

Fact Sheet: In-Kind Gifts

Our Gathering 2023 theme, Just Love, helps us to see the needs of our neighbors in a new way. In-kind gifts are more than charity or feel-good opportunities. These in-kind gifts are a way to Just Love.



Our Women of the ELCA purpose statement calls us to be there for each other. Through in-kind gifts, we connect Just Love with lives of gift recipients in Phoenix and around the world. We can be there for them in relationship and partnership, and we can make a difference in the world.

You can focus on one in-kind gift or collect a variety. Make this a congregational unit activity and invite everyone in your congregation to practice just love. You might also spread the love and invite family and friends to help you collect in-kind gifts.

The list of items was determined in community with the agencies and partners that will receive them. Please stick to the items on the list. The recipient agencies and organizations will lead the interactive servant events — learning opportunities — in the exhibit hall at the gathering.

Quilt kits, quilt tops and completed quilts

Lutheran women have been gifting the world with quilts since Lutheran World Relief distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year. At this gathering there will be three ways to participate in making quilts for LWR.

1. Quilt Kits Each afternoon of the gathering participants will come to the Quilt Lab in the Just Love Laboratories (exhibit hall) to transform your quilt kits into love. *(Continued on next page.)*



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

- In-Kind Gifts**
- Quilt kits**
- Quilt tops**
- Completed quilts**
- Knitted Knockers**
- Gift cards**
- Hygiene items**
- Diapers**
- Baby wipes**

To create a quilt kit:

Fill a gallon-size sealable plastic bag with the following:

- Twelve 21-inch squares of cotton fabric.
- One spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match the dominant fabric.
- One piece of cotton fabric for backing: 2 ½ yards of 60" fabric or 5 yards of 35" – 45" fabric.

Please do not use fabric printed with religious symbols, U.S. flags or military insignia.

2. Quilt Tops You can also help double the number of quilts that will be completed in the Quilt Lab by completing a twelve 21-inch square quilt top in advance of the gathering. To bring a completed top—

Fill a gallon-size sealable plastic bag with the following:

- The completed twelve 21-inch square quilt top.
- One spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match the dominant fabric.
- One piece of cotton fabric for backing: 2 ½ yards of 60" fabric or 5 yards of 35" – 45" fabric.

Please do not use fabric printed with religious symbols, U.S. flags or military insignia.



3. Completed Quilts Add your mission quilts to participate in the Quilt Lab's answer to just love the ministry of quilting. What better way to use your stash to make room for more fabric! Bring along a completed quilt or two.

The Quilt Lab will also host the first Women of the ELCA triennial ingathering of quilts and kits for LWR.

Remember to—

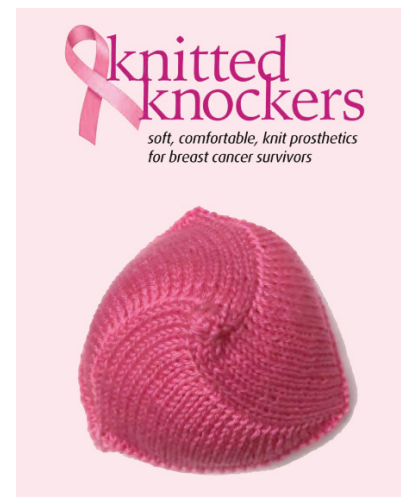
- Invite other quilters to join your Operation Just Love team. Think outside the box. Anyone can join your team to make quilts or assist in tying and putting kits together. Send them to the website welcatg.org. Check in with them often. Especially as deadlines approach.
- Pray for this effort daily and visit the website often for updates. Gifts can be brought to the gathering on September 21st or mailed between August 1st and September 8th to:

Women of the ELCA
Operation Just Love In-Kind Gifts Collection
8765 W Higgins Rd
Chicago IL 60631-4101

Instructions for Knitted Knockers

Did you know that 1 out of 8 women will experience breast cancer sometime in their lifetime? And 50,000 mastectomies are done a year in the United States alone and 90% of those having a mastectomy will wear a breast prosthesis at least for a while. Knitted Knockers are special handmade breast prostheses for women who have had breast cancer and undergone mastectomy or lumpectomy. There is a huge demand for Knitted Knockers that can't be met by any one group but together we can do it! Over 450,000 free knockers have been distributed since they started in 2015.

