



Knitting For Angels Newsletter

JANUARY 30, 2006

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Countries We Touch

- Afghanistan
- Belarus
- China
- Columbia
- Guatemala
- Romania
- Russia
- Ukraine
- USA

Total Shipped

2004 & Prior-	193
<u>2005</u>	<u>657</u>
Total	850

Our Members

Total 114

In MA, ME, NH, NY, NJ,
KS, & FL

Quote Of Note:

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need"

Kahlil Gibran

Happy New Year! Let's Get Organized!

I hope you all had a healthy and happy holiday season. As many of you know, I fell at the beginning of December and was laid up all month with 2 broken ribs. A note of thanks for the help and kind words I received as I struggled through the holidays and the busiest shipping month for KFA!! We are off and running (well maybe not running!) with lots planned for the new year. I Hope you enjoy the new newsletter format. Please let me know you thoughts or questions and any helpful input you may have. I would love to hear from you. I try to answer calls and emails as quickly as possible but I always fear there is someone out there still waiting for a returned call a delivery of yarn or a promised pattern. Please do not hesitate to call me back if I have inadvertently forgot to get back to you! It is my New Years resolution to get better organized. The website will be open soon!

Susan Caccivio

2005 Recap

2005 was our best year yet! We grew from 48 to 114 members in 5 states! We sent over 657 items to needy children. We welcomed 5 new partners who help to distribute our donations throughout the world. In 2005, we sent warm woolies to Eastern Europe, mountains of warm blankets, hats, sweaters, and mittens to The Home for Wanderers and The Italian Home for Children in Boston. 60+ Hats and Mittens collected by The North Shore Children's Museum, which were distributed, to local DSS and HAWC programs. We sent lightweight blankies and baby caps to children in warmer climates such as Guatemala, Columbia, and Guangdong Province in China.

These enormous strides were only possible with the support of members who so generously donated valuable time as well as those who were able to make financial contributions. We grew our yarn supply thanks to the generosity of so many that cleaned out their stash and donated to our cause. We were able to make money to cover expenses for the first time thanks to many supporters with two fundraisers we held.

What's New for 2006

Due to our tremendous growth, we will be introducing new Regional Chapters. Marblehead MA will be the first Regional Chapter for KFA!! We will have a Regional Coordinator for drop off and distribution of yarn etc. We are currently looking for a volunteer for this new role... you don't have to knit or crochet to help! I thank our Treasurer, Rhonda Steele in Marblehead (781-631-7485) for doing this thus far. My mother-in-law (and original founding member of KFA) Gloria Caccivio (978-927-4403) has volunteered to be the Regional Coordinator for Beverly area. We will also be looking to have Regional Boxing Parties and get together as well!

KFA Alliances and

Partners;

- *New England Medical Center Hospital, Boston, International Adoption Clinic*
- *Chernobyl Children Project, U.S.A, Dedham, MA*
- *China Adoption with Love, Inc. Brookline, MA*
- *Wide Horizons For Children, Waltham, MA*
- *The Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, MA*
- *Italian Home For Children, Jamaica Plain, MA*
- *Romanian Children's Relief, Southborough, MA*
- *International Rescue Committee, Boston, MA*
- *Individual families traveling to foreign countries for adoption*

New Partners & Alliances

We welcome our new partner; International Relief Committee, in Boston. Since 1979, the International Rescue Committee in Boston has welcomed 13,000 refugees and asylees from over 40 countries around the world, and assisted them with their transition to living and working in Boston. KFA will be helping the IRC North Star Program helping Somali Bantu women refugees. Specifically, we will be providing "baby bags" filled with our knitted treasures for these women (many reside in Lynn) as they give birth within our community! We are thrilled to be able to work with this worldwide organization.

Shipments and Deadlines

Coming off our biggest shipment month ever in December (206 items!) we do not have any definitive trip dates. Here's what's up and coming:

Partner	Date	Where	What	Specifics
IRC	Ongoing	USA-Lynn	Newborn	Warm Sweaters, caps, bonnets, booties, mittens, blankies
NEMCH	2/06	Russia	Newborn – 3 yr	Warm Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Blankies, sweaters
CAWLI	2/06	China	1Yr-5yr	Lightweight caps, blankies, Sweaters
RCR	3/06	Romania	Older Children 5-17	Warm Hats, Scarves, Mittens, sweaters
Chernobyl	3/06	Eastern Europe	Newborn-15	Warm Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Blankies, sweaters

Common Questions

Q: What is a Boxing Party?

A: A "Boxing Party" is the term we use for a social gathering usually held at my home in Nahant scheduled when we have a substantial amount to collect for upcoming shipments. This is a great opportunity to come and meet fellow crafters and supporters, admire each other's handy work and share patterns. Despite its name there is no physical effort involved and you don't have to have made something to come! We welcome all our members and supporters! We will be scheduling other social get-togethers in our new Regional Chapters.

Q: What should I make? What patterns should I use?

A: Members can contribute in two ways: Make something as specified in the "shipment and Deadlines" section of this newsletter or make what you enjoy making and we will find a home for it! We do not have specified patterns that you should use. We are trying to get a pattern library together. We find most of the patterns on the internet. I encourage seasoned crafters to share their favorite patterns. The key is KEEP IT SIMPLE!!!

Q: What if I don't know how to knit or Crochet?

A: Not a creative bone in your body? Consider offering your expertise; website design and up-keep, office assistance in mailing etc, creative ideas for our newsletter, brochure, etc. There are many ways to help, the simplest.. just keep us in mind and pass the word!

