

Crocheted items

By LORIE PALMER

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FENN — Have you ever needed a little pick-me-up or wanted to send one to a friend who may be hurting or ill?

Angels for Hope may be just the spirit lifter you are looking for.

Angels for Hope is a nonprofit organization that makes and sends crocheted angels, butterflies and smiley faces to those in need of hope. The items are free of charge and can be sent anonymously.

Locally, Betty Von Barga of Fenn became associated with the program about two years

Requests, donations

To request an angel, butterfly or smiley face go to WWW.ANGELSFORHOPE.ORG or request by mail to Angels for Hope, 308 Spring Road, Palmyra, PA 17078. Any angel volunteers or monetary/supply donors are also encouraged to contact Angels for Hope.

ago when her husband, Rod, mentioned he had seen something on it on an Internet site.

"He said, 'you're not doing much right now — maybe this is something you can do,'" Von Barga recalled, smiling.

And it was. She became a member of the organization and now crochets the angels,

offer hope to people

butterflies and smiley faces and helps send them all over the world. She is part of a network of angel volunteers located in 49 states and four countries.

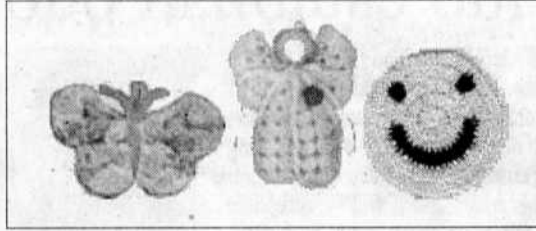
"These are sent to people who are in need of hope for a variety of reasons," Von Barga explained. This includes the Fallen Soldier Program where angels are sent to the families of every family of a deceased serviceman or woman as well as Ronald McDonald house guests and hospice and Relay for Life members. A 100 Birthday Butterfly Club is also available where butterflies are sent to anyone reaching his or her 100th birthday.

Von Barga, a retired typesetter from a Lewiston print shop, has been an avid crafter and crocheter for many years

and now feels she is able to help raise the spirits of those to whom she is able to send crocheted items.

"I grab time whenever I can to crochet," she explained. "It's a great way to pass time while waiting for doctor's appointments, watching TV or while my husband is shopping at the hardware store."

Von Barga receives about one butterfly and one angel request per week. Color and yarn are chosen by the crafter, but each angel must wear a red hat and bow. Each angel takes about an hour and a half to complete from directions downloaded from the Angels for Hope Web site once member-



CONTRIBUTED IMAGES

Angels for Hope includes not only crocheted angels (middle) but also butterflies (left) and smiley faces (right).

ship is established. The design was created specially for the project and all materials are donated.

"It's amazing how a little piece of yarn can uplift the spirits and show that someone cares," Von Barga smiled.