



chubby
kn**ts**

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Zahle, Lebanon // May 13, 2017

#TOYSFORSYRIANREFUGEECHILDREN

About.

It is currently estimated that there are now over 1.5 million refugees living in Lebanon, with the vast majority of these people being women and children.

That's why, in May 2017, Chubby Knots, in partnership with Open Doors Australia and The 4th Musketeer (4M) delivered over 100 crocheted toys to Syrian & Iraqi refugee children living in refugee camps in Zahle, Lebanon. We made this effort in order to give love to these children, to let them know that they are loved and not forgotten. It helped put a smile on their face. It gave them their own toy...when they had nothing to call their own. We want to give these children their identity back: they are not forgotten. They are loved, and we will do whatever we can to make sure they feel loved.

During my time on the ground, I had the privilege and honour to visit families - across multiple refugee camps. Their stories I'll never forget. One particular Syrian family told me; "We left our home with the clothes on our back. We pay \$500US per month to live in this tent. My husband earns \$5US per day on the fields. We can't go back to Syria. We can't afford to stay here. We are hated by the world. We live day to day - there is no hope." What hit me hardest was the fact that she recognised a world that chose to ignore her people. Imagine being in that position, as a mother - raising children not in a community that didn't want them, but in a world, an entire world that didn't want them. I can't even imagine what it must be like to carry that on your shoulders.

I will never forget this family, nor the smiles on the faces of the little children as they were given their own - unique toy made with love, in love and for love. Those smiles will forever burn bright in my mind.

As we were leaving, I noticed two little girls playing. They had their toys in their hands...the same ones we had given them

moments earlier. They were playing a game with their teddies! I was told they had given names to their toys: one was 'Noora' and the other 'Elsa'. That moment moved me.

These children have so much love to give, they love to love - and it is my hope that as a community we can pour love back onto them through handmade toys. Imagine the impact our toys can make to suffering children around the world!!

We generated 160 toys in 7 weeks between March and April, 2017. In December it is our goal to take a further 500 toys back to the Middle East. We want to let 500 other children know that we have not forgotten them, that we will not forget them, nor will we stop loving them. But I can't do it alone - I need your help. I would love you to help me! I imagine the help of this amazing crochet-making-community making toys for suffering children around the world. Let's give these kids some handmade love this Christmas.

If we could do 160 toys in 7 weeks - imagine the number that could be achieved in 4 months!





500 TOYS TO REFUGEES FOR CHRISTMAS

Toy Guidelines.

In the last toy drive all makers worked off various patterns. They injected their own personality and creative license into each toy, which was amazing but also posed a couple of issues which I had not anticipated.

At the end of the day, kids will be kids and if one child gets a "better animal" or a "bigger teddy" – feelings get hurt and what is meant to be a gesture of love runs the risk of causing trouble. For this reason I have written three patterns, which all donating makers must work off. This is not because I don't want you all to be creative, but rather because I want to love these children fairly and equally.

There are three patterns to work off; one for babies, one for boys and one for girls. I have chosen each character specifically, for the following reasons:

Baby – Bear (symbolic of protection, love and security)

Boys – Lion (symbolic of bravery and courage)

Girls – Unicorn (symbolic of individuality, beauty and creativity)

It would be incredible if each maker could commit to making one of each of these characters. With that said, it is maker discretion as to what they do or do not wish to make. Please contact me if you have any questions about these patterns. Toys that are not made to the specifications of the patterns provided unfortunately will not be taken over.

Things to Come.

Not only do we want to give 500 toys at Christmas time, Chubby Knots is also in the midst of another bigger project. We are so excited and I am happy to share this little snippet with you today! I will let you know more soon. Just know there are super exciting things in the pipeline, like the launch of our own website and more information about our vision for the future. We are, God willing going to make this an ongoing process! There is a lot going on behind the scenes at the moment, so lots to look forward to!

Community Involvement

Are you a part of a crochet group? Do you belong to a crochet network? If you are part of a church group, or if you and some friends would like to learn how to make these toys, please feel free to get in touch. We'd love to organise a workshop for you and your friends. I am so grateful that Maddy (who runs 'Knitted by Madison') is joining Chubby Knots to help us run workshops and teach more toy-makers.



PREVIOUS TOY DRIVE // MAY 2017

Makers Previously Involved.

I would love to thank the makers who helped us put a toy in the hand of over 100 children in Lebanon. The amazing makers involved in the initial toy drive are listed below.

