



the encouragement project

the STORY BOARD

June 2019

ISSUE 23

THINGS GIVEN, THINGS RECEIVED

When we start a new knitting/crochet circle in a retirement home, it is always a blessing to meet new ladies and see them develop (or re-develop) an interest in knitting or crocheting – for some a brand new skill, for others a maintained skill, or one not used for many years. In many cases, a purposeful use of effort

Dianne and I had been going to this particular home for about a month, when one morning Carla, the activity director, brought in a lady in a wheel chair that we had not yet met. Carla said she had often noticed this lady, Mrs. A, crocheting alone in her room, but that Mrs. A had not wanted to venture out to crochet with the group. Carla had told her about The Encouragement Project hoping Mrs. A would be encouraged to leave her room to join us. This sweet lady had made a few things she wanted to donate to The Project, but had wanted Carla to bring them instead of coming herself. But, Mrs. A had finally been convinced to come, and we were so glad to welcome her.

She handed me a large shopping bag and I pulled out an absolutely gorgeous crochet baby blanket, then a lovely scarf, then a lap blanket for someone in a wheelchair. Her eyes sparkled as I told her about where each item would be donated: the baby blanket to a foster home; the scarf to a young person in need of warmth; the lap blanket to someone in a nursing home who needed encouragement. I explained that each item would go with an explanation that someone they didn't even know had made it especially for them.



We thanked her so much for her heart to help someone else. "This gives me hope," she said, and her eyes glistened as she realized she could still do something to help others. Her joy was contagious!

There are so many older people everywhere who still have so very much to offer. Like our new friend, Mrs. A, who only needed to be assured she was wanted and simply asked to participate. Please accept the challenge to look for these very special people, to take time to talk with them, and to benefit from their incredibly beautiful hearts and their wisdom. It will take time (things given), but you will be glad you invested (things received).



We are excited to have Reba Shackelford as a guest writer for The Story Board this month!

Reba is a retired school teacher and administrator, and is currently an advisor for the board of The Encouragement Project. She is always looking for ways to share love and encouragement with those around her.

Especially with the elderly. And children. And those in between.

HUGS AND KISSES

Even though the calendar is just bringing us to the heat of summer, we gladly continue to receive beautiful handmade hats, scarves, mittens, and blankets to share. In August (believe it or not!) we will start distributing these donated items to the organizations who share them with the needy they serve.

There are also the year round outings we make, delivering:

- o lap blankets to the elderly in nursing homes
- o hats to cancer patients
- o baby blankets and hats to foster care and crisis pregnancy centers

We love to be filled with the joy God so abundantly blesses us with when we give.

A BUILDING

Our new building fund is established! As I wrote last month, God can bring about things that we see and consider impossible, and provides so much more abundantly than we could ask for or imagine. It is God who we are trusting to bring about a building and/or land for the use of The Encouragement Project in his perfect timing.

As we dream about such a space, the list of new projects (and ways to expand what we are already doing) grows ever longer.

Please pray with us for wisdom to know how to proceed in this building process, and where our efforts would best be placed for the projects we see to do and people we see to encourage.



THE BOOK DROP

It is always exciting to have books donated, because we know the good adventures within will help and encourage the kids that receive them.

We have donated over 1,000 of the children's books processed so far this year, and have several more deliveries planned over the summer.

LOOKING FOR HELP

As we grow and look for more opportunities to help others, we quickly realize that there are aspects of attaining these new horizons that those of us currently involved in The Project are not experts in. Or even moderately good at. So we're asking for help.

Might you (or someone you know) be willing and have time to lend a hand with (or at least chat about):

- o fundraising for a location
- o publicity / advertising
- o grant applications

God gives us each unique gifts and abilities. And these can ALL be used to help and encourage others.



But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13

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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