Knitted Knockers volunteers will be in the Just Love Laboratories (exhibit hall) in the Knitted Knockers Lab to receive completed knockers and to help you get started on your way to knit and crochet while in plenary sessions, in your hotel room, or in workshops to create soft, comfortable, beautiful knockers for a woman in need of love and healing. There are two ways you can participate.



1. Complete Knitted knockers Start by going to <http://www.knittedknockers.org/>, click on "How To" and "Make a Knocker." Next click "Patterns" and make sure to click on "Downloads" and scroll down to "Approved Yarns." This is very important. Only knockers made from the approved list will be used to fill orders from knittedknockers.org so if knitting or crocheting for Knitted Knockers please only use yarns.

For each completed set of knockers—

Fill a gallon-size sealable plastic bag with the following the completed knockers. Note do not size them. Sizing will happen on site in the Knitted Knockers Lab.

2. Purchase Knitted Knockers Kit Go to <https://www.apple yarns.com/> and click on "Knitted Knockers." Apple Yarns has been a proud sponsor since the inception of *KnittedKnocker.org*. Apple Yarns partially underwrites the cost of Ultra Pima in the favorite colors. Each kit includes a Knitted Knocker printed pattern and pdf pattern, 2 Skeins Ultra Pima Fine (recommended for crochet) or 1 Skein of Ultra Pima (yarn will be wound) and care instructions. You can knit or crochet up to 3 Knockers per ball (depending on the size). Remember to include Women of the ELCA address for your shipping address.

Remember to—

- Invite other knitters and crocheters to join your Operation Just Love team. Think outside the box. Anyone can join your team to purchase kits. Send them to the website welcatg.org. Check in with them often. Especially as deadlines approach.
- Pray for this effort daily and visit the website often for updates. Gifts can be brought to the gathering on September 21st or mailed between August 1st and September 8th to:

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Complete In-kind gifts list

The four recipient organizations and agencies identified these common items from their need lists. Each will receive a combination of these in-kind gifts.

Gift Cards

(minimum value \$10; \$25 is most desirable) may be purchased from the following national retailers: Target, Walmart, Visa, Mastercard, Home Depot, Lowe's, Sam's Club, and Costco.

Grocery store chains cards

—Safeway, local chain can be purchased on-line Sprouts- [Sprouts.com](https://sprouts.com), Frys- <https://giftcards.kroger.com>, Los Altos Ranch Market-[https:// losaltosranchmarket.com](https://losaltosranchmarket.com).

Hygiene Items

Family size— ethnic hair products, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, razors, and body lotion, for women, children, teens and men. Also needed are hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items (tampons and pads).

Diapers

(all sizes, sizes 4,5,6 always needed) and baby wipes any size packages.

Clothing items

socks and underwear (for women, men, teens; all sizes), sports bras (all sizes). Children's clothes up to 12 years old for girls and boys.

Household items

Twin and queen sheet sets, mattress pads for twin and queen beds, blankets, twin and queen size comforters, towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth), laundry baskets. Laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap. Toilet paper, paper towels, kitchen and bathroom disinfectant spray, sponges.

Cleaning supplies Multipurpose cleaner, glass cleaner, bathroom, floor, trash bags, etc.

Remember to—

- Invite others to join your Operation Just Love team. Think outside the box. Anyone can join your team to collect these items. Send them to the website welcatg.org. Check in with them often. Especially as deadlines approach.
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In-Kind Gift Recipients

Four In-Kind Gifts recipients will share the gifts from this mutual gifts list—

The Phoenix Dream Center Since 2008 their human trafficking program has been committed to providing trauma-informed housing, behavioral health, medical health, education, and career services to young women from all over the nation and teens mostly between the ages of 14 and 26 years old.

The House of Refuge- Sunnyslope has been breaking the cycle of homelessness since 1988. Providing more than transitional housing, they equip individuals to lead independent lives that enable them to break free from homelessness.

Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet is a newly incorporated 501(c)3 where twice a month about 20 volunteers offer diapers to the parents of more than 150 babies and toddlers. Each child receives a week's worth of diapers and wipes.

Refugee Women's Empowerment Program, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest specifically tailored to the needs of refugee women, offers a safe space for women from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burma, Cuba, and more.

You will have a chance to engage with staff and participants of these programs in the Just Love Laboratories (exhibit hall) in the In-Kind Gifts Lab each afternoon of the gathering. Remember, all gifts must be new. No exceptions. *Please do not bring items not included in this list.*

