

Crocheting for Sands

'A little life, not a little loss'

Who are Sands and what do they do?

The New Zealand charity Sands is a voluntary, parent-run, non-profit organisation that supports parents and families who experience the death of a baby during pregnancy, after birth, or as an infant. The organisation relies entirely on donations. As well as empathy and support, Sands' goals are to provide bereaved parents and their families with information; to raise public awareness; to provide ongoing education to health professionals; and to promote research into the causes and consequences of all baby loss.

Here's how you can help

One of the ways in which Sands Canterbury offers support to bereaved parents is to give them a Memory Box. The hand-painted boxes contain a little teddy bear, blanket, candle, tissues and a notebook for writing down precious memories. Families often keep things like hand prints or photographs of their little ones in the box and it serves as a treasured reminder of their baby who was much wanted and sadly lost. It seems a small thing, but your gift of a crocheted blanket can make a real difference.

THE CROCHETED BLANKET

The crocheted blanket is very simple to make. It is just a giant granny square. You just keep going until the blanket measures 24 x 24in (60 x 60cm). You will need about 200g of wool or acrylic yarn in double knit (DK) and a 4.5mm hook. You can use lighter weight yarn with a crochet hook to match the yarn. Do most of it in white and then the last three or four rounds in blue, pink, green or yellow as an edging. Or make your own design!

Start with a loop, or make a chain of three and join.

Round 1: 3 chain, 2 treble crochet in ring, 1 chain, (3 treble crochet in ring, 1 chain) 3 times, slip stitch in top of beginning chain.

Round 2: 3 chain, (2 treble, 1 chain, 3 treble) in same space to form corner, (1 chain, 3 treble, 1 chain, 3 treble in next 1 chain space) 3 times to make 3 more corners. Slip stitch in top of beginning chain.

Round 3: 3 chain, (2 treble, 1 chain, 3 treble) in the space (1 chain, 3 treble) in each 1 chain space (along the side), (1 chain, 3 treble, 1 chain, 3 treble) in each corner), slip stitch in top of beginning chain.

Round 3 forms the pattern and you keep going round and round until your blanket is as big as you want it.

TIP! You can add another chain stitch in the corners if you need it so that the square forms evenly.

Pictures 2 and 3 show the lovely hand-painted boxes in which our blankets are presented.

Please drop off all finished angel pockets to any Knit World shop or send them to Knit World, PO Box 30645, Lower Hutt, 5040; or Knit World, 62 Queens Drive, Lower Hutt 5010. If you have any queries, email Celia (celia.coyne@yahoo.co.nz) or look for us on Facebook (Sands Baby Blankets Christchurch NZ). For more information about Sands, visit www.sands.org.nz or email sands.canterbury@xtra.co.nz.

As well as blankets, we are always grateful for donations of DK yarn in white, cream, yellow, pink or blue. *Thank you for your support.*

