



Our fifth full season of Kiawah Cares Made With Love (MWL) ended on 6/30, based on the Kiawah Cares Foundation fiscal year. Despite Covid’s major interruption of activities, we remained **focused on bringing love and comfort to our underserved (and under-appreciated) Johns and Wadmalaw Islands’ neighbors mainly through handmade items**. We held no Fleece+Fridays, our main source of production and fellowship, at all in Season 5. Yet, our dedicated Leadership Team and a few very productive MWLers showed their amazing, giving hearts by keeping MWL afloat and super-producing. Here are **Season 5 Highlights**:

About Our Deliveries

Covid required that we narrow our past focus as we were precluded from going into elder facilities, groups settings and such. As well, for a good portion early in the 5th Season, there was still belief that the virus could be transmitted through items such as our signature blankets. Thankfully, that restriction lifted so we were able to make deliveries to key schools and organizations. But all our deliveries were masked-up “drop and go” style. We sure missed getting hugs and seeing happy faces!

Numbers can’t tell the whole story, but they do give an idea of the number of lives touched...thousands, to be sure. **MWL delivered more than 8,000 items through 31 deliveries on 30 delivery days, to 8 Sea Islands’ organizations and one individual:**

- **Angel Oak Elementary School -- 11 deliveries:** blanket/pillow/book sets, toiletry packs for Hygiene Classes, reading folders and awards, items for a Mother’s Day “store,” Teacher Appreciation gifts – for those events postponed from Spring 2020 due to Covid and held in the Fall 2020, and those that were held in Spring 2021.
- **E.L. Frierson Elementary School -- 4 deliveries:** blankets/pillows/book sets, items for their Mother’s Day “store”, Teacher Appreciation gifts and Reader Awards, and books and other items for their special reading camps.
- **Mt. Zion Elementary -- 6 deliveries:** blanket/pillow/book sets, Buddy Loveys, items for their Valentine’s Day “store”, and cards for their Kindness Week where the kids send/give cards to people they know/love to show caring.
- **Our Lady of Mercy -- 4 deliveries:** “Pamper” kits of blankets, totes, toiletries and more for their Prenatal Program moms; books for their after-school programs; toiletries for their Community Pantry; and scarves for warmth.
- **Animal shelters -- 2 deliveries** to our liaison to local shelters and rescue groups: fleece braided pull-toys made from selvages, and various-size fleece-scrap blankets.
- **Blessing Baskets – 1 delivery:** fabric totes for their drive-in and shut-in clients, and sachets to thank their volunteers.
- **Meals on Mondays – 1 delivery:** adult and child blankets, scarves, shawls, and assorted gifts like key fobs and sachets to distribute to their Wadmalaw Island clients, and to thank volunteers.
- **Charleston Veteran Center – 1 delivery:** a new relationship in Season 5, MWL made 50 patriotic fleece-tie adult blankets that were distributed via a “drive-thru” event to the Veteran clients with debilitating PTSD. So very touching...
- **Special delivery to a Wadmalaw family with a child with cancer, in association with Roc Solid Foundation** that brings hope to cancer patients: blanket and pillow sets for the young girl and her siblings. Very special, indeed.

About the Value of Our Goods Delivered

The following are the MWL categories of **handmade items distributed in Season 5, the quantity and the fair-market value:**

Item	Number Delivered	Fair-market value
Fleece-tie blankets, various sizes	332	\$16,600
Fleece-tie pillows	245	\$7,350
Reading totes, backpacks (various), bookmarks	617	\$9,991
Purses+ (fabric, various styles)	376	\$7,520
Fabric totes, purses (various styles)	456	\$13,680
Scarves & shawls (fleece & knitted/crocheted)	151	\$1,510
Sachets (fleece)	652	\$3,260
Doggie pull-toys (fleece and fabric)	382	\$3,820
Greeting cards	980	\$1,470
Key fobs (fabric)	536	\$3,752
Magnets	150	\$750
Ass’t gifts (quilted coasters, lanyards, masks+)	112	\$825
Heat/cold rice-filled fleece packs	21	\$420
Buddy Loveys	16	\$240
Totals	5, 026	\$71, 188

In addition to items that are *Made With Love*, **we distributed numerous non-handmade items**, among them:

2, 342 toiletry items - valued at ~\$3,515	774+ books (new & used) - valued at ~\$6,550	500 carabiners for fobs - valued at ~\$500
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Combined, that’s more than 8,000 items, with a fair-market value exceeding \$81,000 – more than in Season 4! Take THAT, Covid!

