

PRESS RELEASE

13 July 2011

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, appeals to knitters to make baby blankets for the charity's 'Always Loved, Never Forgotten Memory boxes'.

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, is appealing to knitters across the country to knit their special baby blankets, which are included in their *Always Loved, Never Forgotten Memory boxes*.

The boxes are offered by hospitals to bereaved parents as a way to create some memories when their baby is stillborn or dies shortly after birth. Many parents have told Sands how important the memories of the short time with their baby are and that they have found it comforting to have reminders that they can look at and hold.

Sue Hale, who works with the charity's 100 support groups across the country says, "These handmade blankets form a very special part of the box we provide bereaved parents and we have been told how much comfort they bring parents at such a difficult time." The memory box also has a camera, 2 teddy bears, a small keepsake bag for a lock of hair and information about the support that Sands can offer.

'With 17 babies stillborn or dying shortly after birth every day in the UK, there is unfortunately a huge demand for our memory boxes and our stocks of knitted blankets are beginning to run low. If knitting groups or individuals are able to help in knitting for us we would be very grateful as we know how important the blankets are to the parents who receive them.'

Sands can only accept blankets that are knitted in white and suggest using the pattern below, which was kindly offered from Ray of Hope:

www.uk-sands.org/fileadmin/content/Groups/03371_Knitting_Pattern.pdf

The blanket can be knitted with or without a lace border and the pattern requires approximately 200g of white double knit wool.

Sue continues, "We would be incredibly grateful for any donated blankets and hope that knitters everywhere are happy to assist with our plea. If you aren't a knitter but would like to help, please consider donating a ball of white double knitting wool, as well as spreading the word to family and friends."

Finished blankets should be sent to Sue Hale at:

Sands Memory Boxes, 78 Holme Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5AD.

Anybody wishing to knit a blanket, but who has a query, can contact Sue directly by emailing sue.hale@uk-sands.org

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Lyn Peters – 01394 385865

or

Lisa Wardle – 07554 454309

Key Information about Sands:

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and
- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

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