

## HEARTWARMERS: Many local crafters participate

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together and adds a fleece heart and a bow to each bear. They have contributed 784 bears, each one requiring five hours from start to finish. Those bears get bundled with the blankets that go to children at places like Sparrow Clubs of Central Oregon, Treehouse Therapies, and Family Action Network.

"It gives me a good feeling to know that the bears are going to children in need," Nelson said.

The cancer treatment centers at St. Charles and Bend Memorial Clinic in Bend and Redmond are given adult blankets that get packaged with lotion, socks, hats, and bandanas for patients receiving chemotherapy.

Since starting three years ago, the three groups combined have donated 2,319 blankets. If Tomjack has her way, every homeless teen, abused toddler, sick child, lonely elder, and tiny premie will be wrapped in the loving warmth of a Heartwarmers blanket. She is always on the lookout for new agencies that can use any of the items they create — and the list of agencies and items keeps growing.

The Sisters Heartwarmers, the largest of the three groups, created colorful

tutus for the little girls at Morningstar Family Relief Nursery. KIDS Center asked them to make child-sized examination gowns, which they sewed using colorful children's fabrics. The leftover scraps were assembled into a quilt by Sisters resident Wilma (Sam) Manasee and presented along with the gowns.

A welcome addition to the blankets for the cancer treatment centers are fleece hats crafted by a Sisters group coordinated by Aspen Lakes resident Jane Krause of Plain Jane Gifts. Dee Thompson, Susan Sanger, Judi Troike, Lori Chase, and Paula Price cut and sew the hats, which are accessorized with decorative buttons and pins or flowers made from fleece scraps.

In fact, not one shred of fleece is thrown away, giving rise to their "no waste"

policy. Scraps are used to stuff soft blocks for agencies serving infants and toddlers. The selvages, cut off the fleece before the blankets are made, are braided into dog and cat toys by Kathryn Killian of Sisters, and given to animal shelters and Sisters Furry Friends Foundation.

Dave Huni of Sisters set up the Heartwarmers Facebook page and donates IT help. Monetary donations are only used to purchase fleece, a few office supplies, and to provide insurance for the organization. Everything else is donated including accounting and legal help. Yarn used for all knitted items is purchased by the volunteers, as are the items bundled with the blankets for the cancer centers.

The Pony Express gives Heartwarmers a special shipping rate on the baby

blankets and knitted hats that are sent to the newborn intensive care units at Portland's Emanuel Hospital and soon at Dornbecher Hospital.

**“ It gives me a good feeling to know that the bears are going to children in need. — John Nelson**

Last February Heartwarmers was the recipient of \$445.23, the donated proceeds from Sisters Business of the Year, The Open Door's 10 percent on Tuesdays that is gifted each month to a local nonprofit. They have been designated again to receive it

this year for the month of February.

Storage of all the fleece and finished products has displaced Tomjack's cars from their garage for the last three years, but with their house on the market, new donated space must be found soon.

The long-term goal for Heartwarmers is to set up groups in other Central Oregon communities, but for now their blankets and other gifts will continue to comfort the vulnerable among us, as reflected in this year's goal shared by Tomjack.

"We will continue as we are and seek to gift more nonprofits."

For more information visit [www.heartwarmersco.org](http://www.heartwarmersco.org), their Facebook page HEARTWARMERS, or contact Mary Tomjack at 503-880-5832 or [hwb.heartwarmers@gmail.com](mailto:hwb.heartwarmers@gmail.com).

## Temporary closure on Goodrich Road

The Three Sisters Irrigation District will be removing the existing canal bridge on Goodrich Road beginning at 7 a.m. on Monday, February 29. Goodrich Road will be closed at the bridge for three days to facilitate removal of the bridge and piping of the main canal. Drivers will be asked to detour around the closure via Holmes Road and Edmundson Road, east of the project.

For more information related to the piping project, contact Marc Thalacker, manager, Three Sisters Irrigation District at 541-549-8815.

For more information related to the road closure and detour, contact Tom Shamberger, operations manager, Deschutes County Road Department at 541-977-1017.

# The Nugget

*Presents*

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