

**What's Up with Sheila's Shawls?**

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**

*Hug a survivor this month - with your arms -- or a shawl ;-)*

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**New State Coordinators:** Claudia Duran in Salina, Kansas; Stephanie Whitehead in GA has a new email address: [vipmacga@yahoo.com](mailto:vipmacga@yahoo.com); Sherry Clark in Tulsa OK has a new email [sherry@rsvptulsa.org](mailto:sherry@rsvptulsa.org);

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**New Volunteer Knitters:** Lesa Nelson (formerly State Coordinator) in NC;

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**New Connections:** Nell Plucy <http://www.threadsofcompassion.bravehost.com> where survivors of sexual abuse knit for other victims; **LionBrand Charity Connections** (see the description we use for such listings below):

*Sheila's Shawls and Paul's Scarves is a national project that creates, collects, and distributes hand-knit, crocheted, sewn, or woven shawls and scarves to families and friends of victims of domestic violence, as well as to survivors themselves.*

*We welcome folks to join our online group who may have an interest in helping this work move forward in ways that work for the individual and the group. We each do what we can to help create and support domestic peace.*

*We welcome heartfelt donations of time, energy, and effort, Volunteer Knitters, State Coordinators, as well as monetary donations to help cover costs of creating and delivering shawls and scarves to those who can benefit from them. We invite you to join us as we work to create and support domestic peace.*

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**Stories from the Field:**

**Hello Everyone -**

Last Saturday I had a table at Theofest in Wheaton IL. It was a beautiful day, so the event was well attended.

I probably ended up handing out about 50 or so flyers. The owner of a Local Yarn Shop took a handful to put in her shop! The actual bowl of Yarn was also a big draw --- lots of people stopped and squeezed the yarn!

I enjoyed working on my latest Shawl project throughout the day --- I feel this was well blessed my all of the people who attended the event. We have a list of a half a dozen names --- will work later this fall to reconnect with everyone. So I hope this helps to inspire everyone!

### **Danielle Byron, IL State Coordinator**

PS A Yarn Store wants to adopt us! I received a call from the partner of the Yarn Shop owner who I met a couple of weeks ago at Theofest. She and her partner are very interested in sponsoring something for Sheila's Shawls! They would like to be a collection point for our Shawls and perhaps offer a discount for yarn.

### **Shawl and Scarf Knitting Baskets:**

Judy Casserberg has a yarn shop in Knife River MN; and she has a basket in one of the corners of her shop where folks are welcome to sit and knit a bit on a healing shawl she keeps there in process for that purpose. This kind of 'knitting basket' for shawls or scarves is also a great idea for churches and/or health practitioner waiting rooms. You can have a shawl or scarf in progress in the basket, along with a Sheila's Shawls hand-out and simple, clear instructions for how to add a few rows (or whatever) to the work in progress. Community in action! Local public libraries, college libraries, hair salons, waiting rooms, are all good places to check in with to see if they'd like to have this kind of 'community knitting basket' available for folks while they sit and wait, or take time out from a busy day. Try it -- it may work well ;-)

### **Susan Bourne, VT State Coordinator**

**Did you know there are 42 yarn stores in Minnesota** and you can find them all on the internet? I have contacted all 42 yarns stores and asked them to put a Shawl in Progress in their store, with brochures about Sheila's Shawls and information for the customers to pick up and take so they can make one of their own. Nobody has turned me down. When asked how it starts I do tell them that usually the store will donate the first yarn and needles, also a place to place the Shawl in Progress. Then I mail or deliver the brochures and pattern (borrowed with permission from the Shawl ministry website. This is an on going community project and I tell the yarn store not to worry if it takes a year to complete a shawl. To find the stores in your state do a google websearch of yarn stores in your state.

### **Renee Youngberg, MN State Coordinator**

PS I also have 30 knitters at the school where I work and Janet Hagberg just made a connection for us to do a shawls project presentation at the community education program in North St. Paul. This will be my first public speaking appearance for Sheila's Shawls.

**Renee, what a great idea and one that is working!** I will happily take the same community building action here in Oklahoma. You're really taking off now!

**Sherry Clark, OK State Coordinator**

**I've been working on knitting shawls for Sheila's Shawls.** I hope to have a supply completed within 2 weeks, at which time, I will be in touch with Renee as to where to ship them.

**CC, Volunteer Knitter in Minnesota**

**Hi, everyone.** I asked RSVP Tulsa volunteer knitters and crocheters to make shawls and scarves a couple of weeks ago and - voila! - they've completed 3 scarves and a shawl with more to come. And, sorry to say, we have survivors to present them to - we've had many losses in Tulsa this year. However, on a positive note, I'm on my way to Oklahoma City tomorrow for our State Attorney General's annual domestic violence superconference and will stay for a nighttime ceremony that will light the Capitol dome purple for the next three days. To light the dome any color is a very rare thing for Oklahoma, and to light it purple is something we think we're probably the first state to do. I'll take lots of pictures and share them with you and can't wait to frame them for corporate HR people to put in their offices. It's a visual message that says, "DV Is Against the Law in Oklahoma!"

**Sherry Clark, OK State Coordinator for Sheila's Shawls**

Faces: Families and Communities Empowered for Safety and

RSVP/DVIS Court Watch, Tulsa, OK

**While I was in the process of putting this newsletter together,** a pastor from a local church called me about another matter and I asked her if she would be interested in having a shawl knitting basket. She said she had some recollection of talk about knitting

for folks among her congregation and suggested I contact the Women's Fellowship.  
How's that for synchronicity?

**Susan Bourne, VT State Coordinator**

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Here's something adapted from Gaelic Runes we've suggested folks might like to include on a card with some of the shawls and scarves they knit and gift:

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

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**May there be domestic peace in every heart and every home.**

**Susan Bourne, Co-National Coordinator for Sheila's Shawls**