

ONE OF THE LITTLE STORIES

It is incredible, really, how many wonderful people are doing things to help and bless others. Far more than one might imagine following the news of the day. The more people we meet and interact with, though, the more beautiful things we hear about. These are quite often small things in many ways, but they are powerful. Perhaps the stories and what these people are doing might not seem particularly noteworthy to them, but the impact they are making on those around them is profound—whether they know it or not.

The connection for this story started in February, although we had already known her for a while. She had heard about *The Encouragement Project*, and asked if there might be anything she could do to help. The question back to her was, “what do you enjoy doing?” One of the purposes of *The Encouragement Project* is to encourage people to use the gifts, abilities and loves that God has given just to them in ways that bring joy and blessing to all involved. “Well, I like to crochet,” was her response. She was told a bit more about *Hugs and Kisses*, and was asked if she might like to join in this effort. She agreed. So we took her some yarn that had been donated to *Hugs and Kisses* to be made up into warm things.



It barely took her a week to make and send back a bag full of beautiful hats. So we gave her more yarn. And she gave us more hats. Each week or so, we take her another bag of a variety of colorful yarns, and the next week she brings back lovely, creatively made hats by the dozens. At the end of April, a mere three months after she began to help others in this way she enjoyed, she brought us the 100th hat she crocheted. Did I mention that she is in her eighties?



And she is still going strong! Can you just imagine how many beautiful children will have warm heads this coming winter because of her incredible generosity...and willingness to take some time to do something she enjoys and share her gifts with others? And she is just one of many who are involved generously hand-making hats and scarves and baby blankets and lap robes with us for those in need of warmth and encouragement.



God has given each of us unique talents and abilities to use to bless, help, and encourage others. Are you using yours? Be encouraged to find ways to share what you have—your time, resources, gifts, and _____(fill in the blank)—with those around you.



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of workings, but the same God works all of them in all men.

SO FAR THIS YEAR...

It is always exciting to pause and take a look at the progress being made throughout the year. Here are a few figures for you to celebrate with us about...

Our *HUGS AND KISSES* branch has collected over 600 hugs (scarves) and kisses (hats) and other warm items so far this year that our gifted friends have so generously made to share with those in need. Our revised goal for the year is to receive and donate 1,000 items, and I think we just might exceed it! Imagine all the people we can share warmth with this winter!

To date, *THE BOOK DROP* has already given out over 3,500 children's books to little ones who need them! We are so excited about getting to help so many be able to read and learn because of the generosity of those of you who have helped. We have more boxes and bags of books to process and get into little hands, too.

Thank you for your incredible help and generosity!

THE BOOK

As part of *WRITERS BLOCK*, I am working through the process of writing a book to help and encourage missionaries and church planters in Portugal and elsewhere. This important volume is about a church planting project in Portugal (that I worked with when I served in Europe) from its initial idea, to the official registration of the church, to the work now to reach out and plant another church. Many interviews have been recorded with those who were involved in the process, and I am currently transcribing and editing those. Then will come the actual laying out of the story, and fitting each person's part into the whole. It is a bit of a puzzle, as you might imagine, and I would very much appreciate your prayers as I continue this slow but steady work. Encouragement and helpful materials for those serving in Europe is much needed.

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. Would you join us monthly at the...

\$10 ~ *ground* level ~ \$25 ~ *creative* level
\$50 ~ *encouragement* level ~ *other* amount

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

If you prefer to set up a recurring monthly gift, please let us know and we will send you the banking information.

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

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:24b-27

WOULD YOU PASS IT ALONG?

Do you know anyone in your circle of friends and contacts who might enjoy and benefit from receiving our newsletter? Would you be willing to share about *THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT*? We would love to be able to expand our ability to reach people with encouragement, and to find those who might like to help and be a part of The Project. Feel free to pass this update along, or put us in contact with some new friends. Thanks!

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

www.theencouragementproject.org
678 360 1592

stephanie@theencouragementproject.org
PO Box 452 ~ Alpharetta, GA ~ 30009