

April 12, 2023

## MEDIA RELEASE



The Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank recently received a generous donation of 35 handmade blankets from the St. George's TLC Group. These blankets were sewn with care specifically for the Food Bank; the group shared that they trust our organization to ensure they are provided to those in need. They are made with Fortrel fabric and therefore very durable and warm, while also cheerfully colorful.

Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director met the group in their crafting space to receive the blankets and shared with the TLC Group how these blankets will meet the needs of clients who are struggling with difficult situations "Living rough generally means that someone is unhoused and camping or sleeping outside, but we have clients who are coping by couch surfing and living a transient life while still having access to a physical address. Short term room rentals, motels, living in an RV, and staying with friends are a reality for many people who don't have stable housing. It's called hidden homelessness. These folks are considered to be "hidden" because they can't or won't access homeless supports and services, or don't qualify, even though they are improperly or inadequately housed."

The TLC group includes 12 crafters and sewers and meets every Wednesday at the St. George's Anglican Church Hall in Fort Saskatchewan. This is a very productive group, and they generate funds through their annual craft sale, selling their handmade items and pouring the net [proceeds straight back into our community](#). The craft sale is very popular, often with a line up of shoppers out the door! The date for their next sale is November 18<sup>th</sup>. The group also has their items for sale at the local Country Chic stores (Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park Mall locations). They donate thousands of dollars and handmade items annually to organizations and agencies within the Heartland region and rural surrounding area.

Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director "We are so grateful for the TLC ladies! They generate funds with their sewing expertise, and they support many wonderful organizations who, like the Food Bank, rely upon donations to operate. Last Fall I was able to visit with them and shared about how the Food Bank supports our community with more than just food hampers. This inspired them to start the blankets as their winter project. Having a blanket to give someone going through a rough time and needing help is a practical way for us to show that their community cares about them."

The group accepts donations of supplies such as fabric, thread, yarn, batting, and fibrefill, and shares the donations with other crafter groups, if it's something they cannot use.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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