



Project - KIN Dolls and more!

Go date: 01 May 2020

Starting 1 May through to 30 June 2020, Sewing for Charity Australia's main project will be sewing and knitting/ crocheting items for KIN Packs. This includes dolls, doll clothing, accessories and more!

Background

Project KIN was founded in NSW by three incredible women who *believed in a world where every child feels loved and is given the opportunity to play and learn.*

Their mission was to Educate, Empower and Equip communities through the gifting of Play & Learn packs to underprivileged children.

Project KIN's launch campaign for 2017 was '200 dolls for 200 hearts' and in the following 3 years they donated 834 Play and Learn packs to children affected by poverty, loneliness, abandonment and sadness.

In late 2019 Project KIN Directors made the decision that it was time to move into a new season, and the charity was closed as the Directors moved on to other things.

In January 2020 Sewing for Charity Australia agreed to adopt the project. It was an easy decision for us as we saw it was so important to continue the incredible work done by PK Volunteers.

We thank Maryanne and the team for their vision, wisdom and support in handing over the project to us to continue in their honour.

A message for existing PK Volunteers

The spirit of PK remains alive and well. There are some small changes being made and one big change!

Let's start with the BIG change

- The project is no longer NSW focused, we will take it national along with our other projects

Smaller changes

- Over time branding will change to reflect SFCA's adoption of the project. We now retain copyright of all PK items with the exception of the books. We have printing rights and Maryann retains copyright
- Labels are no longer required to be sewn into dolls
- Religious references will be removed from KIN materials. We absolutely respect everyone's right to religious freedom however we remain a secular organisation
- The name has undergone a slight change - it is now referred to as KIN Dolls/ KIN Project as the name "Project KIN" remains under care of Maryann. It is not a charity on its own, it now comes under the banner of Sewing for Charity Australia just like our other monthly/ regular projects
- Margaret has come on board as our KIN Co-ordinator and will continue with SFCA in an admin role
- The PK Volunteers facebook group will be removed as of 30 April 2020. You are all invited and welcomed to join the SFCA volunteers group @sewingforcharityau
- We have added some new patterns - a new shirt, unisex underwear and small drawstring bag to hold doll accessories

Who are we supporting this project?

The charity and community partners we're focusing on this project is:

At this stage due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have not made agreements with any particular organisations. We will make known where they are going as they go out later this year when our charity partners reopen their services.



Details

- All KIN Patterns and tutorials can be found on our website <https://sewingforcharity.com/kin-dolls-patterns/>
- **NO LABELS ARE NEEDED FOR THE DOLLS - THIS PART OF THE TUTORIAL CAN BE IGNORED**
- The homespun colours suggested are illegible in the tutorial for some reason, they are:
 - Ivory
 - Lion
 - Umber
 - Chestnut
 - Coffee Bean
- Needs are going to be broken down into High, Medium and Low. If an item is not listed it is because we have heaps of them, however you are still welcome to make them if they are what you love doing.
 - GIRL PACKS:
 - Dolls **HIGH**
 - Underwear **MEDIUM**
 - Hair ties for girl bags **LOW**
 - Clothing **MEDIUM**
 - PJ's **HIGH**
 - Shoulder bags **LOW**

- Quilts **LOW**
- BOY PACKS
 - Dolls **HIGH**
 - Underwear **HIGH**
 - Clothing **HIGH**
 - PJ's **HIGH**
 - Backpacks **HIGH**
 - Quilts **LOW**
 - Finger Puppets **LOW**

One of our amazing PK Volunteers Jeano has shared some hints and tips on sewing KIN Dolls, if you have any to add please feel free to comment and get in touch!

Hints & Tips

Doll making:

- The pattern for the head/.body comes in 2 parts on the A4 sheet. The instructions say to join the paper pieces together, then use the one larger pattern piece to cut out the head/body. If you cut it as 2 pieces, there is no seam allowed and the doll ends up 1/2" shorter.
- The pattern for the doll body and arms and legs has a seam allowance of 1/4", such as patchwork use. If you use the width of your sewing foot, you end up with a 6mm seam and your arms and legs are skinny!
- Doll faces and hair need to follow the pattern directions. I nudge my eyes a little closer together, as I am not a fan of the wide eyes. But I only move them closer together by about 1cm. It is requested that you make the dolls according to the pattern supplied, because when they are gifted, they are similar, but there is room for artistic interpretation in colours and fabrics used for the clothes. This is so that all children feel like they are being treated equally.
- Before joining front and back head/body pieces, attach arms! I also attach the legs along the seam allowance on either the front or the back, as I can't manage to get them in place and sew the bottom closure of the doll once it is stuffed.
- Stuff the doll's head/body well. If you push the stuffing back up into the body tightly there is a way to pin and then stitch the bottom finishing seam. I will send photos.

