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What is Threads of Compassion?

Indiana Donor Network offers comfort shawls to families at the time of their loved ones' donations. The shawls are made by volunteers from across Indiana as part of Indiana Donor Network's Threads of Compassion program.

The hope is that this small gift will provide comfort to a donor family in their time of sorrow and transition. The shawl is intended to express compassion at a moment when there are no words to say. The donor family can wrap the shawl around them during their time in the hospital, and take it home, helping to fill the void of leaving their loved one. Volunteers knit or crochet comfort, healing, hope and love into each and every shawl.

How you can help

For those who like to knit or crochet, making a difference in someone's life – and getting to know other volunteers at the same time – is possible through Threads of Compassion. If you crochet or knit, consider making a comfort shawl. Shawls should measure 24 – 34" wide and 65 – 70" long. Fringe is optional. Any pattern may be used, and if you choose, Indiana Donor Network will mail yarn and patterns to you.

If you don't knit or crochet but still want to help, you may donate materials to the program. All donations are tax deductible.

To learn more, contact us:

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Crochet Directions

Basic Shawl 1

J or K hook 32oz 4-ply or worsted weight yarn

Final Measurements: 24"-34" wide x 65"-70" long

Chain 56 st, or desired width of shawl.

Row 1: Ch1, turn, single crochet in each st to the end

Rows 2-4: Ch 3 and turn, double crochet in each st across

Row 5: Ch 1 and turn, single crochet in each st across

Repeat rows 2-5 until shawl is the desired length, ending with a row 5.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Add fringe if desired.

Basic Shawl 2

J or K hook 32oz 4-ply or worsted weight yarn

Final Measurements: 24"-34" wide x 65"-70" long

Chain 72 sts (pattern is worked in multiples of 3+1 you can adjust the number of chains to suit your tension)

Row 1: (dc, ch2, sc) in fourth ch from hook, *skip next 2 chs, (2dc, ch2, sc) in the next ch. Repeat from * across

Row 2: ch2, turn. (dc, ch2, sc) in first ch2 space. (2dc, ch2, sc) in each ch2 space across.

Repeat Row 2 until you reach desired length, ensuring enough yarn is left for the final row.

Last row: ch2, turn, *sc in first ch2 space, ch2. Repeat from * across ending with sc.

Fasten off and weave in ends. Add fringe if desired.

Lattice Shawl

Size K Hook Worsted weight yarn

Finished measurements: approximately 15" x 52"

Chain 48.

Row 1: Make a dc in the 6th chain from the hook; *ch1, skip next ch, dc in next ch; repeat from * across. At the end of row 1 you will have 22 dc stitches

Row 2: Ch 4, turn, dc in the next dc, *ch1 dc in next dc; repeat from * across to the end of the row, then make a dc in the 4th chain of the beginning chain

Row 3: Ch 4, turn, dc in the next dc, *ch1, dc in the next dc; repeat from * across to the end of the row, then make a dc in the 3rd chain of the beginning chain

Repeat row 3 until shawl reaches 52". Fasten off and weave in ends.

Ripple Shawl

J or K hook

800 yds worsted weight yarn

(This pattern looks best when worked loose, you may desire to go up a hook size.)

Final Measurements: 20" x 65"

Row 1: 2sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc2tog, sc in each of next 5 sts, 2sc in next st, * 2sc in next st, sc in each of next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc2tog, sc in each of next 5 sts, 2sc in next st, rep from * until end of row is reached, sc once more in last st (there will be 3 sc in the last st of this row).

Row 2: (right side): Turn, ch 4, tc in same st, (2 tc in next st) 2 times, (sk 1, tc in next st), 5 times, sk 1, (2 tr in next st) 2 times, * 3 tr in next st, (2 tr in next st) 2 times, sk 1, (tr in next st, sk 1) 5 times, (2 tr in next st) 2 times, rep from * until on st is left, 2 tr in last st.

Row 3: (work entire row in front loops only): Change color. Ch1, 2sc in first st, sc in each of next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc2tog, sc in each of next 5 sts, 2sc in next st, * 2sc in next st, sc in each of next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc2tog, sc2tog, sc in each of next 5 sts, 2sc in next st, rep from * until end of row is reached, sc once more through both loops of last st (there will be 3 sc in the last st of this row).

Repeat rows 2&3 until the desired length is reached, ending with a row 3.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Simple Shawl

J hook

Worsted weight yarn

Final Measurements: 25" x 60"

Ch 91.

Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, (ch3, skip 2 sc, sc in next ch) across to last 2 sts. Ch 3, sk next ch, sc in last ch (30 ch3 spaces).

Row 2: ch 4, turn, (sc in ch3, ch1, dc in next sc, ch1) repeat 39 times, sc in ch3, ch1, dc in last sc (31 dc).

Row 3: ch1, turn, sc in dc, (ch3, sk sc-ch1-sc, sc in next dc) across, sc in 3rd ch of ch4 from previous row. (30 ch3)

Repeat rows 2 & 3 until shawl reaches the desired length.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

V-stitch shawl

K hook

Worsted weight yarn

Final Measurements: 25" x 60"

Ch 51.

Row 1: (dc, c2, dc) in 6th ch from hook (v-st made), *sk next 2 ch, (dc, c2, dc) in next ch; repeat from * across to last 3 ch, sk next 2 ch, dc in last ch. – 15 v-sts at the end of this row.

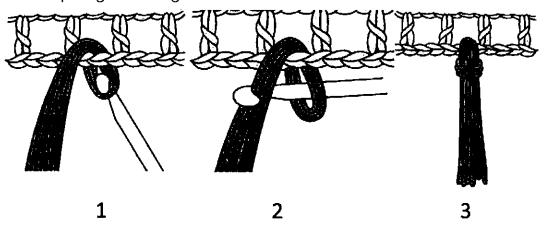
Row 2: Ch3, turn, (dc, ch 2, dc) in each ch-2 space across, dc in top of turning ch.

Repeat row 2 until shawl reaches the desired length.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Helpful tips:

- Each shawl should ideally be 24"-34" wide and 65"-70" long without fringe. Gauge is not important for the shawls as long as they meet the required size.
- Ensure that all skeins of yarn have the same dye lot to ensure continuity. There can be slight, but noticeable, discrepancies between the same color yarn if it is a different dye lot.
- Cut fringe before you start your shawl and store in a plastic bag until shawl is complete.
- To make fringe: cut 12" pieces of yarn. Using a crochet hook fold the strand in half, pull the loop through the stitch; insert the ends of the fringe through the loop and pull tight creating a knot.



Glossary

- ch chain
- dc double crochet
- k knit
- k2tog knit 2 together
- k3tog knit 3 together
- p purl
- RS right side
- sc single crochet
- sk-skip
- st stitch
- tr- treble crochet
- WS wrong side