

# MISSION MOMENT

## WHLC's MASK MAKERS

Shortly after the virus began, WHLC members with sewing skills got busy making masks for family, friends, neighbors, church members, healthcare workers and many more. Enjoy reading their stories!

**Linda Anderson:** How life has changed in ten weeks! I received a text from a good friend in early March asking if I was making masks. She shared a pattern and I made them for my family which soon led to my WHLC family!

At the beginning I was hesitant since it had just been two months since my shoulder surgery, but sewing soon became part of my daily therapy! Over these past 11 weeks I have sewn close to 250 masks. The majority of the masks were made from fabrics that I had. The big challenge soon became finding the elastic that was needed because mask-making was the new epidemic, and the CDC was recommending everyone wear a mask in public.

My mission, with the help of the e-weekly, Facebook, and Pastor Chris's announcements, was to keep as many friends and family as safe as possible. It was also a great way to keep connected to the WHLC family during the pandemic. I will continue to sew as long as people ask. I've jokingly said I may need to start a "holiday line" as wearing a mask may be our "new normal."

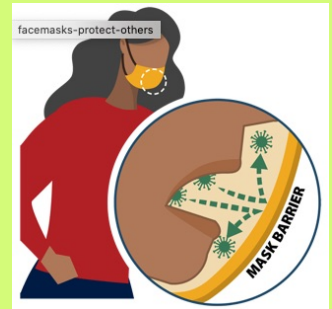
During this time I have also given blood twice and donated masks to the Lifeserve Blood Center in Urbandale.



**An array of colorful masks made by Linda.**



**Lifeserve Blood Center employee wearing one of Linda's masks.**



### **Cloth face coverings**

provide an extra layer to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling in the air and onto other people.



### **Wear your face covering correctly by**

washing your hands before putting it on, putting it over your nose and mouth and securing it under your chin, fitting it snugly against the side of your face and making sure you can breathe easily.

**CDC.gov**



**Use your face covering to protect others by:**

- ~Wearing it to help protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms
- ~Keeping the covering on your face the entire time you're in public
- ~Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- ~Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands

**Follow everyday health habits by**

staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time.

**CDC.gov**

**Sue Crum:** Initially I was connected with someone who was collecting home-made masks for clinics that were requesting them. I made about 200 for that effort, starting with fabrics I had and then using fabrics that had been donated. Then Harriett Lewis contacted me about making masks for the Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary project. I think there are about 20 people working on that project, with donated fabric. These masks are being used at Unity hospitals, maternity units and clinics. The last I knew, the group had made about 2,500 masks and were still sewing. I made about 200 for that group, and then took a break. Both projects have been using the Unity Point Olson mask pattern. If anyone is interested in helping with the Unity masks, I'd be happy to answer your questions.

**Beautiful blue patterned masks made by Sue.**



**Bonnie Hyda:** I made masks for only immediate family, close friends, and a special neighbor girl, Hadleigh. Hadleigh's mom asked if I would make masks for the family as Hadleigh has a heart condition and had an appointment with the cardiologist. The family was required to wear masks to even step foot into the medical building. I also attached a photo of our grandson, Shea, wearing his mask while bike riding.



**Hadleigh, the Hyda's neighbor, wearing an adorable butterfly mask made by Bonnie.**



**Shea, the Hyda's grandson, wearing a blue mask from Grandma Bonnie.**

**Delores Koch:** I sewed some masks for my family and neighbors. Then my daughter's friend reached out on Facebook for someone to sew masks for her group working at Edgewater. We connected and I made 100 masks for them. From there I started getting calls from people ordering certain colors and prints for their personal use. Many of these people were my regular customers from the craft shows I attend and insisted on paying me so not all of the 395 I have made were donated. Others have given me donations to help defray the cost of elastic but all the fabric I have used has come from my stash. Now I am just wondering when this will end; but until it does, I will continue on this project.



**A bundle of tan, blue and green masks that Delores made for physical therapists at Edgewater.**

**Kathy Sfris:** The Des Moines Area Quilt Guild was asked by Broadlawns Hospital to make surgical masks for the hospital. To date we have made 5,300. Since then a number of other agencies have requested masks such as the VA hospital, Children and Families of Iowa, Creative Visions, and local nursing homes. The current request from Broadlawns is for simple masks to be given to anyone who comes to the hospital as they are required to be worn while in the hospital. That has been the focus of my mask making. And no, I haven't worked on any quilting except to make three quilt tops for Lutheran World Relief for when we are able to begin tying quilts at church.



**Surgical masks made by Kathy.**



**Additional multi-colored masks Kathy made.**



### **How to wash your face covering:**

- ~You can include it in your regular laundry
- ~Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting
- ~Don't put it in the microwave!



### **How to dry your face covering:**

- ~If you use the dryer, use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry
- ~If you air dry, lay flat and allow to completely dry. If possible, place face covering in direct sunlight.

**CDC.gov**



**Take off your cloth face covering carefully, when you're home:**

- ~Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- ~Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- ~Fold outside corners together
- ~Place covering in the washing machine
- ~Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing



**CDC.gov**

**Maren & Kiersten Steensen:** Inspired by our very own Linda Anderson (who gave me my first mask) and to meet the need for my fellow pharmacy workers, Kiersten and I started making masks for Unitypoint. The need was so great at my infusion pharmacy, I even brought my sewing machine to work to sew during downtime. As someone who is now required to wear a cloth mask at work, I am so thankful for all the masks that have been donated by community members. Stay safe and wear your mask!



**Kiersten making masks at her kitchen table.**



**Maren making masks at work.**



**Maren modeling a flower patterned mask.**