

SPREADING LOVE THROUGH NEEDLEWORK



As health care professionals, a trio of CHI Memorial Outpatient Pharmacy employees provide comfort and care through prescriptions. But the women continue their mission and ministry after hours through the gift of needlework.

For the past year, certified pharmacy technicians Becky Hughes, Dana Britt, and Gina Lambert have gathered almost every Tuesday in the Recharge Suite after work to crochet together. Becky learned to crochet as a child and has practiced the art for 45 years. She taught Dana and Gina the basics.

“I really love needlework,” says Becky, who also enjoys knitting, cross stitch, and needlepoint. “I enjoy teaching, and I want somebody else to enjoy the craft. I’ll teach anybody.”

A 7-year CHI Memorial employee, Dana says she began crocheting because “I needed a hobby. My kids are older now and do things on their own. I needed something to do besides mindlessly scrolling on electronics. It’s fun to make stuff for people and see them enjoy it.”

Dana’s first project, a baby blanket, “did not go as planned,” she says with a laugh. And Becky adds, “They seldom do!”

During an illness, “I had nothing to do but sit in my bed and watch YouTube videos about how to crochet,” Dana says. “I took what Becky taught me and built on that. When she says to count your stitches, she’s actually being serious about it!”

Dana has progressed from small blankets to children’s clothing and toys. She especially enjoys crocheting dinosaurs for the children at her church.

Gina says she admired Becky’s projects. She had knitted in the past but was a novice with a crochet hook. “Becky is very easy to learn from,” she says. Her first project was a small towel. “Several times I looked at Becky and said, ‘What am I doing wrong? I don’t know what I’ve done!’”

Gina, a 23-year CHI Memorial employee, progressed to a garland of crocheted Christmas stars. Her proudest accomplishment is a “Dr. Who” scarf, modeled after a similar item worn by the character in a television show. It is seven and one-half feet long.

DANA BRITT, CPhT

7 YEARS

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECH

BECKY HUGHES, CPhT

5 YEARS

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECH

GINA LAMBERT, CPhT

23 YEARS

CERTIFIED PHARMACY TECH

The women crochet not just for pleasure, but for purpose. They use their skills in ministry for others, especially children.

“I enjoy the meditative nature of the work,” says Becky. “But at some point, you’ve got to start giving things away. You can only have so many blankets. I want to find someone who has a need or has a wish. I’ve been given a skill, and I’m supposed to share it.”

Dana and Gina are interested in working with Evan’s Box, a ministry that provides hand-made clothing to babies who were miscarried or still born. Dana has already provided a box of appropriately-sized items for the tiny children to a local neo-natal unit.

“We’re supposed to be the hands and feet of Jesus,” Dana says. “We need to do more of that. I’ve been blessed to have two healthy kids, and I never experienced loss. It brings me joy to help mothers who have lost children.”

Becky, a five-year Memorial employee, is working on blankets for Project Linus. The non-profit provides blankets to children in need.

“When you give a child a blanket, they know someone cares,” says Becky. “It is something that belongs just to them. It’s not something the foster family gave them to sleep under. It’s theirs.”

The friends enjoy spreading love to others with their skills.

“It brings us joy to give other people something joyful—to help fill their hearts and to make them feel loved and included,” says Becky.

Patience and tenacity are necessary to flourish with crocheting, according to the co-workers.

“Take your time and have someone who is willing to help you,” Gina says. “Don’t start out with patterns. Just work on stitches.”

“Find something you like to do, find someone to teach you, look at online instructions, and don’t give up,” Becky says. “Eventually, it’s going to click. You’ll be working along and all of a sudden you’ll say, ‘Oh, that’s what it’s supposed to look like!’ You end up with something great at the end, even if it’s not quite perfect.”



Evan’s Box is a ministry to provide handmade items to clothe “angel babies,” those who are miscarried or born without a heartbeat. Many of these children are delivered in hospitals. The non-profit was started in Georgia by a mother who lost her son, Evan. Crocheting was part of her grieving process. Evan’s Box items are accepted in the Chattanooga area at Erlanger Medical Center and Tennova Healthcare in Cleveland. For more information, contact evansbox.org.

Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children from birth to age 18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need. Blankets are collected locally and distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, and social service agencies. For more information, contact projectlinus.org to access the Hamilton County contact.

