



Our **SIXTH** full season of Kiawah Cares Made With Love (MWL) ended on **6/30**, based on the Kiawah Cares Foundation (KCF) fiscal year. We remained **focused on our mission: bringing love and comfort to our underserved and under-appreciated Johns and Wadmalaw Islands' neighbors, mainly through handmade items, though this Season we had some unusual deliveries.** The 18-month Covid-caused hiatus in in-person weekly meetings **ended in October 2021 as we were able to resume our Fleece+ Fridays** -- our main source of production and fellowship. And we had another amazingly blessed year! **Season 6 Highlights:**

All About Our Production and Deliveries

Our Season 6 deliveries remained largely “drop and go” style (though we were able to linger a bit more before the “go”!). We have terrific contacts at all of our recipient groups and appreciate their support, trust and help. We even got to see a lot of the eventual recipients (like kids and Vets!) from afar, and look forward to when we can spend time among them again. Numbers can't tell the whole MWL story, but they sure do give an idea of the huge hearts of MWLers and the thousands of lives touched each year. **In Season 6, MWL made 40 deliveries on 33 delivery days, to 12 Sea Islands' organizations:**

- **Angel Oak Elementary School -- 7 deliveries:** blanket/pillow/book sets for new Child Development and Kindergarten classes; toiletry packs for Hygiene Classes; reading folders and awards; items for a Mother's Day “store” as well as gift bags to decorate and tissue paper; Teacher Appreciation gifts; books; and various supplies for the Art Department.
- **E.L. Frierson Elementary School -- 3 deliveries:** blankets/pillows/book sets for new students; items for their Mother's Day “store” as well as gift bags to decorate and tissue paper; Teacher Appreciation gifts; Reader Awards; and books.
- **Mt. Zion Elementary -- 7 deliveries:** blanket/pillow/book sets for new incoming students; Teacher Appreciation gifts, and items for their Valentine's Day “store” as well as gift bags to decorate and tissue paper.
- **Our Lady of Mercy -- 6 deliveries:** “Pamper” kits of blankets, totes, toiletries and more for their Prenatal Program moms; baby items for their Mom and Baby Closet; toiletries for their Community Pantry; gifts for use as incentives and rewards in their programs; bags of school supplies and used clothing (more on that on page 2).
- **Animal shelters -- 8 deliveries** to our “Furry Friend” liaison to local shelters and rescue groups: fleece braided pull-toys made from selvages; fleece-scrap blankets; used linens; and even dog food and dog beds (more on that on page 2).
- **Blessing Baskets – 1 delivery:** a variety of our fabric items (like purses, wallets and bags) for their volunteers and clients; and fleece magnets for all of their clients.
- **Meals on Mondays – 1 delivery:** blankets, scarves, hats, and assorted fabric gifts for volunteers and some clients; and magnets to distribute to all their Wadmalaw Island clients.
- **Charleston Veteran Center – 1 delivery:** patriotic fleece-tie adult blankets that were distributed to the Veteran PTSD clients; 2 special quilted lap blankets; and a patriotic scarf.
- **Johns Island Rehab and Healthcare (JIRHC) – 1 delivery:** scarves/shawls, blankets, sox, greeting cards and toiletries for their residents.
- **YoArt! – 1 delivery:** 3 full tubs of novelty yarn for use in their creative projects (www.yoart.org). (More on page 2.)
- **Johns Island Library – 1 delivery:** 3 boxes of knitting/crocheting books, 2 full tubs of yarn, and assorted needles for their “Knit and Purl” group (more on page 2).
- **Ronald McDonald House – 1 delivery** to our RMH liaison (a MWL supporter) and in association with KICA: 11 pounds of aluminum can tabs that RMH sells for scrap. Funds go to their programs. (Tab collection container is at the KICA office.)

Here are the **categories, quantities, and fair-market value of just the MWL handmade items distributed in Season 6:**

Item	Number Delivered	Fair-market value
Fleece-tie blankets, various sizes	357	\$17, 850
Fleece-tie pillows	356	\$10, 680
Purses, totes, gifts (fabric, various styles)	730	\$19,375
Scarves & shawls (fleece & knitted/crocheted)	170	\$2,550
Sachets (fleece)	508	\$2,540
Doggie pull-toys (fleece and fabric)	257	\$2,570
Greeting cards & tags	968	\$1,452
Key fobs (fabric)	101	\$707
Magnets	608	\$3,040
Ass't gifts (quilted coasters, tissue covers+)	32	\$320
Stuffed Comfort Buddy Loveys	11	\$165
Bookmarks	541	\$1, 623
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>\$62, 872</b>

In addition to items that are handmade, **we distributed numerous MWL mainstay non-handmade items**, among them:

1,748 toiletry items - valued at ~\$3,060	465+ books (new & used) - valued at ~\$4,200	90 carabiners for fobs - valued at ~\$90
1073 gift bags and tissue – valued at ~\$1,000	89 luggage tags for kids handmade bookbags – valued at ~\$134	

**Combined, that's more than 8,000 MWL mainstay items, with a fair-market value exceeding \$71,000!**

**But wait, there's more! In Season 6, we were emerging from most unusual times so received and delivered a lot of unusual items whose numbers are NOT in the above Season 6 totals but are worth noting, as MWL was a catalyst for generosity in the pandemic:**

- MWLers who knew about our "Furry Friend" liaison asked **if shelters could use items like dog food, dog beds, pet toys, used linens+ -- not on a grand scale but occasionally.** So, we delivered and our liaison got them to the neediest groups.
- MWLers who know we work with **groups that care for kids asked if things like pencils, erasers, and bags of kids clothing could be of use** – so, while not a regular service, we were happy to get them into the right hands.
- MWLers know we give some of our **leftover scraps – fabric, fleece, paper – to area schools for art projects. So they donated excess party supplies, sewing notions, and buttons** that we took to the schools' Art Departments.

