

## Message from Rebecca Fishman, Children's Heart Center Administrator

Three months ago, I began a knitting drive for our pediatric and neonatal ICU patients, initially as a way to channel the creative energy of my family and friends. As word traveled, the project has exceeded my expectations; we now have volunteers as far away as Florida! I have been tremendously humbled by the response and enthusiasm the project has generated among our volunteers, staff, and patients.

As of this printing, we have received:  
**14 baby blankets,**  
**18 pairs of booties, and**  
**10 dozen bonnets/hats!**

My goal for the project was to create a meaningful way to channel the creative energy of a pool of volunteers while providing a valuable service for our sickest patients and their families. The program is a small, but important addition to the existing and outstanding quality pediatric psycho-social programming at Mount Sinai. I am very grateful to the Child Life department for their assistance in distributing your donations.

Several of you have shared incredibly touching stories of why you were drawn to the project. One community rallied to support one of our heart transplant patients. Others see this as a way to give back to an institution where your loved one received care. I would like to feature some of your stories in the next edition of this newsletter. Please contact me if you are interested in being featured!

THANK YOU to all our volunteers for your generous contributions so far!

Need patterns or ideas? Try:  
[www.dailyknitter.com](http://www.dailyknitter.com)  
[www.knittingpatterncentral.com](http://www.knittingpatterncentral.com)  
[www.lionbrand.com](http://www.lionbrand.com)  
[www.straw.com](http://www.straw.com)

## Message from Diane Rode, Director of Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy

On behalf of the Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department in Pediatrics, I want to thank you for your creativity and generosity in providing our children and families with so many very beautiful knitted items. As you may know, hospitalization and illness are potentially traumatic for children of all ages and their families. Child Life services seek to facilitate coping and adjustment and to normalize the often very stressful environment of the hospital. By providing us with such warm and loving hand-knit gifts to distribute to children, you help extend the very important work of psychosocial care for our most vulnerable hospitalized children. So many thanks for all that you do!

We are trying to find a name for this project and welcome your ideas! Send your submissions to [rebecca.fishman@mssm.edu](mailto:rebecca.fishman@mssm.edu)

## Message from Lesley Phillips, Child Life Specialist

On behalf of the families served by the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, I would like to extend a big thank you to the many volunteers that continue to donate hand-knitted and crocheted items. Volunteers have contributed baby blankets, hats and booties for many of our young patients. As a fellow knitter, I can attest to the time and effort that goes into making these beautiful pieces. The families have been very receptive to receiving these gifts. They feel that someone is caring for their child in a special way, and are truly touched by the thought and care that goes into each item. Into each piece is sewn a special tag that reads, "Made especially for you by a Mount Sinai Volunteer". This extra special touch is a reminder that someone from Mount Sinai is thinking of their child and wishes them well. What an amazing gift!

