

Collins View Article for the DECEMBER 2020 SW News Digital Edition



Masks by sewsafepdx

2020 has been an apocalyptic year.

As we doomsurf the tsunamis of bad and worse news, we need to remind ourselves that there are points of light out there:

Collins View resident, Danni McLaughlin, formed sewsafepdx in March 2020. "This was early days and the government urged us not to buy up the N95 masks. I reached out to a friend who runs a local senior residential living center and asked if she wanted masks for her staff. She needed 50 or 100. I'm a self-taught sewer, and not a great one at that, so I contacted friends who'd helped sew for Wilson High School graduation night and put a small ad on Nextdoor. Sisters, neighbors and friends filled out the group."

* **sewsafepdx** has 10 sewers. Most of us have never met in person. We joke (online) about a big party when this is over.

* We have sewn and donated more than 4000 masks.

* When people ask, we try to fill the order within a week or two.

* Masks have gone to many senior residential living centers in the SW neighborhoods, the Multnomah County Post Office, Warm Springs Reservation, Make a Wish Oregon, Portland Veterans Administration, kitchens that feed the unhoused and students and teachers in Ethiopia.

* Recently, Multnomah County has asked for 10,000 masks for children. We will help contribute to that quantity.

* With the trends right now, I think the need will be huge this winter.

* Our mantra, if we have one at all, is to sew for relaxation and joy and comfort. We've all pestered everyone we know for material. We use a lot of coupons to buy what is needed. We sometimes get donations from neighbors for materials. We buy fabric, elastic and nose strips.

* To donate materials or money, contact Danni at sewsafepdx@gmail.com .

Submitted by Fran Laird

Caption for mask photos: Masks by sewsafepdx

“I am only one, but I am one.

I can't do everything, but I can do something.” Edward Everett Hale, (1822-1909)