**To several groups – Meals on Mondays, Charleston Veteran Center, Blessing Basket, JIRHC – we delivered cards and artwork from the various elementary schools with which we work.** The kids made the items as "payment" for the gifts they "bought" at our Mother's and Valentine's Day "stores." Great lessons for the kids – and oh the joy those cards and artwork bring to all recipients!

### About Our Big Pop-Up Yarn Sale

A true Season 6 highlight was in April, when MWL held a Pop-Up Yarn Sale that attracted so many enthusiasts and raised over **\$7,000 for MWL!** This was thanks to a very generous donation to KCF -- earmarked for MWL -- of thousands of skeins of yarn, knitting/crochet needles, and books by a specialty yarn shop owner who retired and moved to the area. We will use the "leftovers" in our crafts, share with area non-profits, and give to volunteer groups who will make items for distribution to the needy. (As noted on page 1, we donated nearly 1,000 skeins of yarn and needles with a value exceeding \$10,000). MWL paying it forward...

### About Our Budget

KICA/KCF's staff provides the 501(c)3 accounting, our meeting space, on-site supplies-closet, select admin services, and our all-important MWL off-site storage/work space – what we call our "offices." We **ended Season 6 with \$7,700 in available funds,** thanks to our May Yarn Sale. Throughout the year, the continuing generosity of "in-kind" donations of our Leadership Team and a few other MWLers helped us do so much. As always, we stretched every dollar as far as we could thanks to the support of KCF, the **deep discounts/free products afforded us by our long-term partner-suppliers:** Begin With Books, YourFleece.com, PillowFlex.com, Paint Brush Studios Fabric, LowCountry Dental, and The Reading Warehouse...and MWL creativity -- we **STILL waste NOTHING!**

### About Our Volunteers

We kept in touch weekly with the **100+ people on our MWL email list** throughout the Season. We had 40 unique individual volunteers. Our "Take and Make" area in the KICA Beachwalker facility now includes fleece blanket and pillow kits, sewing kits, yarn, loaner fabric scissors and needles, and MWL labels. It's also the "completed items/donations" station. Only a few MWLers reported their volunteer hours outside of Fleece+ Fridays – they are so humble! – **but those beautiful hearts who came to Fleece+ Fridays and the few who did report their MWL time logged 2,149 hours in Season 6, with a fair market value exceeding \$64,300.**

### About MWL Leadership

I am humbled and honored to be a part of the Team...and I am in awe of their dedication, talent, stamina, and hearts. Our Leadership Team of 5 includes full-time residents **Jane Payne, Ruth Flynn, and I, and part-time residents Sally Reed and Jeanne Spray.** Together we do planning, coordinate and make deliveries, and help produce MWL products...and are great friends!

- **Jane Payne** again led our fleece supplies ordering, storage, organization and inventory; researches and makes new items; and shares with me liaising duties with MWL's key suppliers;
- **Ruth Flynn** continued as Lead Liaison to Frierson, Mt. Zion, KICA/Kiawah Cares Foundation, and Begin With Books – and is an extraordinary producer of our items...and so creative (Ruth also organized and managed the Yarn Sale, a MAJOR effort);
- **Jeanne Spray** again led all MWL things related to fabric (versus fleece), including selecting fabrics, compiling kits for and coordinating with MWL seamstresses, liaising with our fabric supplier – and, of course, is a phenomenal seamstress;
- **Sally Reed** continued to be Lead Liaison to Our Lady of Mercy, and to lead and handle all aspects of our Toiletries Program (collecting, sorting, packaging, supplementing, delivering). (Thankfully, donations are returning to pre-Covid levels!)

I liaise with Angel Oak, Blessings Baskets, Meals on Mondays, and, with my Army veteran husband, Sam Bromage, the Vet Center. **All Leaders have reenlisted for Season 7...bless you all!**

### In Summary

It was a busy year as we slowly recover from Covid's affect. We miss the MWLers who either moved away, got into other Friday activities, or aren't yet ready to return to group settings. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome so many new faces, and so many faithful "old timers"! Like many organizations, MWL is finding that a "hybrid" model is emerging: more people crafting from home (wherever that may be) and for those for whom in-person is preferred, they come to our Fleece+ Fridays. No matter the means, we continue to show love and caring to our neighbors with items "Made With Love," and demonstrate once again that truly "Kiawah Cares." **THANK YOU and BLESS YOU, all MWLers, partners and supporters! Y'all ROCK! Here's to Season 7!**