

# The Thread

October 2023

*"Stitching our community together,  
one thread at a time!"*

## Message from the President

We have had just 20 meetings since we first started this amazing organization. In that time we have gone from just 11 people at our first meeting to 100 people getting our newsletter and widely varying numbers attending meetings.

Our list of recipients has now grown to 50 different locations. At each of the three events we have taken part in (Art of Aging at the Expo Center, Fredericksburg Fair and the Disability Resource Centers Family Fall Festival) people are shocked, amazed, in awe of what this group does and has accomplished in such a short time.

Some of you who make deliveries have seen first hand how excited people are when we arrive with our bag of goodies for them. And if you aren't amazed by what we have done so far - check out the numbers in our deliveries!

**Please remember - we couldn't do it without all of you! Thank you for all you do for our community!**

**Pam**



## Our Mission Statement:

*Our mission is to serve the community  
by providing items of warmth,  
comfort and dignity,  
hand crafted by our volunteers  
and clothing donated by  
our neighbors.*



## New Members

Michael Karpik  
Georgeann Oberlin  
Sam Carder  
Julia Carder

Stitch Count	Last Month's #s	Grand Total since 11/22
Handcrafted Items	613	4,150
From the Closet	Last Month's #s	Grand Total since 11/22
Clothes	109	4934
Combined Grand Totals		9,084

## October Birthdays

- Millie Goodrich
- Linda Foldvik



If you don't see your birthday listed in the newsletter please let us know what month it is! We don't want to miss saying Happy Birthday to anyone. If we missed you due to not knowing when it was,  
**Happy Belated Birthday!**

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### \$\$\$\$ FUNdraising \$\$\$\$

**Thank you to all who have donated!**

The **Ruritan** does not charge us a fee to hold our meetings there but there will be a donation box at each meeting should you wish to make a donation to help with the operating costs of the facility.

Additionally, there will be a Community Threads donation box at each meeting should you wish to donate funds to help with the overhead and operating budget of our group.

If you know of a person or business that might be willing to make a donation or become a sponsor, please reach out to them. If you prefer not to reach out, then provide us with the information and we will contact them.

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## Community Threads Clothes Closet!

Our only need of clothing is anything in ladies size small and medium. We have requests for ladies small and medium nightgowns.

If you know of anyone in need, please let us know, we will do our best to help.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us build up such an amazing inventory to help us meet the needs of the community!

## Our current requests are for

...

- **Lap blankets** for men and women
- **Wheelchair totes (for back & side)**
- **Walker totes**
- **Shawls** for men and women
- **Brain balls**

Why are these items needed? Several reasons, really. Some of the items we provide are seasonal, meaning an upcoming need can be anticipated and planned for — think hats and scarves for cooler weather. A location may have put in a special request for a specific item — patriotic blankets fall into this category. But the most common reason is that *the demand for these items exceeds our ability to meet that demand*, meaning that some recipients must wait to get their needed items. We have materials & patterns available if needed. As always, we encourage you make ANYTHING you like to make, and we will find a good home for it!

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## Ruritan Yard Sale

October 13th & 14th

Are you decluttering?  
Keep the Ruritan in mind  
for the items you want to get rid of.

The only thing they do not take is clothes!

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## Upcoming & Ongoing Needs

- Hats - kindergarten to adult sizes
- Blankets – lap/large and baby
- Dialysis mitts (fingerless gloves)
- Ladies button shirts for making dignity bibs
- Toys

## Fredericksburg Fair

We had a tremendous response to our display at the fair. If you were not able to attend you might want to try to go (or volunteer next year).

A number of people signed up to get our newsletter and we have received some donations of supplies and some new members as a result of being at the fair. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success.



A big shout out and Thank You to Jeannie for all of her hard work organizing the volunteers and supplies for us to make the fair a success for Community Threads!



## Event Schedule - Fredericksburg

Unless otherwise noted; all Events are at the Chancellor Ruritan Club 5994 Plank Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

### Member Meetings 9:30-12:30

Fredericksburg		
October	4th	Wednesday
October	17th	Tuesday
November	1st	Wednesday
November	4th	Saturday Workshop 10-3
November	14th	Tuesday
November	28th	Tuesday
December	12th	Tuesday
January	3rd	Wednesday
January	16th	Tuesday
February	7th	Wednesday
February	20th	Tuesday

## Event Schedule - King George

All Events are at the Smoot Library Room A  
9533 Kings Highway, King George, VA 22485

### Member Meetings - Friday

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

King George	
October	6th
October	20th

## Our next workshop is soon!

Photos from our last workshop



Bring a project to work on.

