



the encouragement project

the STORY BOARD

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ISSUE 16

THE 2017 WRAP UP

It is with very grateful hearts that this update comes to you. Seeing what God has done through The Encouragement Project this past year is humbling. In spite of the few loaves and fish that we had to give, God has brought forth so much more. Here is a wrap up of 2017:

HUGS AND KISSES

After collecting around 350 Hugs and kisses in 2016, we thought the initial goal we set for 2017 of 500 items was quite generous. But when March rolled around, and we already had over 400 things, we adjusted the goal for the year to 1,000, thinking that might be ambitious but doable. It turns out that even that grand number was far too small for what God had planned for us. Through the incredible talents and generosity of the ladies thus far involved, we have collected over 2,000 hats, scarves, baby blankets, lap robes, shawls, mittens and socks — all lovingly and beautifully handmade. That means over 2,000 people have new warmth, encouragement and love. We love being able to bless those in need in this way!

THE BOOK DROP

We always love sharing stories and adventures with young readers! Thanks to gifts of new and gently used books that have been donated throughout the year, we have been able to share 5,231 books with low income children and families. Most are given to kids individually, and we have also sourced several library boxes in mobile home parks nearby.



WRITERS BLOCK

It is always a blessing to help missionaries and those serving the Lord around the world, and this writing and editing help is much needed for many in their communications. The year started with continued efforts with those we were already working with. Then...

...while the first half of the year ran fairly normally with concentrated time available to focus on this writing and editing help, the weight of our family situation (mainly mom's health) required a serious consideration of being able to keep this branch of The Project going.

The difficult decision has been made to set Writer's Block aside for a time until there is proper focus to be able to serve well in this ministry.

THE 2018 VISION

As we move into a new year, there is a sense of anticipation for what God will do in these fresh new months. Here are a few things that we are praying and hoping to see in 2018:

HUGS AND KISSES

The needs for basic things (like simple warmth from Hugs and Kisses) are far greater than we can imagine. As we set our goal for this part of The Project this year, we dream of being able to bless a greater abundance of people as we go. So, we hope to collect and distribute at least **3,000** warm, handmade items for those in need by the end of the year.

If you would like to join our efforts to see this happen, please feel free to:

- make a hat or scarf
- send yarn (from your closet or the store)
- donate specifically to this part of The Project

We would be so grateful to have your help!



Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

THE BOOK DROP

Many of the books we gather and pass along to needy kids are given out at the end of the school year and over the summer. This gives kids access to reading materials at home (while they are away from school) who would not otherwise have many reading options. Your donations make such a difference for so many children.

Would you be able to help share stories with young readers? You could:

- clean out your kids bookshelves
- find books in good condition at yard sales and thrift stores
- donate specifically to this part of The Project

Your help with this effort would be greatly appreciated!

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

While we have a list of projects that would be exciting to begin, we wait for the Lord to bring about the best timing and people to be involved.

Our best efforts, though, will always be to encourage you where you are to do the things set before you to do with the people God brings/has brought into your life.

There are so many ways to love and bless others. You (in your situations) have unique opportunities to encourage and help those around you. Be encouraged to go for it!



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

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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