

THE FIRST YEAR

It is hard to believe that the first full year with *The Encouragement Project* is complete. Starting out last January, I had little idea of what would actually take place in and through this ministry this first year, and how God would lead us in these things. Considering all this makes me excited for what is to come in the New Year and beyond. Let me share a quick overview of what has gone on this past year...

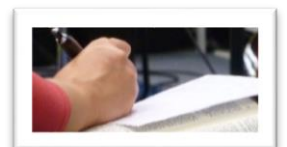
At *Hugs and Kisses*, we started out with the lofty goal of collecting and distributing 100 hats and scarves this year to help those in need of warmth. To date, we have had donations of 316 handmade hats, scarves, lap blankets, baby sweaters, slippers and mittens that have gone to encourage the homeless, low income children, folks at nursing homes, and those helped through crisis pregnancy centers.

Additionally, we have been able to start three knitting/crochet circles in local retirement homes, which are a great encouragement to the ladies we visit and work with. They have been prolific in their production of beautifully creative items to give away. We are thrilled to have been able to help so many, and to share God's love in this way. Thank you to you who have been a part of Hugs and Kisses!

The Book Drop has been another fantastic branch of The Project. We have had incredibly generous donations of 5,766 new and gently used children's books! These books have been processed and passed along to several different ministries that work with low income children and families. For these children, the gift of a book of their very own is quite exciting! We love sharing literary adventures with these beautiful children.

It has also been a blessing to have *Writers Block* as part of our ministry.

What a joy to be able to help missionaries with their writing efforts, updates, websites, and other text editing and design projects. The need for this support is great. This year, we have worked with missionaries in Belgium and Spain, with ministry effects worldwide.



LOOKING FORWARD...

HUGS AND KISSES...

Since our goal for 2016 (to collect and donate 100 handmade hats and scarves) was actually tripled with the generous amount of warm items we were blessed to receive, we have set a grander goal for 2017.



We would love to be able to give away **500** hugs and kisses (and other donated items) in the New Year! Could you help us with this effort? It would be great if you could join us by making an item (or several) that would help keep someone warm.

In addition to recruiting crafty folks to make hats and scarves and other warm goodies, we also take donations of yarn for the making of them. If you have any whole skeins or balls of yarn you are not using, or any left-over yarn from other projects, we would love to put it to good use!



To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

THE BOOK DROP...

The overwhelming response to this branch of The Project has been such a blessing, and we are looking forward to seeing how many children we can help again this coming year! The ability to read opens wonderful doors of imagination, discovery, and learning.



If you have any gently used or new children's books that you would like to share with little ones who have few (if any) books of their own, we would love to accept the donation and make sure they get into the hands of those who need them, and who would love to read and treasure them!

WRITERS BLOCK...

In addition to continuing to work with the missionaries we have helped this past year, we are looking forward to the opportunity to expand our text editing and graphic design services to others working around the world over the next few months. This type of support is quite valuable for those on the mission field—many of whom do not have access to this kind of help and service. Having served as a missionary for many years, I have seen this need first hand, which inspired the idea and action.

If you know of anyone serving in missions who would benefit from this kind of help and support, please do pass along our contact info. We would love to help!



THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with the financial gifts and donations of those of you who are interested in helping and encouraging others through this ministry. Gifts of any amount are helpful, and go toward seeing believers encouraged, and those in need helped. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team.

Checks made payable to "The Encouragement Project" can be mailed to: **The Encouragement Project**
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA 30009

The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

CONTACT US... WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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