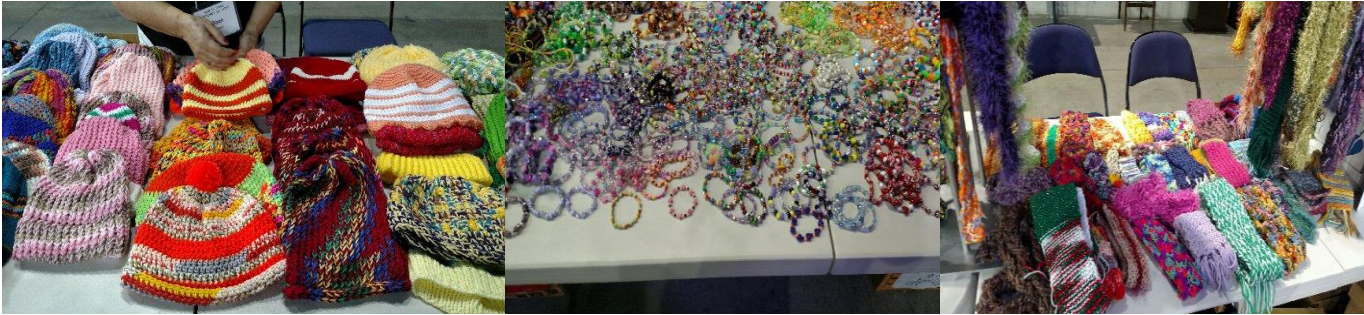
Please make sure you have checked all sewn garments to make sure straight pins have been removed and your garment is finished.

WHAT WE MAKE AND OUR GREAT LOOKING AREA!!!



WE HAD ONLY 2 SHIRTS LEFT OUT OF 700!

JOAN MADE AWESOME HATS!!!



Quilt Raffle Winner was Mary Thomson from BHHS Legacy.
Thank you to Joyce Williams 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 OCJ Kids-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. We have a collection box for personal hygiene items, washcloths and towels and paper products (toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex). They accept new and gently used clothing, however please call and confirm with them prior to going to their offices. We do not collect these items at the BTSCD office.

Judy's House is a home with 5 boys between the ages of 5-10. Their biggest need is socks and underwear as they strive to give every child their own package of new socks and underwear. The house manager will forward other sizes to other group homes in need. We will have a collection box for these items.

OCJ Kids requested large (4 ft x 4 ft) Santa Bags for their annual Christmas party. They purchased the fabric and helped us make 71 bags. The group homes will use the bags to take home their cherished gifts. Beatitudes Campus donated Christmas fabric and about 12 more bags were created!

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!!!

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

This year Walt Rapp took over the task of wallets and made the majority of our wallets!

Steve Whitver cut and sealed all of the Para Cord to the proper length so no cording is wasted!

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

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

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

Kathy McCarthy purchased the majority of our store items for the girls. This was a great compliment to our handcrafted clothes. Thank you to all who purchased and donated clothing.

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

Thanks to the awesome Work Day Crew for cutting the fabric and having our Sewing Center ready to go for Open House

Cindy Adams showed us how to improve our knitting and crocheting skills at our Yard it Forward event. As she says-ask her a question and try to stump her. If she doesn't know, she will find out! She also did an awesome job spreading the word on Ravelry.

Loretta and Chris Wilhelm supplied and coached the Sun City Sundial Crafters

Connie Sanders supplied and coached the volunteers in the Apache Junction-Mesa area

Thanks to 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

Thank you to Mary Cotterman for tracking our inventory, 38,139 items last year!

Mary Jo Kruse and Norma Buckwald hosted the sewing events at The Beatitudes and Bernina Connection

A very special thanks to Karl Gentles, Joanne Grady, Robert Smith and John and Lydia Baca for all they do for Back to School Clothing Drive. Colt and Dominick were also awesome help at distribution!

A HUGE thanks to the Running Stitches committee for all the support they give me throughout the year.