Check out their Instagram's, connect with them - let's build an amazing community that loves each other above all else. **Loving the children that we donate our toys to starts with loving each other.**

@knittedbymadison
 @wrappedwithlovebymichelle
 @heidiricker
 @inmysparetime_crochet
 @gwen.morrison
 @kate_wor
 @susurikids
 @petit.remy
 @coma2os40crochet
 @stitchbyfay
 @ellanimmersat
 @ohmyknit
 @mint.hook
 @thekrankycrocheter
 @girlmeetssunday
 @nans_olive_torana
 @mjatworld
 @uniquescrapiness
 @liz306harvey
 @killerqueenknits
 @brabstar
 @nadzibz
 @ladiejanne
 @sassperko
 @mmbroady



BEAR PATTERN

// BABY

Finished dimensions:
Height: between 22-24cm
Width: between 11-13cm



Materials.

3.5mm or 3mm (ONLY THESE SIZES) crochet hook

8 Ply (Double Knit) Soft Acrylic or Cotton Yarn in 3 colours:
(you will need one main colour for the body and 1 to 3 contrasting colours depending on your jumper pattern preference)

Stitch Markers or Safety Pins
Black 4ply Yarn (for facial features)
Tapestry needle
Fiber-fill stuffing

Abbreviations.

MR = Magic ring
st = stitch
sl st = slip stitch
R = round
sc = single crochet (US terminology)
inc = single crochet increase, meaning 2 single crochets made into one stitch
sc2tog = decrease by working 2 single crochets together
dc = double crochet
hdc = half double crochet
FO = finish off

(x) = the number in brackets refers to the number of stitches that should be in

BEAR PATTERN // BOY

Legs (Make 2)

Legs (Make 2)

Using your main colour (MC)

R1: Starting with a magic ring, single crochet (sc) 6 stitches (sts)

R2: 2sc in every st (12 sts)

R3: (1sc, inc) repeat 6 times (18 sts)

R4: (2sc, inc) repeat 6 times (24 sts)

R5-15: 24sc

For leg 1: slip stitch to fast off and cut yarn, leaving a long tail.

For leg 2: do not fasten off or cut yarn

Body

Join the two legs together with a slip stitch

R16-19: 48sc

Change to your contrasting colour/s (CC).

For this section feel free to be as creative as possible. If you are using multiple colours you wont need to worry about cutting the yarn, it will be hidden inside the body.

R20-33: 48sc

Change back to MC

R34-45: 48sc

R46: (6sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (42 sts)

R47: (5sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (36 sts)

R48: (4sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (30 sts)

Start stuffing the feet and body firmly. Continue to stuff the rest of the body as you go.

R49: (3sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (24 sts)

R50: (2sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (18 sts)

R51: (1sc, sc2tog) repeat 6 times (12 sts)

R52: (sc2tog) repeat 6 times (6 sts)

Sew in the tail.

BEAR PATTERN // BABY

Nose.

Using your main colour (MC)

R1: Starting with a magic ring, single crochet (sc) 6 stitches (sts)

R2: 2sc in every st (12 sts)

R3: (1sc, inc) repeat 6 times (18 sts)

R4: (2sc, inc) repeat 6 times (24 sts)

R5-6: 24sc

Fasten off and leave a long tail that will be used to sew the nose onto the body.

Before attaching the nose, sew the features on. Stuff lightly and using the whip stitch attach to the body, have the base of the nose sitting just above the jumper.

Ears (Make 2)

Use Colour B

R1 = Start with a magic ring, 6sc into magic ring (6)

R2 = Inc around (12)

R3 = (1sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (18)

R4-7 = sc in each st around (18)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail that will be used to sew onto body, behind the mane with tapestry needle

LION PATTERN

// BOY

Finished dimensions:
Height: between 22-24cm
Width: between 11-13cm



Materials.

3.5mm or 3mm (ONLY THESE SIZES) crochet hook

8 Ply (Double Knit) Soft Acrylic or Cotton Yarn in 3 colours:

Colour A= Feet

Colour B = Body

Colour C = Mane

Stitch Markers or Safety Pins

Black 4ply Yarn (for facial features)

Tapestry needle

Fiber-fill stuffing

Abbreviations.

st = stitch

sl st = slip stitch

R = round

sc = single crochet (US terminology)

inc = single crochet increase, meaning 2 single crochets made into one stitch

sc2tog = decrease by working 2 single crochets together

dc = double crochet

hdc = half double crochet

FO = finish off

(x) = the number in brackets refers to the number of stitches that should be in that particular round

LION PATTERN // BOY

Legs (Make 2)

Use Colour A & use stitch marker on the first stitch of each round.

NB: It is also useful to keep a tally of what row you are up to, on a piece of paper or your phone

R1 = Start with a magic ring, 6sc into magic ring (6)

R2 = Inc around (12)

R3 = (1sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (18)

R4 = (2sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (24)

R5 = sc in each st around (24)

CHANGE TO COLOUR B

R6 -15 = sc in each st around (24)

For leg 1: fasten off, leaving a long tail

For leg 2: do not fasten off

Body

Join the two legs together with a slip stitch - you will be continuing on from leg 2, hence not fastening off.