OR

Take a class to learn something new.



Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch!



LOTS of good food, fun, and time with friends - old and new!

## Community Threads Semi Annual Workshop

Saturday Nov 4th 10 am - 3 pm

A day full of stitching, taking a class and spending time with friends.

We can't forget to mention the Raffles and Door prizes and more!

## Family Fall Festival sponsored by Disability Resource Center



# Family Fall Festival

Despite the horrific weather there was a great turnout for this event!  
So many people came by and were very surprised  
to learn what we do for the community.

Some were interested in joining us and several teachers would like  
to partner with us so their students can crochet items for us to deliver.  
They have students who currently crochet - a bonus!

Others have yarn, fabric and other items to donate to us.  
Some organizations provided information for potential monetary donations.

Also, we were able to provide items to a  
number of people to make them more comfortable or mobile.

We are planning to participate in this  
event again next year!

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## Who Gets What? The Mystery of the Delivery List — Revealed!

Anyone who has attended a Fredericksburg meeting has seen it. Tables piled high with beautiful lap blankets, cozy shawls, hats and scarves just begging for snow, tote bags of all sorts ready to be used, among other things. And the toys! The adorable baby clothes! All skillfully handcrafted by our members, all waiting to be distributed to the community. But how do we know where all these items will go? That's where the delivery list comes in.

The delivery list begins as an empty spreadsheet, containing only a column listing all the items we provide. There are no recipients identified, no items highlighted. It's just waiting to be filled in so it can become the delivery list for the meeting. And the only way to know how to fill in the spreadsheet is to find out "who needs what".

About one week before the meeting, the phone calls begin. As a general rule, Community Threads distributes items to where they currently are needed. And the only way to know where they are needed is to reach out to our recipients. Not all of them, of course, but to a selected group of them depending primarily on how frequently they requested we contact them. Typically, the number of recipients in the selected group is around 15. So, for that week before the meeting, phone calls are made, emails and texts are sent, all in an effort to find out if the recipient is running low on items and would like to receive more from us.

Phone calls present a challenge, in that the contact person may not be available. For example, several of our contacts are activity directors at their location and may be busy with an activity when we call. When that happens, the only option is to leave a message. But as many of us know, messages can go unanswered. So we try again. Emails and texts are easier ... from past experience, most contacts do respond to emails and texts, especially when they need items. But sometimes reminder emails and texts are necessary. So even if the number of recipients being contacted is 15, it could take up to 30 attempts or more (phone, email, text) during that week to try to reach them all. This takes time. And patience. Eventually most of the recipients are reached and we learn from them how we can help. We now know "who needs what".

Once that information is learned, it is compiled into a spreadsheet that is the delivery list. The delivery list essentially tells us “who gets what”, along with a requested quantity of a particular item. Since we can only deliver what our members have turned in, a recipient may not get all of the items requested. So those recipients who are waiting for items that they previously did not receive are also included on the delivery list. By using this list, those handling the bagging know what labels to put on bags and what items to put into each of those bags.

As you can see, a lot of work goes into preparing the delivery list. And a lot of work that happens at the meeting depends on that delivery list. But there is one last detail on the delivery list that cannot be filled in until the meeting. While it’s satisfying to be able to prepare bags filled with wonderful items for our recipients, the filled bags themselves aren’t helping anyone. They need to be delivered. And that’s where you come in. If you think about it, this could be the most important thing that Community Threads does ... this is how the items we make and turn in are physically distributed to the community. By you, when you fill in your name on the delivery list and volunteer to drop off a bag or two at a location.

So now the purpose of the delivery list for the meeting is complete. But wait ... there’s another meeting in about two weeks. That means another blank delivery list. So that means the process begins again.

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## Bagging and Deliveries

We are working to improve the bagging and delivery process. You have already seen some of these changes at the Fredericksburg meeting — more tables for completed items, signs indicating where to place items, and a dedicated table for tagging untagged items. To further improve the process, we ask that you keep the following in mind:

- Volunteers are needed at each meeting to deliver the filled bags to their locations. The locations are listed on the delivery sheet at the tagging table ... please take a look to determine if you might be able to make a delivery or two, and add your name where possible.
- Bagging of items begins after the formal portion of the meeting, generally around 10:45 AM. By this time all items being turned in should be tagged and placed in the right spot.
- The goal is to have all bags ready for delivery by 12:00 PM.
- Please refrain from asking those doing the bagging if your bag is ready; it only slows down the process.
- When the bags are ready, an announcement will be made. Please be aware that there may be more than one bag for any given location.
- If you have signed up to make a delivery but cannot wait until the bags are ready, please consider if volunteering at another meeting might be more convenient.
- When making the delivery, please wear your Community Threads name tag.

