



Donor Spotlight – February 2014 Oma Lutgendorf – Parent Education



Growing up in the Netherlands, Oma Lutgendorf learned to knit and crochet when she was in the first grade and has continued to educate herself ever since by learning about different yarns and patterns. In 2001, after her husband's passing, Oma decided to use her knitting and crocheting skills to create hats and booties for newborn babies at a local hospital. When she realized the hats and booties were not allowed to be given to new parents because of hospital restrictions, she decided to look for other organizations that could benefit from special, homemade gifts.

When her granddaughter, Melissa, started working at Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS), she told Oma about the Parent Education program, specifically the upcoming Community Baby Shower. Oma was so moved by the services SFBFS offered to members of the community, she immediately decided to

create dozens of blankets, hats and booties in a variety of sizes for the new families.

"I am happy the Parent Education program is able to give out these homemade gifts to new parents. It's nice to know they will be cherished," Oma says.

The Parent Education program is designed to engage expectant families, mothers, fathers, grandparents or guardians with children 0 – 5 years in connecting with their children in an empathetic manner. SFBFS offers relevant courses addressing family and life issues that parents are facing today. Parent Education supports mothers and fathers in raising their children to the best of their ability by providing resources, skills and activities that will unify their families through love, compassion, structure, mutual understanding and fun.

By participating in Parent Education classes mothers and fathers earn credits based on their attendance. These credits can then be exchanged for infant and toddler supplies including diapers, formula baby food, clothing, accessories, toys and Oma's hand-crafted baby hats and booties. The more parents participate, the more credits they can earn.

Oma says she is hard at work to make more homemade gifts for SFBFS' next Community Baby Shower in June. She is happy to be part of such a special event for parents.

Interested in hosting a creative donation drive? [Click here](#) to find out how you can get started.

