



the encouragement project

November 2018 ISSUE 20

the STORY BOARD

THE UNEXPECTED GIFTS

Although a beautifully sunny, clear start to that autumn day, it was quite a bitter cold morning, but we determined to get out anyway. The two bags of lap blankets had been sitting by the door ready to go for more than a week, and this was finally the time mom and I designated to make a visit to the house not too far down the road. About a dozen elderly folks live at this care home, and we stop by every six months or so to take a warm blanket to those who are new residents since our last visit. There were eight this time. And they were all beautiful.



It's rather incredible how about two minutes of time, a few words, generous smiles, a touch on the arm or a hug, and an unexpected gift can change the look on someone's face and their outlook on the day. As my mom enter the first room with a cheery "good morning!" I watched the face of that sweet lady light up, saw her joy at the gift of a warm blanket for her legs, and felt full of the blessing of sharing with others.



We followed the caregiver around to repeat this scene seven more times. Each special resident we encountered was beautifully grateful as they got to choose a favorite from among the handmade blankets we had selected to take. For some, these blankets became the most colorful points in their room. Most couldn't believe we were just giving these away, and one lady said it was good to know that she wasn't forgotten there in that place, and that someone still cared.



As we headed back toward the front door, our hostess was telling us how much they all appreciated our coming, and how encouraging this was for the people there. And for the workers, too. She joked that she would love a blanket as well...and perhaps that's exactly why we had stuck a few extra in the bags. I pulled out the last one I was carrying, saying we would love to give her one, would a purple one do? She was so excited as she took it and said that purple was her very favorite color.



It doesn't take long, and it doesn't take much to encourage others. And there are so many around us who need encouraging so much. So, be encouraged to look for those around you — those you know, and those you might not have met yet — who need to know someone cares.



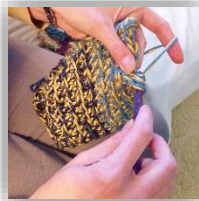
And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ~ Hebrews 13:16

HUGS AND KISSES

We have had a few friends this year who have, for various health reasons, come to the point of not being able to continue to knit or crochet as they have loved doing in the past. That has left them with a good deal of very nice yarn still unused, which they have very generously given to us.



It has been fun to share this abundance of yarn with the ladies in our knitting/crochet circles and see what they have created out of it.



It has also been an encouragement to the ladies who donated the yarn to see it being put to such good and helpful use.

If you have any extra yarn stashed away, or a bit leftover from a project finished that you don't know what to do with (or know someone who does), we would love to be able to see that it is turned into something warm that we can then give to someone in need.

THE BOOK DROP

As you might be cleaning out this season, we would love to help you... and can pass along any children's or young adult books that you find you are ready to give away to kids in need.



We collect all year for the specific times (usually late spring and summer) when the donated books are put in the hands of those young ones who benefit so much from the gift.

Do let us know if you find any books to share and we'll be glad to meet you to pick them up. Or, if you don't live nearby (and thus the shipping would be a tad much), do look for a local outreach that gives books to needy children (we can help you find one if needed). The benefit to the young minds who read them will be immense!



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

FOR PRAYER

Thank you for praying for The Encouragement Project! This is the best blessing, and we see God moving in many ways.

- pray that we would honor the Lord in all we do
- pray that we would be able to make good connections with others (individuals and groups) who would be interested in helping in various ways
- praise the Lord for the joy found in being able to share love and warmth with so many this year
- thank God for those who give so much to help others and this ministry

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with financial gifts and donations. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a part of this team. The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

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