The KFA Mailbag

Robyn Carter, Network Director The Home for Little Wanderers, Boston

"The families of both the Boston Early Intervention Program and the Parents' Center at Saltonstall House will benefit greatly from the wonderful knitted goodies...I would love to stay in touch with you and hope that you will keep The Home for Little Wanderers in mind in the future. Please tell your "angels" that they do amazing work that will certainly be appreciated by The Home's littlest ones this winter. Happy Holidays!"

Emily Studebaker, Program Director; Saltonstall House The Home For Wanderers

"Thank you to all we knitted the beautiful blankets, hats and mittens. Our infants and toddlers will keep warm this winter in these lovely items! We (and the families) greatly appreciate your generosity. Many of our families are low income and have few resources. Your gift was greatly appreciated."

Stephanie, China Adoption With Love, Brookline, MA

"The blankets you sent were beautiful! Thank you so much... No worries about the heaviness - they should be great for the wintertime. Even in the southern part of China, culturally, it is appropriate to make sure that all babies are covered head to toe in summer and winter! Anything that you can make for slightly older children (toddlers and older) is great as there is always many special needs children who remain in the orphanage. "

Eileen McHenry, Executive Director Romanian Children's Relief/ Fundatia Inocenti

"Thank you for the knitted items. You do such a wonderful project there!"

"Happy New Year. Thank you for... sending so many nice knitted items with Sayre! ...Sayre is on her way to Romania this Friday, Jan 6. Our next group going from the U.S. will go in March. Thanks again to you and all of your knitters for so much support this year. By the way, our Academy Awards party is Friday, March 3rd. We'd love to have you and your group join us! Happy New Year,.."

Patricia Doyle, President Chernobyl Children Project, INS. Dedham, MA

"I just got back from Russia/Belarus. I was not able to get to your orphanage (Slutsk) like I wanted to but I did get a letter from them confirming that they received the suitcase. ... they were so grateful to you for everything.

I went into the orphanage in Russia and they told me over and over how grateful they are for all the knitted blankets for the children. I looked into the baby room to see the children and they were all covered up in them. She did not know I was coming so it was not done for that reason. She did ask me to see if we could collect shoes and vitamins for the children. I will put that plea out in my next newsletter. I will be in touch. Thank you again for allowing us to provide all these children with these wonderful warm items."

Christopher Small, Executive Director, Italian Home For Children, Boston

"On behalf of the children and staff...please accept my sincere thanks for your generous donations...Your generosity and kindness went a long way to helping to make this holiday very special and memorable. The thoughtfulness you have shown is truly remarkable. We feel fortunate ... to have such caring members in our community so dedicated to our mission. It was through your generosity that our children were able to experience the same joy, wonder and magic of the holidays that others do...the children are survivors of severe circumstances...extreme neglect, physical and sexual abuse. Our mission is to give our children the tools they need...in a safe and caring environment and provide the highest quality care, education and counseling.... We greatly appreciate you being part of that commitment. "

In The News

An Angel Lands in Nahant for Christmas

Submitted by Susan C. Caccivio Executive Director, Knitting For Angels

The following is an excerpt from an article to be printed in Nahant Harbor Review

...Knitting For Angels, began...in an effort to help children in need worldwide. ...I am often at a loss to express the impact KFA volunteers and supporters have in lives of children they touch and comfort often world away. ... I am able to share photos, a heartwarming story or a note of thanks... however; I know these falls short in expressing the immeasurable gratitude of those who receive our donations.

...I have dreamt of being able to deliver these donations first hand, enabling me to grasp the magnitude of spirit when one person or persons is able to help those who are less fortunate. I felt if I could be there in person I could better capture and personally convey the extreme joy and thankfulness from those who are endlessly grateful, astonished and humbled by our generosity. I was able to have a first hand experience over the holidays!

Many... know ...Nahanter Maria Rynne Peterson, my lifelong friend; mentor though ...International Adoption, and official photographer for KFA. After being blessed through the International Adoption... Maria, myself, and our families felt forever bound to give back... Maria states, "You're changed forever when you actually go to an orphanage and see the bleak conditions and hear the cries of children who so desperately need our help."

Maria and her husband Roger ...with their children Anya and Christian decided to host a Ukrainian child for the holidays through and exchange program with Frontier Horizon. Roger explains, "'Hosting Masha brought back the true meaning of Christmas. We were all amazed at how sweet and well-behaved Masha was and how well she fit into our family.'"

Masha and the Petersons delighted in many holiday celebrations...but as Maria tells, it was the small and simple things that were touching "It was a joy every time she smiled. It was fun to watch her eat an entire jar of pickles (an drink the juice!), shop for "pink" clothes, a color rarely seen in Ukraine, sing and dance... use an electric toothbrush, tickle Christian, or play tag on the beach with Anya."

I was delighted to meet Masha a day or so after arriving. I was crocheting like mad to make her a full size afghan... to take home to Ukraine. What a joy it was when the Petersons joined us for our annual gift exchange. ...I gave Masha her present. She was shocked ...that we would give her a gift. When she lifted the blankie...her eyes widened and she smiled. Maria explained that it was a gift from Knitting For Angels ... We shared with her all the pictures of those small children and babies just starting out in orphanages and hospitals that KFA has sent blankies, hats, and mittens to. You could see in her eyes that it touched a place deep in her heart. For me, this was the best Christmas present of all.

I will always think of Masha's wise smile and the look in her eyes that let me see deep into her soul to get a glimpse of the strength and determination in the spirit of these children we work tirelessly to help. To see first hand the impact of a kind act or a simple gesture for those so humble but with such a need is the most treasured gift of all. ...Thank you (members)from the bottom of my heart for your tireless support for Knitting For Angels.