

***Interweave Knits* Commits to Support Orphan Foundation of America Red Scarf Project to collect handknitted and crocheted scarves for Valentine's Day Care Packages**

419 Einstein Bros. Bagels shops are national drop-off locations

Loveland, Colo., January 9, 2006: *Interweave Knits* magazine is pleased to announce that it is partnering with the Orphan Foundation of America (OFA) Red Scarf Project to send warmth and encouragement to America's college-attending foster youth by collecting handknitted and crocheted scarves, preferably in shades of red, for Valentine's Day care packages. The goal of the partnership is to collect 2,500 scarves for the first national Red Scarf Project.

"*Interweave Knits* is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful effort," said Editor Pam Allen. "I am delighted that our fall 2005 Washington, D.C., Knit-Out and Crochet scarf contest has become a national initiative and is a cornerstone of the Care Package Program. We are proud of the hard work of needleworkers across America to make this program a success."

The major sponsor of the event is the Golden, Colo.-based Einstein Bros. Bagels. All 419 Einstein Bros. Bagels stores in 29 states are participating in this effort by serving as drop-off locations for the scarves the month of January 2006. The final deadline for dropping off scarves to Einstein Bros. Bagels stores is January 31.

The Red Scarf Project is part of the National Care Package Program created by OFA and the Freddie Mac Foundation to ensure that young people aging out of foster care are encouraged to succeed as adults. Three times a year care packages, assembled by individuals and volunteer organizations, let foster youth experience the same excitement as their friends when they receive a box from home. These packages show them that are valued citizens in the wider community. The annual back-to-school event is held on Capitol Hill in September, hosted by Members of Congress and their staff.

An estimated 13,000 foster youth are attending colleges and universities this year, most without any family support. They are success stories in progress; studies show that less than 50% of foster youth graduate from high school and fewer than 18% go on to college or vocational training programs.

"For young people without loving families and homes, receiving a beautiful, soft handmade scarf sends a powerful message that people care about their hopes and dreams and believe in their potential," said OFA Executive Director Eileen McCaffrey. "We ask that people attach a small tag to the scarf with their name and city and group affiliation, if any, so that it will become a treasured gift from a distant friend."

The Red Scarf Project is also endorsed by The National NeedleArts Association (TNNA) and the Lily Chin Signature Collection.

“The National NeedleArts Association is pleased to partner with the Orphan Foundation on the Red Scarf Project,” said Executive Director Patty Parrish. “The needlearts are known to help promote concentration, self esteem and well-being, bringing comfort to both the creator and the recipient. By knitting or crocheting a scarf and dropping it off at any of the supporting Einstein Bagels, you are supporting foster children across America who want to further their education.”

The Lily Chin Signature Collection, the first signature yarn created by an American knitwear designer, is the official yarn of the Red Scarf Project. Beginning in Fall 2006, every skein of Lily Chin’s Grammercy Yarn, a 100% superwash merino wool in the color red, will bear the logo of the OFA Red Scarf Project. Lily Chin, known for her appearances promoting the knitwear industry on *Martha*, the *David Letterman Show*, the CBS *Early Show*, ESPN *Cold Pizza*, DIY’s *Knitty Gritty*, Lifetime’s *Handmade by Design*, and HGTV’s *Sew Much More*, will be a spokesperson for the charity.

Needleworkers who do not live near an Einstein Bros. Bagels location may send scarves by mail, with their name, address, and e-mail address to:

Orphan Foundation of America/ Red Scarf Project
21351 Gentry Dr., Ste. 130 · Sterling, VA 20166-8511
Deadline for mailing scarves is January 28, 2006

SOURCE: Interweave Press

NOTE TO EDITORS: Digital photos of college-age youth wearing red scarves are available upon request.

Web sites:

<http://www.interweave.com>

<http://www.orphan.org>

<http://www.einsteinbros.com>

<http://www.tnna.org>

<http://www.lilychinsignaturecollection.com>

About Interweave Press

Interweave Press has provided need-to-know information to committed craft hobbyists for more than thirty years. Linda Ligon launched the company’s first magazine titles, *Handwoven* and *Spin-off* in the 1970s, and in the 1990s, the company launched *Interweave Knits*, *Beadwork*, and *PieceWork* magazines. In 2004, the company acquired *Fiberarts*, a thirty-year-old art magazine. Interweave Press publishes numerous best-selling, how-to, project-oriented craft books on the same subjects as the company’s magazines. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com/pressroom.

About The Orphan Foundation of America

The Orphan Foundation of America advocates for older foster youth who were never adopted and offers a comprehensive scholarship and support program. OFA annually awards over \$11.5 million to students nationwide. The Freddie Mac Foundation is the founding partner of the National Care Package Day Program, and Gifts In Kind International and Otis Spunkmeyer are sponsors. FedEx is the official carrier of the Care Package Program.

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