THE KATRINA STASH REPLACEMENT PROJECT

What if your stash was wiped out in an instant?

For the victims of Hurricane Katrina, this is the least of their worries.

But for knitters and crocheters who love the crafts and are used to having something to do with their hands, it is yet another dimension of this tragedy.

Enter the "Katrina Stash Replacement Project."

The project was conceived by Jana Trent, a woman from the Dallas/Fort Worth area who teaches knitting at her local Parks & Recreation Department. Her town is accepting people who have been displaced, and she was thinking that some of them will be knitters or crocheters who have no "stash" anymore, and many may wish to learn to knit or crochet to occupy the time as they wait to be resettled. In fact, Jana already has a woman who's been displaced and is temporarily living with relatives there signed up for her next class!

We know how comforting it is to have something to work on when we're stressed, and I'd wager that none of us has ever gone through what these people are going through.

So Jana's plan is to make up little "kits" complete with everything necessary to complete a project: pattern, yarn, knitting needles or crochet hook, stitch markers, stitch holders, tape measure, folding scissors.

These kits will be distributed initially through the Wilkinson Center, a multi-service facility in Dallas which assists more than 20,000 people each year with food, clothing, employment assistance, after-school children's programs, and other emergency services. Jana reports that the Center is receiving referrals of displaced persons from the City of Dallas and has requested help from local residents in meeting the needs of the refugees. Hopefully as things get more organized in the disaster zone, there will be other facilities that can use the supplies, too.

Yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks are the priority, but any other supplies are good, too - stitch markers, stitch holders, tape measures, folding scissors, tapestry needles, or patterns.

For information on how you can contribute, please email:

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