R16-45 = sc in each st around (48)

R46 = (6sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (42)

R47 = (5sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (36)

R48 = (4sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (30)

Start stuffing legs & body (and continue to stuff as you go from this point onward)

R49 = (3sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (24)

R50 = (2sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (18)

R51 = (1sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (12)

R52 = sc2tog around (6)

Fasten off.

Stuff firmly and sew shut.

Stitch on facial features as you desire.

Mane.

Chain 76, sl st to form circle (be careful not to twist)

Instructions in brackets e.g. (dc, hdc) means that a double crochet and a half double crochet are done in the same stitch.

** =repeat this sequence of instructions around*

R1 = 75sc around (75)

R2 = sl st, ch 1 *(sc, hdc), (dc, hdc), (sc, sl st) (repeat around)

sl st to finish off when you have come full circle.

Sew onto face.

LION PATTERN // BOY

Ears (Make 2)

Use Colour B

R1 = Start with a magic ring, 6sc into magic ring (6)

R2 = Inc around (12)

R3 = (1sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (18)

R4-7 = sc in each st around (18)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail that will be used to sew onto body, behind the mane with tapestry needle

Tail

Use Colour C

R1 = Start with a magic ring, 6sc into magic ring (6)

R2 = (2sc, inc) repeat this instruction arounds (9)

R3-5 = sc around (9)

CHANGE TO COLOUR B

R6 = (2sc, dec) repeat this instruction around (6)

R7-15 = sc around (6)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail that will be used to sew onto body with tapestry needle



UNICORN PATTERN

// GIRL

Finished dimensions including horn:

Height: between 25-27cm

Width: between 11-13cm



Materials.

3.5mm or 3mm (ONLY THESE SIZES) crochet hook

8 Ply (Double Knit) Soft Acrylic or Cotton Yarn in 3 colours:

Colour A= Feet, skirt, horn, hair

Colour B = Body

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY USE ANY COLOUR COMBINATION YOU WISH, I have just used these for the purpose of writing this pattern.

Stitch Markers or Safety Pins

Black 4ply Yarn (for facial features)

Tapestry needle

Fiber-fill stuffing

Abbreviations.

st = stitch

sl st = slip stitch

R = round

sc = single crochet (US terminology)

inc = single crochet increase, meaning 2 single crochets made into one stitch

sc2tog = decrease by working 2 single crochets together

dc = double crochet

hdc = half double crochet

FO = finish off

(x) = the number in brackets refers to the number of stitches that should be in that particular round

UNICORN PATTERN // GIRL

Legs (Make 2)

Use Colour A & use stitch marker on the first stitch of each round.

NB: It is also useful to keep a tally of what row you are up to, on a piece of paper or your phone

R1 = Start with a magic ring, 6sc into magic ring (6)

R2 = Inc around (12)

R3 = (1sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (18)

R4 = (2sc, inc) repeat this instruction 6 times (24)

R5 = sc in each st around (24)

CHANGE TO COLOUR B

R6 -15 = sc in each st around (24)

For leg 1: fasten off, leaving a long tail

For leg 2: do not fasten off

Body

Join the two legs together with a slip stitch - you will be continuing on from leg 2, hence not fastening off.

R16-45 = sc in each st around (48)

R46 = (6sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (42)

R47 = (5sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (36)

R48 = (4sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (30)

Start stuffing legs & body (and continue to stuff as you go from this point onward)

R49 = (3sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (24)

R50 = (2sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (18)

R51 = (1sc, 1 sc2tog) repeat this instruction 6 times around (12)

R52 = sc2tog around (6)

Fasten off.

Stuff firmly and sew shut.

Stitch on facial features as you desire.

Skirt.

Chain 61 - skirt is worked in rows and is joined at the end.

R1 = starting in the second chain from hook, sc around (60)

R2-5 = ch3, turn, dc around (60)

sl st to finish off. Wrap skirt around body, pin in place and sew onto body.

UNICORN PATTERN // GIRL

Horn

R1: 4 sc into magic ring (4)

R2: Sc around (4)

R3: (Sc, inc) repeat around (6)

R4-5: Sc around (6)

R6: (Sc, inc) repeat around (9)

R7: Sc around (9)

R9: (2sc, inc) repeat around (12)

Round 9-12: Sc around (12)

FO, stuff lightly.

Leave long tail for sewing onto top, middle of the head.

Hair

Make enough to surround horn with hair ringlets (I made 10)

Ch 40

Working in a row - Inc in each stitch (80) - this will create the ringlet effect.

FO, attach to head.