

OLM Newsletter August, 2021

A “Calling All Knitters & Crocheters” reach out in our Bulletin in Fall 2017 resulted in an enthusiastic response by 16 crafters who were delighted to create hats and scarves in the comfort of their homes for those in need. Many found that this easily fit into their television viewing time and provided them with a sense of meaningful productivity. In January 2018, 28 hats, 7 scarves, and 5 pairs of gloves were delivered to Family Promise in Ridgewood for distribution to their clients, folks that we had grown to care deeply about through our Shelter efforts each summer. In December another delivery of 53 hats, 32 scarves, and 2 pairs of gloves, was made. Our most recent delivery in December 2020 consisted of 25 scarves, 52 adult hats, 43 child hats, and 7 lap blankets (a new request), and all of this from the efforts of 10 very productive women! Our ministry title “OLM Hat-Scarf Project” was no longer inclusive enough.



This past spring through contact with Cheryl Riley, Director of the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Newark, we became aware of another area of need for our creative efforts. We were asked, in conjunction with St. John the Baptist Church in Hillsdale and Assumption Church in Ridgefield Park to craft prayer shawls for those attending Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats. Rachel's Vineyard is a

national program that offers a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing*. The Newark Archdiocesan Respect Life Office hosts four retreats annually. Ten prayer shawls will be delivered to Cheryl from our group for the October 22 -24, 2021 retreat. Each has a signed tag attached with the following heartfelt message:



*May this shawl enfold you
in comfort and peace and
may you feel God's loving
embrace in every stitch.*

Crafted by,

It is our intention to make this an annual commitment!

The Hat-Scarf project began as the brainchild of several women in our parish's Creative Women's Group. It has morphed into a ministry with a much broader scope which necessitates a name change. Be on the look-out for bulletin announcements under the heading **Hearts and Crafts Group** as we prepare for this winter's need for hats, scarves, and lap blankets, and prayer shawls for 2022 retreat events. If becoming part of this mission appeals to you, please contact Laretta Miller at: lajim@optonline.net or by phone: 201-618-7881(cell). A huge thank you to all who have given so generously of their time and talent to this effort for the benefit of so many!

*www.rachelsvineyard.org