



## N O T I O N S

**E**nlisting needlework for a worthy cause is nothing new: I think, for example, of the beaded red wool needle case in the collection of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, made by fourteen-year-old Lily Kenny of Salem and offered for sale at an 1862 benefit for Civil War veterans.

As I write this, it is nearly a month since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast (and we await the outcome from Hurricane Rita). The outpouring of aid from around the globe has been awe-inspiring. It won't surprise you that innumerable needleworkers—individuals, retail stores, wholesalers, and publishers—have been among those offering their help. Here are just a few examples.

Needle Nook of La Jolla, a retail store in California, has placed links to the Humane Society and the American Red Cross on its website. Ruhama Yarn and Needlepoint in Milwaukee, along with other area retail stores, is collecting knitted blankets for donation. Craft Revolution and [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com), a website that sells handmade crafts, will donate all proceeds from the sale of donated objects to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. The American Quilter's Society, headquartered in Paducah, Kentucky, is accepting bed and baby quilts for donation to aid organizations. The owner of Silkweaver, an online cross-stitch fabric store located in Clinton, Mississippi, where numerous evacuees took shelter, is donating essential items to people in area shelters. All proceeds from the sale of needlework kits, books, and fabrics donated by individual designers and companies to Nordic Needle's website will be donated to the American Red Cross. The nonprofit Craft Emergency Relief Fund is aiding craft artists in the affected areas. And between September 16 and 26, Interweave Press auctioned sixteen handmade objects depicted in our magazines and books with all proceeds going to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

These are only a few of the many efforts by the needlework community to help those affected by Katrina. The need will continue; if you can help, please do so.

The year 2005, fraught with grief, disruption, and loss, is quickly coming to a close. My wish for 2006 is solace and peace for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Smith", is positioned at the bottom right of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.