

Great Knitting Giveaway spreads warmth, knits community together

By ALBERTA PRIME TIMES

Thousands of needy Edmontonians will keep warm this winter thanks to a dedicated group of seniors who donate their time and talent for the Great Knitting Giveaway. Six local charities received over 5,000 hand-made mitts, scarves, toques and blankets at the event last month, just in time to warm an increasing number of seniors, adults and children in difficult circumstances as the pandemic enters its third winter. Now in its 15th year, the Great

Knitting Giveaway is put on by GEF Seniors Housing, a not-for-profit organization providing affordable housing for low to moderate income seniors.

"Sometimes those who give the most are the ones with the least to spare," said Francine Gregory, Vice Chair of GEF's Board of Directors. "We are so proud that such kind and generous people choose to live in our communities."

Rebecca Trask is with The Mustard Seed, an organization which supports people experiencing poverty and

homelessness. She said the Great Knitting Giveaway grows hope in people marginalized by challenging circumstances and knits the community together around a common purpose.

"We all have a need for human connection and there is something unique that comes with giving and receiving something that has been lovingly made by hand," Trask said. "I know they will be cherished and will serve as a reminder our community is seen and cared for."

GEF thanks the community for donating a total of 75 bags of yarn this year. These donations, along with a grant from the Edmonton Community Foundation, will help to make the Great Knitting Giveaway even greater in 2023.

Yarn donations are no longer being accepted due to storage limitations. Visit gef.org or follow social media to find out when yarn donations will be accepted for next year's program.

Courtesy of GEF Seniors Housing



PHOTO SUPPLIED

With generous yarn donations, community seniors have given time and talent to create thousands of scarves, toques and mitts for those in need.

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Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Hope

Celebrating the holidays after a death in the family can be very difficult. The holiday season is recognized as a time of peace, hope, and a time to be joyous with family and friends. Unfortunately for many, it can bring painful memories of those loved ones who have passed away.

The absence of a loved one can be an unbearable silence. At Connelly McKinley Funeral Homes we recognize that the season of goodwill and joy can also be a season of loneliness and despair, during which nothing grows except for the longing for that which is no more.

It is important to remember that love never dies. We carry the memories of loved ones in our hearts throughout the year and especially during the holidays. Celebrate and honour that love with us.

Please join us along with your family and friends on any of the dates below:

Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 at 6:30pm	
In honour of National Grief and Bereavement Day	
Connelly-McKinley Commemoration and Event Centre	
4820 Meridian Street, Edmonton, Alberta	
Sunday, November 20th, 2022 at 2:30pm Connelly-McKinley St. Albert Funeral Home 9 Muir Drive St. Albert, Alberta	Sunday, December 4th, 2022 2:30 pm Christmas Candlelight Service Connelly McKinley Downtown Location 10011-114th Street, Edmonton, Alberta

A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the services.

Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday November 9th, 2022
780-590-0626 or register online at www.connely-mckinley.com

To honour your loved one, please bring a small framed picture that will be placed for our commemoration and candlelight ceremony.

Our sincere hope is that you will gain comfort and strength from our Candlelight Services of Remembrance.

****Foodbank Donations gratefully accepted****