Clothes:

- Seam allowances here are noted on the patterns. Generally 6mm, which is the width of your sewing foot.

Do I have to make complete sets?

You can make as many or as few items as you like. You can sew an entire set, or just knit finger puppets - there are no "rules" when helping us, only heart!

I have another doll pattern I love, can I use that instead of the SFCA Pattern?

No, the KIN Project requires you to follow the tutorial provided so that each kit is the same/ similar. This ensures no child receives a doll that is bigger/ smaller/ better/etc than their friend next to them.

(we do accept other dolls and softies for other projects though, so please feel free to send them in any time!)

I have an embroidery machine, can I make items?

Yes! You can embroider doll faces and offer to sewists who don't want to hand embroider them. You can also make finger puppets and hair accessories if you have a pattern.

I don't want to work on this project, can I make something else?

Absolutely! We gratefully accept "any handmade any time".

As a general guide, things we get asked most for/ will need this year are:

- Drawstring bags (double drawstring, any non-offensive print, approx 14"x16")
- Calico drawstring bags (single OR double drawstring, 40-50cm)
- Christmas stockings - mini and medium size
- Premmie blankets (cotton or flannelette, cute prints and colours, 50-55x75cm, no wadding)
- Christmas theme premmie blankets (guide as above. Be creative with your fabric - patchwork and applique are ok!)
- Premmie gowns (patterns on website)
- Scent/ cuddle hearts (pattern on website)
- Children's PJ's (sizes 2-12)
- Zippered pouches (various sizes, for toiletries and gifts)
- Library bags
- Pencil cases
- Sensory mats/ mits
- Christmas gifts for men/ teen boys (other gifts gratefully accepted, but the need is highest for men and teen boys)
- Burp Cloths (baby size (not prem), cute fabrics, absorbent, eg toweling and cotton/ cotton blend, three layers flannelette etc)

This list is not exhaustive, you can find more ideas in our Project Planner & Calendar available on our website www.sewingforcharity.com/projects

How else can I help?

Unable to sew for this project but still want to contribute? Here are a few other ways you can help:

A. Are you local to The Lair?

- We need many hands to sort and pack the made items throughout the project. Come to a regular Friday Community Collaboration Day, or, let us know when you're free to help.

B. Do you have a good eye for a bargain (or, just enjoy shopping!)?

- Toiletry items for emergency care packs are appreciated
 - Deodorant (roll on only)
 - Toothpaste (both adult and kids)
 - Toothbrushes (both adult and kids)
 - Facewashers
 - Soap
 - Mini/ travel size shampoo/ conditioner
 - Razors
 - Hair brushes/ combs
 - Hair ties (can be handmade also)

Important dates

Items need to arrive at the lair no later than **10th July 2020**. This will allow them to be sorted, packaged and sent out to our charity partners by mid August.

Where do I send things?

[Find a local drop off point here](#) or

Send any finished items or donated materials to

"The Sewing Lair":

38 Bladensburg Dr

Waterford QLD 4133

General FAQs

II. What items do we need the most?

- A. Needs are listed above in Project Details

III. Do I need to pre-wash my fabric?

- A. Yes please! Fabric should be pre-washed hot OR washed cold and dried in a clothes dryer on hot. This serves several purposes - removal of residual dye that may run / bleed; removal of factory chemicals / residues from the fabric manufacturing process; shrinking of fabric (if it is inclined to do so). This process needs to occur BEFORE cutting.

If you are in a drought area and your fabric needs washing pop a note in and we will wash before distributing.

IV. I need fabric for this project. Can this be sent to me?

- A. Yes! We can usually send you fabric from donations at the lair. If possible, please consider covering postage. Contact Admin to arrange. We can't honour all requests as it depends on what fabric has been donated, but we always try.

V. What courier service should I use to send in items?

- A. Use whichever courier or postal service you would like. As a guide, our volunteers have found the below services to be of good value:
- For a small number of items (up to 5kg) - Australia post satchel
 - For larger, heavier items (>5kg) - Sendle courier service

VI. I made a mistake! Should I bother finishing / sending the item in?

- A. Yes! Many charity groups use items of all sizes throughout the year. Even if the specific charities this month are unable to use it, be assured every item can find a grateful home.

VII. I need some hands on guidance - can someone show me how to make one?

- A. Probably! Have a chat and we may be able to find another sewing volunteer locally you can collaborate with. Youtube also has some great tutorials - and we love questions, so don't hesitate to ask!

Still have questions?

Talk to us! We'd love to say hi :)

- Email: volunteer@sewingforcharity.com
- Post on our Facebook page or send a private message (PM).
- Call Cass on 0498 213 410