



WE GET LETTERS

"Dear Kathy and Stitches

I have been working at CareNet Pregnancy Center of Tri-Counties (formerly Crisis Pregnancy Center of Northern California) since February of 1997. I remember when we received our first shipment from you. I don't know how you got our name, but I can tell you we always gather around to see the contents of each box. It's almost like Christmas. Our center's services are all free. We only have 2 paid staff members. All the rest of us are volunteers. After a girl/woman has a positive pregnancy test, we give her a neutral layette consisting of a receiving blanket, a sleeper or undershirt, a diaper, a toy and last but certainly not least, one of your hats and booties. You ought to hear them ooh and aah, and see the looks on their faces.

Just a couple of days ago I gave a matching hat and bootie set in a layette to a new mother-to-be. When she saw them she was overcome. She said: Someone went to a lot of trouble to make this. How can I thank them? As it turned out the stitcher had put her name and address label on the tag, so I suggested to her that she could write the lady a thank you note. (I'm sorry, I don't remember the lady's name, but I think she lived in San Diego.) My client was so pleased to receive such a beautiful gift and said she would be sure to send a thank you note.

Our best wishes and thank you again for all you do. Marilyn Hoke; Volunteer Peer Counselor CareNet Pregnancy Center.

Hello Kathy and Volunteers of Stitches From The Heart,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the beautiful items you sent us at the New Life Birthing Center here at Bristol Regional Medical Center. We have been very thankful to have the items sent to us. I wanted to share just a couple of examples of how we have used the gifts in our unit. We have recently had several preemies that have used the hats and booties to keep their temperatures up enough to go out to mother's room for bonding and tender loving care. The mothers were so thankful of the gifts and the time spent

holding their babies was priceless. Another example was a young mother who came in without any support persons and all her clothes and the things she had gathered for the baby had been stolen a couple of days before she gave birth. Your outfits, hats and blankets were the only clothes she had to take the baby home in. We are so grateful to have something to give her to dress the baby. Please never forget that all your time, expense and tender loving care that goes into each item of clothing is very much appreciated and needed. Thanks again from the bottom of our hearts. FROM ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL IN CHICAGO:

Dear Peggy (a Stitches volunteer), wherever you are, one of your precious hats was given to my grand daughter born May 3, 2003 at Hoag Hospital, Newport Beach. She was 2 months premature, weighing 3lb,s 110z. Her mother had the complication of placenta previa.

I am familiar with "Stitches from the Heart", because I teach Creative NeedleArts at the Tustin Senior Center. Some of my students donate blankets and hats to this group. I never expected to be a recipient of one of those precious hats. Every hat makes a difference! Thank you "stitching angels". You're the best.

Susan Drolush (Son: Bob Drolush, Daughter-In-Law: Chris Drolush, Baby: Phoebe Clare Drolush

DEAR MS. SILVERTON,

WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE TO RECEIVE THE BOX OF BEAUTIFUL KNITTED AND CROCHETED WINTER BABY ACCESSORIES TODAY! YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT OUR MOMS ARE THRILLED TO HAVE THE WARM ITEMS, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ARE DEALING WITH SINGLE-DIGIT, ICY, BONE-SHILLING COLD THESE DAYS. TO GO FROM THE WARMTH OF THE WOMB TO THE BUS-FREEZING TEMPERATURES OF THE WINDY CITY IN FEBRUARY CAN BE QUITE A SHOCK TO A LITTLE ONE!

WE DELIVER OVER 2,000 BABIES ANNUALLY. MANY OF OUR FAMILIES LIVE AT ONE OR TWO LEVELS BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. THUS, THEY ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR GENEROSITY. TO HAVE SUCH A PRETTY AND WARM SET OF CLOTHING, OR HAT AND BOOTIES IN WHICH TO TAKE BRAND NEW

BABIES HOME PUTS A SMILE ON THE FACES OF A LOT OF MOMS, DADS AND NEWBORNS! AND IT GETS THE BABIES OFF TO A GOOD START.....SR. MARGARET O'DWYER

Dear Kathy,

I cannot express enough how elated our hospital is to be on your mailing list and receive the beautiful gifts you send us. Our parents are so touched by the kindness of the volunteers. We have many babies whose parents cannot afford to buy things for the children during their stay here or for their trip home. It is wonderful to have something nice to offer the parents.

On rare occasions, we may have a baby that does not make it. We use the clothes to also dress these babies for the parents. They appreciate it so much.

We are touched by the time and energy the volunteers put into the gifts we receive. God bless and please tell all the volunteers thank you.

Cindy Andries, RNMaternal – Child Director

TO THE LADIES OF STITCHES FROM THE HEART:

I am sending the biggest and warmest hugs to all of you. Our daughters were born 11 weeks early at NICU in IA Methodist Medical Center. One daughter then passed after 5 days of life after being flown to IA City Hospital. Your caring garments, blankets and hats were such wonderful special gifts when we received them. You may never know how much your kindness and talents mean to a family grieving and rejoicing. All my best to all of you and many many thanks to you, your families and may God bless. Amanda, Byron, Kayla and in memory of Mallory Gutshall

DID YOU KNOW??

PREEMIE RATE HIGHEST IN 20 YEARS, REPORT SAYS

From Associated Press

The percentage of babies born prematurely in the U.S. reached a two-decade high last year, driven by an increase in twins and triplets. Overall, 4,025,933 babies were born in the United States in 2001. Disturbing was the rise in babies born prematurely, which is defined as less than 37 full weeks of gestation. The percentage of babies born that early rose to nearly 12%...that's 485,112 preemies – the highest level since officials began tracking this category 20 years ago.