



# **INTERNITY: *Afghans for Vets***

Project Leads: Dr. Ruth Moore and Ellie King, LSW

## **GOAL:**

The goals of this program are to combat isolation and create both warmth and comfort for homeless or disabled veterans. By meeting these basic human needs, INTERNITY is creating a mechanism that can reduce veteran deaths from illness, exposure, or suicide.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

This program will accomplish multiple goals by creating a purpose for veteran crafters who are struggling to feel needed, empower seniors and volunteers who may need to feel (or become) connected with their communities, and help both homeless and disabled veterans who are dealing with isolation. By creating squares and afghans which can be assembled and donated to the service organizations, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and retirement homes who can distribute them, INTERNITY is filling vital physical, emotional, and spiritual needs that are often overlooked in the treatment and recovery process.

## **OPERATIONS:**

By recruiting volunteer crocheters and knitters and securing yarn donations, INTERNITY could establish this project as a national initiative and create a wave of warmth for a highly vulnerable population.

INTERNITY would provide 2-3 patterns for those who need them but would leave the choice of crocheted block up to the crafter. This allows for ease in assembly if we create a standard with either 6 inch crocheted squares or 48" x 60" knit / crocheted afghans that are made with a 4ply acrylic yarn in a #4 weight. The products would be mailed to INTERNITY locations around the United States, and our organization in turn would distribute them.

## **TIMELINE:**

This will be an ongoing project for INTERNITY and the groups / individuals. According to the Veterans Health Administration, we have approximately 40,000 homeless veterans in this country. The Biden – Harris Administration has created programs in urban centers to help these veterans, but many veterans in rural areas are unreachable and, often do not have access to warmth or housing. An afghan can make the difference between life or death for those who live in tents or camp in the woods.

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:**

**All volunteers, groups, and sponsors** will receive a beautiful certificate of appreciation that can be framed for hanging on a wall. We will post a list of our sponsors and pictures of the afghans in our annual report and on our website.

## **DONATIONS:**

INTERNITY is seeking donations of yarn, crochet hooks, and funds to purchase materials for crafters and to deliver / mail finished goods to organizations that can distribute them to veterans.