

RED SCARF PROJECT

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

A Great Charitable Knitting and Crocheting Initiative Provides Warmth and Encouragement to Foster Youth

In 2005, Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) launched a unique initiative to warm the hearts (and necks) of college-bound foster youth. OFA began taking donations of handmade red scarves to put into Valentine's Day Care Packages for the college-bound foster youth. Word spread quickly around the charitable knitting/crocheting community.

In the first year, OFA took in 3,500 scarves. The following year, that number swelled to over 15,000. This deluge of generosity was spurred by a grass roots grapevine effect on the internet, thanks to popular knitting blog sites like Now Norma Knits and others.

Due to the overwhelming response, OFA had to scale the program back in order to handle the demand which is especially amazing as OFA is only in its third year.

The Red Scarf Project is endorsed by Interweave Knits, The National Needle Arts Association, and the Lily Chin Signature Collection.

Guidelines for Knitters and Crocheters

Scarf Size: Approximately 60" long and 5" to 8" wide. Scarves should be long enough to be wrapped around the neck, with tails long enough to be tied in the front.

Style: Think unisex collegiate. Ask yourself if your son, brother, and/or husband would enjoy receiving the scarf. Fringes are optional. Your scarf should drape and tie easily.

Yarn: Preferably DK, double fingering-weight, worsted weight, or light bulky yarns. No laceweight, super-chunky, or mohair yarns as there are many people who find mohair too itchy. The yarn should be soft, and washable. .

Color: Red! However, this could mean burgundy, cherry, russet, red stripes with other colors, or multicolor hues including red.

Miscellaneous: Each project should include washing instructions.

Deadline to Mail Scarves: September 2010 thru December 2010

Mail completed scarves to:

: Orphan Foundation of America
The Red Scarf Project
21351 Gentry Drive
Sterling, VA 20166

Knitting Pattern Suggestions

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/irish-hiking-scarf>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/twin-rib-scarf>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/my-so-called-scarf>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/basketweave-scarf-3>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/ribbed-red-scarf>

<http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/reversible-cable-scarf-7>