



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Flying Needles to launch Handmade for the Homeless event June 10

**WILLIAMSBURG, VA, MAY 23, 2017** – The Flying Needles, a Local Yarn Shop, will kick off a **Handmade for the Homeless** event beginning on June 10, 2017, also International Knit In Public Day.

For two months, The Flying Needles will collect handmade items, like, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc., to donate to the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM), a coalition of groups united to serve the homeless. Up for grabs is a GRAND PRIZE, given to the person that donates the most number of handmade items. Everyone who donates a handcrafted item will receive a \$5 coupon off a \$20 or more purchase and be qualified for weekly prizes. The Flying Needles will collect handcrafted AND PURCHASED items through August 12.

The timing of the **Handmade for the Homeless Project** is perfect, said GWOM Board Chair Shannon Woloszynowski. “We’re coming into the Winter Shelter season, and people don’t really think about this until November. To have these items in September as we gear up for Winter Shelter is ideal.”

Items needed for the homeless population include: hats, gloves, scarves, and socks are a great need as the weather starts to turn colder. Other items in great demand include: men's underwear (new), laundry cards, laundry detergent pods, bus tickets, diapers, wipes, toilet paper, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, and small-sized shaving cream.

Socks are among the most needed items at homeless shelters, yet among the least-often donated. “People don’t think to donate socks,” Woloszynowski said. It’s such a problem, that shelter groups tend to end up purchasing socks for those in need. Even regular donors of clothing such as coats and pants will usually wear their own socks until they have holes and then throw them away. Because of the

shortage, the nation's homeless population is constantly at risk of serious foot disease and, during winter months, in severe danger posed by the cold.

And interestingly enough, for those interested in making hats and mittens, the homeless population tends to hang onto their hats and mittens longer. "I've had guys come back a year later with the same hat. They just wear them longer."

The homeless population in Williamsburg consists of men, women, and many times, children. Numbers ebb and flow throughout the year, but late fall and winter are particularly difficult as seasonal jobs begin lay-offs and employment becomes increasingly hard to find.

Woloszynowski will be at The Flying Needles Knit In Public Day to provide information about the needs of the homeless and GWOM's mission and activities.

To support **The Flying Needles' Handmade for the Homeless Project**, The Flying Needles for the first time ever will provide several of its classes at half price. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view The Flying Needles' full calendar of classes.

"Those who knit and crochet and using fibers to make things have huge hearts," said The Flying Needles Owner Susan Dickerson. "I hope this Homemade for the Homeless Project is just a vehicle to channel those compassionate souls in a fun way."

**Itinerary to support The Flying Needles' Handmade for the Homeless Project**

**From 5 to 7 pm, Wednesday, July 26 & again 10 am to Noon Thursday, July 27** – Those who have handcrafted socks are invited to a Flying Needles Christmas in July Event where they can make gift tags to include with their socks. Tags & markers will be provided.

**Noon, Saturday, Aug. 12** – A photo will be taken of all the socks, the people who made them, the Grand Prize winner, sponsors, The Flying Needles Owner Susan Dickerson and GWOM Board Chair Shannon Woloszynowski.