Thank you for following these guidelines to help the bagging and delivery process to go as smoothly as possible.

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## Meet the Board



Pam Greswolde – President 540-661-7967

Jeannie Duris – Secretary

Linda Foldvik – Treasurer 703-395-4064

Bertha Rector – 540-907-5259

Doris Bowling – 540-859-3081

Marcia Reed – 540-656-0474

Donna Edwards

Ferne Polk - welcome to our new board member!

Please reach out to any of the board members with comments, thoughts, and suggestions.

## Tips, Tricks & Resources:

If you have a pattern you want to share, or a link to a great tutorial, send an email to [communitythreads@comcast.net](mailto:communitythreads@comcast.net), then it can be posted in the newsletter next month to share with other members.



## Do you have helpful hint?

Something that saves you time or trouble when knitting, crocheting or sewing?

Please email it to us so we can share with everyone that gets the newsletter.

OR

Do you have a favorite new pattern you would like to share. If you got it online we can't put the pattern but we could share a photo and the link to the pattern so please send it to us.

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## Project Size Guidelines For Community Threads

### Constantly Needed Items

Project	Size	Notes
Large Blankets	48"x 50" up to full bed size	Large rectangular
Lap Blankets	32-36" square	not necessarily square, no less 32" width & length
Chemo Blankets	32-34 x 48-50"	Rectangular
Chemo caps	all sizes	no wool, washable - male & female colors <b>winter</b> - acrylic mix, fun fur with acrylic <b>summer</b> -cotton, acrylic & fun fur, or cotton & fun fur
Baby blankets	30" to 40" square	no wool
Baby sweaters	newborn to toddler	no wool
Baby hats	fit a grapefruit or larger	no wool – hats should fit a 5" ball
Baby booties	newborn	no wool
Hats & Scarves	all sizes - child to adult	matching sets are helpful - male & female colors wool mix okay - tag with red yarn can be made & turned in year-round
Shawls	all sizes	

### Appreciated when available

Project	Size	Notes
Book Totes	Approx. 8 x 10	Kits or fabric & ribbon available
Fiddle Mats		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Dignity Bibs		Men & Women
Shirt protectors		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern & fabric available) Velcro at neck
Sweaters	child to adult	all male & female colors
Walker totes		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Wheelchair tote for back		Sewn – Men & Women (pattern and fabric available)
Wheelchair tote for side	Approx. 8 x 10	Kits or fabric & ribbon available
Toys	all types	crochet, knit or sewn – example: blankets & hats for bears
Pet cozy	18" up to 3 feet any shape	Blankets for animals in distress great way to use slightly soiled yarn or scratchy yarn

The above projects are suggestions, but anything you want to make will warm the hearts and bodies of those in need.

### Helpful Tips

- **Please tag every item.** There are tags available at every meeting, and you may take a stack home.
- **On items containing wool, please tie on the item tags using red yarn so that we can identify them. Some people are sensitive to wool.**
- Yarn is available at every meeting, or you can use your own. If you use Community Threads yarn, the yarn should be logged out on a *Sign-In/Sign-Out* sheet, and any completed items using Community Threads yarn should be logged in on a *Sign-In/Sign-Out* sheet.
- If you wash item(s), please do not use scented fabric softener, many are allergic.
- If you write on the back of the item tag, please put only your first name and/or washing instructions.
- Remember to tie at least 2 knots when not using the magic knot to ensure it does not come undone in washing.
- Weave ends in more than inch and trim closely.
- To ensure your donation is distributed to the intended group, please make sure it meets the requested size. Many times, you can add a border if needed.

If you need help, contact: [communitythreads@comcast.net](mailto:communitythreads@comcast.net)

Pam Greswolde (540) 661-7967



**This is your newsletter - what would you like to see included?**

Please let us know by email, telling us at a meeting or email us at [communitythreads@comcast.net](mailto:communitythreads@comcast.net)

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