

# The Thread

December 2023

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

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For those of you who have never made a delivery, I want to share a personal story, one of many. While you are enjoying your Fredericksburg meeting, volunteers are labeling and bagging the items you dropped off on the tables for delivery that day or very soon. There is a very detailed list of which items go where and how many, and labels are affixed to the delivery bags. I try to make deliveries when I can, not only to help our group but also because I have experienced amazing moments when our goodies arrive at their destination.

One particular delivery to a small memory facility will always bring a huge smile to my face and also a tear. Upon arriving at this facility, I walked through the doors to find 3 ladies at the front desk. They immediately knew why I was there, and I got a standing ovation followed by gleeful remarks as they went through the bags: "Our residents love these!", "Oh my, look at the colors!", "I can't wait to give these out!"

I have no words to explain how this made me feel. If you want to experience personally how much we are appreciated, I encourage you to sign up or join one of us to make a delivery!

~ Marcia

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# Community Threads

## 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.*



## **KEEP IT CLEAN! (and fragrance-free!)**

Before bringing your items in for donation, please check them to make sure they are free of any stains or pet fur. If washing your items, be sure to use only fragrance-free laundry products to protect our recipients from any sensitive reactions!





## New Members

- Patti Jo Bernazzani
- Annie Gardner
- Sheri Goodreau
- Sandy Pryor

We are always open to new members! Invite your friends and family to join us for our meetings and workshops!

Stitch Count	Last Month's #s	Grand Total since 11/22
Handcrafted Items	771	5129
From the Closet	Last Month's #s	Grand Total since 11/22
Clothes	950	6159
	Since our start 11/22	Grand Combined Total
		11,288

## December Birthdays

- Linda Brasington
- Mary Brooks
- Linda Payne
- Patty Steele



Did we miss your birthday? If this is your birth month and you don't see your name listed here, please let us know! We don't want to miss saying Happy Birthday to anyone, so in case we did,

**Happy Belated Birthday to You!**

## Our current requests are for ...

- **Lap and large blankets**
- **Wheelchair totes** (for back & side)
- **Baby items** (especially blankets & hats)
- **Ladies button shirts** (for dignity bibs)
- **Ladies size small tops and elastic - waisted pants**
- **Men's medium and large sweatshirts and sweatpants**

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 (see below for links to some easy blanket patterns). As always, we encourage you make ANYTHING you like to make, and we will find a good home for it!

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

Thank you to all who have donated!

We raised **\$211** in November through your generous cash contributions, plus an additional **\$130** from your participation in the raffle at last month's Workshop! We were also blessed with a generous donation from the Moose Lodge. These funds will be used to purchase supplies.

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 reach out, then provide us with the information and we will contact them.

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## Community Threads Clothes Closet!

We collect and distribute both women's and men's adult clothing in all sizes. These items are donated to local assisted living/nursing homes and to others in need throughout our community.

And now that the colder weather is almost upon us, please note that:

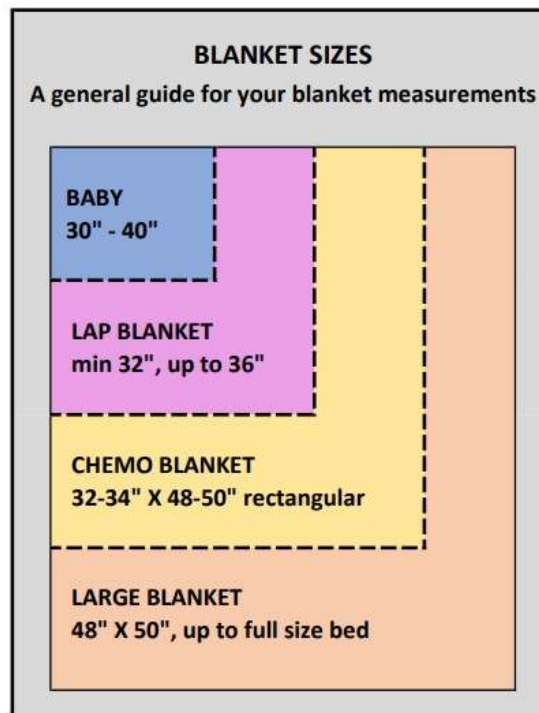
**Winter coats of ALL sizes  
(both adult & children's) are needed!**

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!

## Upcoming & Ongoing Needs

- Hats - kindergarten to adult sizes
- Blankets – lap/large and baby
- Dialysis mitts (fingerless gloves)
- Shirt protectors
- Toys



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**Community  
Spotlight**



## Veterans Giveaway

Board members Linda and Jeannie participated in a Veterans Giveaway on November 8th at the VA Clinic on Southpointe Drive near the DMV. They were there all day and met over 80 veterans! Linda shares her story:

"We gave away over 60 lapghans, 15 hats, and 9 frilly scarves. Everyone was so very, very appreciative!

Some of their stories brought tears to our eyes. One in particular was a female veteran whose disabled daughter lives in a facility. The daughter has been unable to do most things since she was 1 and a half; she is wheelchair bound.



