

Jacksonville Weavers' Guild Community Challenge 2019/20

Woven Hugs
by Linda Schultz

Plan and weave a shawl, lap blanket or throw to give comfort to people who are facing serious medical conditions.

The idea began when I wove a shawl for a friend who was going through chemotherapy, and I told her it was a "woven hug". She found it very comforting over the many months of her treatment. Then, when she completed her therapy and was on the road to recovery, she then passed her "woven hug" on to a friend in Georgia who had just started chemotherapy.

To turn this into a community outreach project, I immediately thought of Gabriel House of Care. Gabriel House of Care is a non-profit 501c3 which provides affordable lodging and support services for adults who come to Jacksonville for cancer treatment or organ transplant.

Specifications:

Size:

Width: 24 to 36 inches

Length: 50 to 70 inches.

The size is meant to be large enough to sit comfortably on the shoulders and cover the arms for warmth, without getting in the way of wheelchair wheels or using your hands.

Materials:

Must be machine wash and dry, and should not need ironing.

Should be soft enough to wear next to the skin.

Yarns such as cotton, rayon, superwash wool (especially superwash merino), acrylic, polyester.

Weaving structure and design considerations:

Hems are more practical.

Fringes may get caught in wheels or other devices, so use very short fringes (less than 2" including knots).

Avoid structures with long floats which can get snagged.

Design ideas:

Twills.

Twills with tabby.

Huck and other lace or spot weaves.

Plain weave with variegated yarns in warp and weft to form a plaid look.

Alternate thick and thin in warp or weft (or both) to give a subtle colour and weave look.

Borders in contrasting weave structure or colour.

Baby blanket projects.

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Many weavers have looms which are narrower than 26 inches. Possible solutions are weaving doublewidth (on 4 or more shafts), or sewing together two narrower strips. The join can be invisible (or nearly so), using the baseball stitch or slip stitch (see resources). Or the join can be decorative using contrasting yarns, decorative stitches or crochet joins.

Due date:
May 2020 meeting.

Resources:

The Handweaver's Pattern Directory, by Anne Dixon

Handwoven Baby Blankets, by Tom Knisely

Finishing Touches for the Handweaver, by Virginia West

Interweave's Compendium of Finishing Techniques, by Naomi McEneely

Joinings, Edges, and Trims, by Jean Wilson