

Presidents Challenge 2020-2021 issued from Kimela Thompson

Charitable projects completed between Jan 1 2020 to May 30, 2021 for me included leading a group of Sewers from the SCQG and the SCHCA (Sunshine Coast Health Care Auxiliary) in making scrub caps, scrub bags, masks for the Hospital personnel.

I became involved when a call went out from the Hospital Foundation to the Health Care Aux if there was anyway there was someone to gather others and make items identified needed for those at the Hospital as COVID restrictions started in our community. I felt this was something I would be able to organize and sent out emails to Aux members and Guild members to see if we had a group of sewers available to meet this request. Indeed, there was many volunteers and so the marathon of making hundreds and hundreds of caps, bags and masks for the hospital began. Challenges was coordinating the sewers, gathering materials and dropping them off and picking them up. Elastic became a coveted commodity. Nose pieces being used developed over time from using floral wire, pipe cleaners to getting bendable nose pieces off Amazon which started helping keep the masks in place. The same could be said for mask patterns, from the simple 3-fold mask to a 3D mask now available as mask wearing became mandatory for all. And then of course the requirement from Health Canada for the polypropylene product to be the insert to increase protection came up and that is now being purchased and is a part of mask making now.

We met all the requests for the hospital (over 1000 items produced by the group), and then I thought what about our Care facilities? We started again making caps, bags and masks for Shorncliffe, Totem & 2nd Floor South (Christensen Village was covered by another Guild member) and delivered them to these facilities who were very thankful and appreciative of these items to help keep them safe.

Once this project was completed the group was disbanded until other requests came through over 2020. Christine Fearn started asking for sewers to start sewing masks for the Community at large. I participate in this group over 2020-2021 making over 800 masks for this project. Another Guild lady – Julie received the request from the school district for making masks for the high school children and then more recently elementary school children. We make the tri-fold style and use generic colors. I've lost count of how many of these masks I've made.

The joy of being a part of the sewer group and making important items for our community has given me a lot of satisfaction over this difficult 2020-2021 year. Respectfully submitted, Karen Biddlecombe