About Our Budget

KICA/KCF's staff provides the 501(c)3 accounting, and our meeting space, supplies-closet, and select admin services at their Beachwalker offices. KCF also covers the cost of our all-important MWL off-site storage and work space – what we call our “offices.”

We ended Season 5 with **\$11,000**, thanks to **over \$3,600 in 10 donations** throughout the Season and the extraordinary **generosity of several MWLers who once again “donated” over \$5,000 in a combination of MWL expenses for which reimbursement was not sought and “in kind” donated materials.** Once again we stretched those dollars as far as we could thanks to the aforementioned support of KCF, the **deep discounts/free products afforded us by partner-suppliers** – Begin With Books, YourFleece.com, PillowFlex.com, Paint Brush Studios Fabric and our local LowCountry Dental on Maybank...and our well-earned reputation for **wasting NOTHING.**

About Our Volunteers

We kept in touch weekly with the **70+ people on our MWL email list** throughout the Season, and hope that “turning on” weekly in-person meetings will be relatively seamless once we are approved to do so. We were able to establish a **complete “Take and Make” area in the KICA Beachwalker facility** that included fleece blanket and pillow kits, various sewing kits, loaner fabric scissors, MWL labels and a completed items/donation station. This enabled several faithful MWLers to super-produce, in association with our prolific MWL Leadership Team. Only a few MWLers reported their volunteer hours throughout Season 5 but estimate just *their* 2,000 volunteer hours (and during Covid!) has a **fair market value of nearly \$50,000.** Such beautiful hearts to serve...so proud!

About MWL Leadership

The **MWL Leadership Team did Herculean duty in Season 5** and kept things going throughout a weird year where we had no Fleece+Fridays and limited opportunities to meet. One of our creative solutions: we met in Night Heron Park to cut blankets, make kits, sort cards and plot plans to keep things going – using picnic tables! I can't say it enough or mean it more: my Teammates are dedicated, talented, creative, fun, and fearless! I am so honored to be a part of the Team...and I am ever-humbled and proud of all!

Two of our past Leaders – Cathy Lavin and Jennifer Bland – moved from Kiawah earlier in Season 5. We can't thank them enough for all they did through the years; they are sorely missed. But they keep in touch and even produce items – bringing their items Made With Love when they come to vacation on Kiawah!

Our Leadership Team of 5 -- full-time residents **Jane Payne, Ruth Flynn, and I, and part-time residents Sally Reed and Jeanne Spray** -- together did MWL planning, coordinated and made deliveries, and produced MWL products.

- **Jane Payne** again led our fleece supplies ordering, storage, organization and inventory, as well as compiling our fleece kits, so ably making so many of our fleece gift items, and sharing with me liaising duties with key suppliers;
- **Ruth Flynn** continued as Lead Liaison to Frierson, Mt. Zion, KICA/Kiawah Cares Foundation, and Begin With Books, served as our legal guru – and was an extraordinary producer of our items;
- **Jeanne Spray** again led all MWL things related to fabric (versus fleece), including selecting fabrics, compiling kits for MWL seamstresses, holding tutorials, liaising with our fabric supplier – and, of course, phenomenal sewing;
- **Sally Reed** continued to serve as Lead Liaison to Our Lady of Mercy and to lead our Toiletries Program – a challenge in Season 5 with reduced travel/sample donations, but done so well to serve so many with life's daily needs.

In Summary

Just like in Season 4 when Covid started, throughout “no-in-person Season 5” – in spite of Covid19 – we were able to continue to show love and caring to our islands neighbors with items “Made With Love,” and demonstrate once again that truly “Kiawah Cares.” **THANK YOU and BLESS YOU, faithful MWLers, partners and supporters!**

As We Begin Season 6

We used Season 5 to prep for Season 6, as well. We have **some 2,000 completed items in storage for our already-planned events and deliveries in the Fall and even into 2022.** We have materials for **100+ blankets, 65+ pillow covers, and generous supplies of cotton fabrics – most donated by two MWLers -- for our various sewn items.** We look forward to some normalcy returning where we can again **meet for Fleece+Fridays** (after 18 months apart!) and enjoy the fellowship that is so vital to MWLers as together we serve our neighbors.

I am thrilled and humbled to report that the MWL Leadership Team of 5 has enthusiastically “re-upped” to serve in their various roles in Season 6...Bless you, dear ladies!

Please spread the word: We welcome cash donations to KCF (earmarked for Made With Love), donations of new cotton fabric, anti-pill fleece, new travel-size toiletries, new/gently-used children's books...and of course, we always welcome more volunteers!