### Pam Greswolde's Coconut Layer Cake

Always a favorite at our workshops!

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (15.2 oz) pkg of Butter Flavored cake mix
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 (16 oz.) carton sour cream
- 1 (12 oz.) pkg coconut (see note below)
- 1 ½ cups frozen Cool Whip

#### Directions:

Prepare cake mix as directed, making two 8" round layers. Cool completely. Split each layer to make a total of 4 layers.

Combine sugar, sour cream and coconut, blending well. Chill for at least an hour. Gently fold in the whipped topping with the sour cream mixture. Spread a layer of mixture between layers of cake. Spread remaining mixture on the top and sides of cake. Seal cake in an airtight container and refrigerate for three days before serving. This REALLY makes a difference in the flavor of the cake!

NOTE: I like to add more coconut on the top and sides of cake, pressing into the mixture immediately after covering the cake with the sour cream mixture. This requires more than one pkg of coconut and is optional.



The mother was thrilled when Jeannie showed her the side wheelchair totes (she chose 2) and the wheelchair tote (she chose 1). We also gave her a fidget ball for her daughter.

Several of the veterans were blown away by the lapghans made for them by a fellow female veteran!

Know that all you do is super appreciated!!"



We also received a lovely thank-you note from Empowerhouse: "Dear Community Threads, Thank you so very much for your beautiful handmade items! Our clients will absolutely love them. Thank you so much again for thinking of Empowerhouse! With care, Oliva and the Empowerhouse Staff."



## 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**  
**Come when you can,**  
**leave when you must!**

**CORRECTION: Last month's newsletter contained an error. Please note that December's meeting will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12!**

Fredericksburg 2024		
Jan	3rd	Wednesday
Jan	16th	Tuesday
Feb	7th	Wednesday
Feb	20th	Tuesday
Mar	6th	Wednesday
Mar	19th	Tuesday
Apr	3rd	Wednesday
Apr	16th	Tuesday
May	1st	Wednesday
May	14th	Tuesday
May	18th	Saturday Workshop
Jun	5th	Wednesday
Jun	18th	Tuesday
Jul	3rd	Wednesday
Jul	16th	Tuesday
Aug	7th	Wednesday
Aug	20th	Tuesday
Sep	4th	Wednesday
Sep	17th	Tuesday
Oct	2nd	Wednesday
Oct	15th	Tuesday
Nov	6th	Wednesday
Nov	19th	Tuesday
Nov	23rd	Saturday Workshop
Dec	4th	Wednesday
Dec	17th	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	
Dec	1st
Dec	15th
Dec	29th
Jan	12th
Jan	26th
Feb	9th



**Reminder ... it will be here before we know it.**

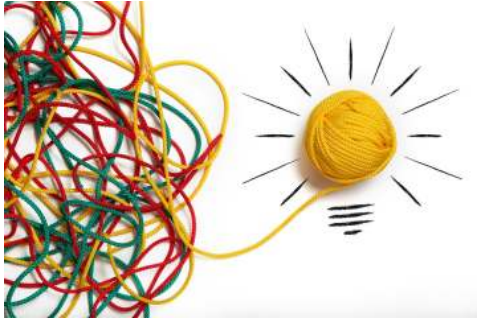
### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Meetings will be cancelled if Spotsylvania schools open late or are closed due to weather.



## Patterns & Other Resources:

If you have a favorite pattern, tip, tutorial, or other resource you'd like to share with our members, please email it (along with any relevant links) to [communitythreads@comcast.net](mailto:communitythreads@comcast.net) so it can be included in a future newsletter!



## Tip of the Month:

Too many projects! Too many patterns! How do you keep track of them all, especially when you're on the go?!?

I like to make photocopies of my favorite patterns and keep them in plastic page protectors, which I then organize in a 3-ring binder by category. This allows me to make notes and highlights on the pattern as desired, and I can also easily keep the pattern with the project and avoid lugging a whole book about!

To keep track of where I am in the pattern, I use a strip of blue painter's tape. I found this stays put better than a sticky note but can still be easily and repeatedly moved as needed.

~ Ferne

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## EASY BLANKET PATTERNS

### For Crocheters:

[Beginner Quick and Easy Crochet Blanket Patterns - Easy Crochet Patterns](#)  
[9 Easy Crochet Blanket Patterns \(Perfect for Beginners!\) \(daisycottagedesigns.net\)](#)

[Done In A Day Quick Crochet Blanket – Mama In A Stitch](#)

[One Day Crochet Blanket \(free pattern!\) 🗨️ Make & Do Crew \(makeanddocrew.com\)](#)

### For Knitters:

[25 Easy & Free Knit Blanket Patterns to Keep You Cozy - Sarah Maker](#)

[10 Beautiful Beginners Knitted Blankets \( free patterns\) - SmartpenniesLife](#)

[Quick & Easy Knit Blankets – Mama In A Stitch](#)

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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 (not pictured)

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

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