



“Whatever you do for such as these, you do for Me”. Jesus

**Caledon Hospital** comes on board! With 80 babies a month this is a real challenge but we would never have offered Hug a Baby if we felt we could not give the service. This increases the number of mothers receiving Hug a Baby bags to 180 a month, wonderful!

The Matron had been advised by the Western Cape Health Authorities that they must try to create a local Hug a Baby type local support for their Maternity Ward. We did not know about that, but have been planning since last August to support Caledon hospital.

The Matron, her Sisters and staff are so excited. We started to supply bags last month through our local Hug a Baby champion Debbie. Debbie is busy now making bags and visiting the hospital several times a week to spend time with the mothers. She is actively engaging family and a friend to knit and sew for Hug a Baby, her enthusiasm is contagious.



**Swellendam** hospital, 30+ babies a month, is doing fine and is very supportive of Hug a Baby. Jenny, our champion in Swellendam holds the emergency stock in her craft shop. She has also organised a knitting group of 12 or more knitters who are clicking away every day to help these little ones. It is an adventure taking bags to her each month as we are always staggered by the amount of knitting, baby clothes and other donations Jenny gathers for Hug a Baby. The photo is Jenny with Mark (my son) in her Wool shop in Swellendam.

**Bredasdorp** maternity ward delivers 20+ babies each month. The staff is delighted to be able to give such a useful gift as the Hug a Baby bag to all the mothers. There is an increasing local support from local ladies in particular those in the Red Cross. It is so encouraging that when you are not expecting anything a large black bag full of knitted outfits arrives at the door.

**Montagu** Hospital continues to provide care to 40 or more babies each month. Sonja keeps close to this hospital for us. She is a real star who is always gathering support from Holland to support Hug a Baby with lots of products. She carries our emergency stock of bags.

In Cape Town we have Daphne, a pastor's wife who, along with others in her church is knitting for Hug a Baby. She has also enlisted Diane from her church who is the Manager of the Eleanor Murray retirement home. Diane, with lots of enthusiasm, has encouraged her residents to knit.

# Hug a Baby

because we care



Fran Heather

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They have taken to it with real energy, lighting the sky with the sparks off their needles. It is amazing how much they knit each month with such talent and quality.

**In England,** Hazel is our champion. She has the ladies from her own and other churches in Bearminster and Cattistock in the UK now knitting for Hug a Baby, how awesome. The photo above is the latest delivery of Blankets from Hazel's team, fantastic. Hazel has been supporting Hug a Baby for several years and has been very instrumental in enabling us to reach so many mothers. In addition to Hazel there is Jenny and friends in Ashford, David and friends in Settle, Liz and John near Tonbridge and Mark with children in Woodbridge.

We must mention and thank without naming, those companies, concerns and individuals who are so generous with products, material and financial support. There is an immense amount of compassion flowing from you all towards so many babies with mothers who, in many instances, struggle to survive. On behalf of all of them we say thank you.

An interesting development in opening Caledon has been the immediate need for more blankets. We do not expect our wonderful knitters to keep up with 180 blankets a month! We have been able to source 'fleece' at a sensible price so that we can now make 100 blankets ourselves each month.

This complements those we receive from you, our friends. It is quite a sight unrolling 100 meters of fleece down the centre of the church to cut out blankets! We are really extending the use of the building to include the needy. That is Paul cutting blankets; it's a church so he is on his knees!

I sincerely hope this letter thrills and encourages you. For me personally it is very humbling to be at the receiving end of so much generosity and visible compassion.

*Jenny of Swellendam with son  
Mark*

Sincerely  
Fran Heather

