

Young Children/Priority One



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Oh, You Beautiful Doll!

Some of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital's youngest patients will soon be taking home an educational friend that will help them understand the trauma of coming to the hospital.



Members of the Gold Country Kiwanis Doll Project give newly-knitted dolls to Rosalie Phillips, R.N., who works in Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital's emergency department. With Philips are Patricia Unger and Doris Warnas of Women of the Moose, who made the dolls, and Tom Pettit of the Gold Country Kiwanis Club.

For several months, members of the women's auxiliary of a local Moose lodge, in cooperation with Gold Country Kiwanis, have been hunkered over their sewing machines, stitching together dolls that can be drawn on by doctors and nurses, showing children just why they've come to the hospital

in the first place and the procedures that will take place. "It cuts the trauma in half, they say," said Doris Warnas, a member of the Women of the Moose auxiliary in Grass Valley, who was among a group of women who have stuffed and sewed 300 dolls for the hospital.

About 25 people are involved in the effort. The group plans to make at least 100 more dolls, which will be given to children for free. Each of the dolls stands approximately 15 inches high, and come with non-toxic writing utensils that allow doctors and their patients to draw on the dolls. As she and her fellow Women of the Moose stuffed and stitched, Warnas said they learned a little about each other in bridging a generation gap. "It's working out great," she said. "It created a fellowship with our younger and older members, and been a boon for us in creating new relationships." Warnas' son-in-law, Tom Pettit, leads this project on behalf of Gold Country Kiwanis. (Over, please)

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• **Jane Judy-Miller sez:**

- Have Fun!
- Commit to Young Children!
- Communicate Successes!
- Revitalize the Program!
- Revitalize Kiwanians!
- Cross Boundaries/oceans to do what is right for young children!
- Have Fun!

OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DOLL

(Continued)

Pettit said he got the idea from Kiwanis International, where similar programs have been established in Australia. Children can draw on the dolls to show where they're hurting, and doctors can do the same to show where on the body the children will be worked on.

Parents receive a letter explaining how the doll is used, he said. Pettit said the dolls will eventually be given to police and fire agencies in Nevada County, and at the KARE Crisis Nursery for children who have been temporarily split from their parents. "This has been a very effective community project," he said.

For questions or other information :
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Making Kiwanis Dolls for Kids in Need

Kiwanis dolls are hand-made by the Tuscola Kiwanis Club in Tuscola, Illinois members for children. Currently, the club provides our Kiwanis dolls to Crisis Nursery in Urbana, the Douglas County ambulance services and the Tuscola Fire Department. These dolls serve two purposes:

- 1) To comfort children whose lives have much turmoil .2) To provide enjoyment and purpose to club members

who get together to make the dolls for this good cause.

A member generously opens their home to other members for Kiwanis doll workshops.



A single workshop usually completes 25-35 dolls. The members of the Club can't wait for the food, fun and fellowship with other Kiwanians when the next workshop is announced. For more information: Janet Butler, President jbutler@tibbie.net

Capitol Hill, Washington, DC Kiwanis Dolls

In December 2008, the members of the Kiwanis Club of Capitol Hill engaged in a very rewarding and heart-warming project. Thirty Kiwanis dolls were stitched, stuffed and packaged along with colored magic markers. These were delivered to the Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC. These dolls are used with children who need to undergo painful procedures or those who need a special toy to make their stay more enjoyable. Whatever the child might go through, so does the doll.

Young Children/Priority One. Get Involved!

In this new Kiwanis year, what are we planning to do to "Serve the Children of the World?" Our Young Children: Priority One committees should already be active, seeking new ways to serve. One of the ways that you might consider is through the sewing of Kiwanis or Hospital dolls. You may already have heard of them or noticed them when attending an International convention. Our Key Clubs are making them, and both men and women are getting involved, too. In New Orleans the Dawn Buster Kiwanis Club starting putting these together and the Kiwanis Club of Oceanside, California got the men involved. The Loma Linda Valley Kiwanis in California donated 200 of these dolls to the children's hospital there. So what are these and what are they for?

When a child is in a hospital poked with needles, hooked up to IVs, anesthetized, operated on, etc, it can be very traumatic especially to very young children who have no reference or idea of what to expect. The dolls are provided to children to ease this trauma by letting them see and experience on their doll the procedures they will undergo.

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