Increase Comfort, Improved Care With Volunteer Crafts:
Program Administration
Bonnie Hagerman
Founder & President
Care Wear Volunteers, Inc.

Professor Emerita
Department of Home Economics
Hood College
1990

The Beginning

A SEASON OF LOVE, A SEASON OF JOY, A Reason For Sharing

Here's the perfect opportunity to share a little bit of yourself and your talents with babies in need of extra-special care.

By Carole Shelley Yates

When you knit, crochet, or sew, you have transformed a neonatal intensive care unit in Akron, Ohio, from a sterile atmosphere into a rainbow world of babies wearing tiny smoking caps and booties in colors that contrast the hospital’s colors and life itself. This volunteer project at Children’s Hospital Medical Center started nine years ago and now provides much-needed garments each month for pre-1,000-gross-term babies born at Akron Children’s Hospital.

If you’re looking for a Christmas craft project, or perhaps one that extends year-round, you can volunteer to knit or crochet tiny caps and booties, or sew small kimonos, to protect premature infants in children’s hospitals across the country. Children’s hospitals welcome all of these garments, says Susan Hales, public relations person for the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions. Even in a hospital’s controlled environment, the tiny babies still need caps and booties for warmth. These babies, however, are too small for newborn-size clothes and too small for newborn-size clothes.
1991

Children’s National Medical Center contact
1991-1997

Publicity & Recruiting

-- *The Frederick News Post* (150)
-- *The Washington Post* (300)
-- *Family Circle Magazine* (3000)
-- *Sew News Magazine*
-- *TV News Broadcasts*

-- Crafting for Charity books, articles, TV coverage, websites, etc.
1997

The “Birth” on an Organization!

Incorporation & 501(c)(3) status
--Recognition as a nonprofit organization
--Donations to support printing, postage, etc.
2011

Time to Grow an Organization

Retirement
• New website
• Newly revised pattern book
• New office location
Newly Renovated Historic District Office

2015
Participants
NICU to Geriatric Patients Served
Full-Term, Toddler, Child, and Adult Sizes
Booties & Mittens
Kimonos
Quilts & Blankets
Burial Garments & Sacques
Walker Caddies & Totes
Shawls & Chemo Hats
Toys
Medical-Surgical Dolls
Cough, Heart, & Neck Pillows & Positioning “Snakes”
Sweaters, Mittens, Scarves
Burp Cloths & Bibs
Adult Clothing Protectors
Etc........
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

I. Requesting Donated Items
   a. Written Wish List
   b. Written Guidelines for Donations

II. Acknowledging Receipt of Donated Items

III. Examination of ALL Donated Items

IV. Delivery to Appropriate Departments

V. Communication with Departments

VI. Liability Issues

VII. Cleaning, Storage, Disposal

VIII. Theft Prevention
Hospital Wish List  (Handout #1A)

• List in writing

• VERY SPECIFIC list of what’s needed:
  What size(s)?
  What color(s)?
  What style(s)?
  What fiber content(s)?
  Other specifications?

• Available patterns to make what’s needed
Donation Guidelines  (Handout #1B)

• Guide donors to avoid discards/problems
• Spell out your standards
• Cautions:
  Ex: smoking, pets, sachet/fragrances
  Ex: only NEW filler in quilts, toys, etc.
Delivery Instructions (Handout #1B)

• Provide exact mailing address
• Use department name or position title in the mailing address (not staff names)
• Provide office hours for deliveries and directions to your office
• Instruct donors to include a name & address in the packages so you know the source
• Provide the name of a contact person who will answer questions
GUIDELINES FOR CRAFTS AND/OR GIFTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO FREDERICK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL PATIENTS AS TRAY FAVORS

Because of the delicate condition in which we find hospital patients, we are directed by the FMH Administration to the following guidelines in preparing/purchasing materials that will eventually be distributed to the patients. Approximately 185 are needed.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- Felt, fabrics
- Construction paper
- Plastic/silk flowers
- Non-toxic crepe paper
- Ribbon/yarn
- Small plastic/paper cups
- Poster board
- Popsicle type sticks (new)
- Pictures
- Clothespins
- Stickers
- Straws
- Cotton balls
- Pom poms
- Wallpaper samples

RESTRICTED MATERIALS

- Food/candy (many patients have dietary restrictions)
- Soaps/or other perfumed items
- Pins of any kind
- Glitter
- Sequins, buttons or beads (are okay if sewn on)
- Glass
- Sharp items such as toothpicks
- Artificial fruit or berries

Please consider: Could a child or elderly patient remove any part of the favor and stick in ears, nose, etc.; mistake the item for something edible; injure him/herself with any sharp edges?

Favors are distributed on the meal trays; therefore, we are limited to approximately 3 1/2 inches in height for standing items. Please let me know in advance for which month or holiday you are providing.

Tray favors may be dropped off at the hospital’s Volunteer Office or Information Desk.
St. Jude Suggested Patient Gift List

Unfortunately, we cannot distribute or use any of the following items:
- Stuffed Animals
- Food
- Toy Guns
- Candy
- Cloth Body Dolls
- Balloons
- Porcelain Dolls
- VHS Movies
- Soap Bubble Mixtures
- Used items of any kind
- Ride On Toys

Per Doctor's Orders:
To maximize the effectiveness of patient treatment and reduce chances of infection or serious allergic reactions, Handmade/Fabric items should be sealed in a Ziploc bag prior to shipping. This includes:
- Do-Rags
- Bandana Head Covering
- Quilts
- Tote Bags
- Bibs and Burp Pads

