

Knitting for Charity

by Cathy McFarlane

Knitting for charity in a nutshell.....just knit or crochet whatever you want and we'll find a good home for it.

Some FAQs

What type of yarn should I use when knitting for charity?

Most times a machine washable and dryable yarn is best as many of the recipients may not have the financial resources for dry cleaning or somewhere to dry handwashed items. However, if you make something in a high-end yarn, please label it clearly with laundry instructions as sometimes a charity may use this as a silent auction item at a fundraiser.

Which items are most popular?

Scarves, cowls / neck warmers, hats, gloves, blankets, lap robes, baby items especially baby blankets.

How do the items get to the different charities?

You can mail or deliver the items you have made to the charity you are working with. Just make sure you have checked with the charity first and you are sending them something they actually want. Most handmade items left on my porch go to Interval House, [Interval House - California](#), a shelter for victims of domestic violence. I deliver the items to the corporate headquarters in Long Beach and they then ship them to the various shelters. Baby items go to Casa de los Angelitos, [Casa De Los Angelitos](#), a maternity shelter in Harbor City. If they get too many items they share with other maternity shelters. They really love to get fleece baby blankets with crocheted edging. Let me know if you want to learn how to make one.

Which charities do we donate to?

Many of our members donate to their churches or charities they are affiliated with in the community. We partner with Yarn Angels of South Bay for some of our donations. Yarn Angels hosts 3 or 4 donation nights per year and collect items for Rainbow Services, [rainbowservicesdv.org](#) Harbor UCLA Pediatrics Unit, Flossie Lewis Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center, [www.rehab.com/bhs-flossie-lewis-center](#), Veterans Hospitals – both Long Beach and Westwood. Yarn Angels also participates in craft fairs and the money raised is donated to the charities listed above.

I would love to knit for charity but I'm a little short of cash, where can I get FREE yarn?

You might like to knit for Handmade Especially for You, [www.handmadeespecially.org](#). They provide pre-measured magic balls for making scarves but you MUST follow their very simple directions and use size 17 needles. Let me know if you would like to participate as I have kits available on my front porch. Let me know if you need yarn for charity work. Sometimes other members or groups are willing to share.

I feel like making some really cute holiday ornaments but no one in my family will want them. They've even told me not to make any more. What should I do?

If it brings you joy, go ahead and make as many ornaments as you want. We can either share them with the charities or Yarn Angels will add them to the craft fair booth and the money will go to charity. You might even want to get a booth at a craft fair and sell them yourself or sell on Etsy or Facebook.

How are charity donations recorded?

Please post your items for donation on Ravelry www.ravelry.com. We used to have a hand written log at our meetings but COVID put meetings on hold. You may also email me a list of your donations. The charity report is presented at monthly meetings.

I would like a receipt of my donations for my taxes please.

If you need a receipt or written proof of donation please work directly with your chosen charity. When we receive a thank-you letter it is printed in the newsletter.

Happy Knitting – keep those needles clicking!