School Age
- Action Figures (Spiderman, Hulk, Batman, Transformers, Superman)
- Lego Kits/Bionicles/Clips
- Hello Kitty/Polly Pocket
- Strawberry Shortcake (small dolls)
- Carebeans (not stuffed)
- Barbies/Barbie Sets
- Smurfs
- Fisher Price Dollhouse Furniture
- Matchbox Cars (individual and large packs)
- Hotwheels
- Snap-Tite No Glue Models (only)
- Arts, Crafts (small kits)

School & Art Craft Supplies
- Playdough (no accessory kits)
- Activity Kits/Prepackaged Crafts
- Coloring Books
- Crayola Washable Markers/Crayons
- Construction Paper
- Fuzzy Posters (small size especially)
- Foam Sticker Sets
- Stickers
- Small Dry Erase Board & Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Model Magic by Playdough
- Small Bead Kits
- Board Books

Misc. Items
- International Pre-paid phone cards
- Disposable Cameras
- Crossword, Word Find and Sudoku Books

Mature Items
- I Spy Books
- Picture Books (English/Spanish)
- Audio Books
- PSP Handheld Game Consoles
- PSP Games
- Nintendo DS Consoles
- Nintendo DS Games
- MP3 Players
- CD Players/CDs/CDs all genres
- iPod/Accessories
- Headphones/Headsets
- Web Cams
- iPod Docking Stations
- Wii Games
- Kindle
- Xbox Games
- Portable DVD Player
- PS 3 Games
- Digital Cameras
- New Release DVD's (rated G, PG or PG13)
- Television Series Season DVD's

Board Games and Travel Games
- Apples to Apples
- Sequence
- Trouble
- Guess Who
- Taboo
- Pictionary
- Monopoly
- Catch 22
- Battleship
- Connect Four
- Guess Who
- Jenga
- Uno
- Scrabble
- Sorry
- Perfection
- Skip-Bo
- Playing Cards
- Checkers
- Fishing Game

Leapster Items
- Remote Control Cars
- Magravoodles

School Age
- Strollers
- Bouncy Seats
- Pack n' Play
- Portable Baby Swings
- Nappy Kits (no cloth)
- Fisher Price/Playskool Toys
- Musical Activity Centers (All Plastic Parts)
- Duplo Blocks
- Play Phone
- Baby Born/Lovely to Cuddle Baby Dolls
- Play Dishes and Play Food
- Wooden and Plastic Puzzles (only)
- Fisher Price/Playskool Items
- Fisher Price Little People (figures)
- Sponge Bob/Bob the Builder
- Thomas the Train/Handy Manny Playsets
- Tonka Chuck Trucks and Cars
- Dora the Explorer
- Shape Sorter Toys

Interactive Books
- V-Tech Interactive Toys
- Leapster Items
- Mr./Mrs. Potato Head (small size)
- Bionicles (small and medium sizes)
- Sesame Street Items

School Age
- Action Figures (Spiderman, Hulk, Batman, Transformers, Superman)
- Lego Kits/Bionicles/Clips
- Hello Kitty/Polly Pocket
- Strawberry Shortcake (small dolls)
- Carebeans (not stuffed)
- Barbies/Barbie Sets
- Smurfs
- Fisher Price Dollhouse Furniture
- Matchbox Cars (individual and large packs)
- Hotwheels
- Snap-Tite No Glue Models (only)
- Arts, Crafts (small kits)

View Master

Questions:
Call Donor Services at 1-800-822-6344 or for information about the hospital please visit www.stjude.org.

From all the families at St. Jude's Research Hospital: Thank you for your kindness, concern and generosity.
Acknowledge Donations (Handout #2A)

• Delivery arrived safely
• Thanks for time, skills, and caring
• Share details on what’s most needed
• Offer supplies? Postage?
• Receipt?
RECEIPT FOR DONATION

Date: __________________________

From: __________________________

Address: ________________________

Items

Received: ________________________

Value: To be determined by donor

With sincere thanks,

Signed: __________________________
       Bonnie K. Hagerman
       Founder & President

Care Wear Volunteers, Inc.
102 Mercer Court #23-5
Frederick, MD 21701-4070

EIN # 52-2137470  501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
Examination of All That Arrives  
(Handout #3)

• Evaluation of **cleanliness** (musty odors? soil/stains? used items? cigarette odor? cat/dog hair? fragrances?)

• Examine for **safety** issues (straight pins? decorative additions that could be swallowed or put in ears/nose? sharp/pointed/rough objects? etc…)

• Evaluation of **suitability** (size, colors, fabrics, construction, items requested)
Delivery to Departments

- Checking on quantities on hand before delivery?
- Someone must transport items where needed
- Keeping items clean during transport
Communication with Departments

• What quantities are needed?
• Who will store excess?
• Changing needs?
• Satisfaction with deliveries?
• Additional needs?
• Preferences to communicate to donors?
Liability Issues

• Hospital approval for all donated items
• Elimination of items because of liability concerns
• Injury due to a donated item
• Health consequences due to a donated item
• Safety concerns
Cleaning, Storage, Disposal

- Access to washing machines?
- Feast or Famine: Storage for extras?
- Storage WHERE?
  - Plastic bins for clean storage?
- Exchange with other hospitals?
- Disposal in thrift shops? Goodwill? Trash?
Theft Prevention

• Unfortunately, it happens!
• How to instill a respect for donations for patient care?
Revised 2014
Pattern & Information Book

- PDF—download/print
- Knit Patterns
- Crochet Patterns
- Sewing Patterns
- Photo with most patterns

Found on  www.carewear.org
Care Wear Volunteers Website
www.carewear.org

- Information
- Measurements
- Hospital List (add your hospital?)
- Patterns
- Quarterly Newsletters with Patterns
  (communicate thanks in a newsletter or request items via a newsletter?)
Exhibit Hall display tables for Care Wear Volunteers

• See additional samples
• Ask questions
• Samples available to take back to your hospital in last hour