Chapter Name San Jose, CA Benefits: Newborns of Low-income Mothers

Name of Program Layette

**Timing, duration, frequency of program:** Generally, once a month, a small group gets together to put together 6 individual layettes for low-income mothers. We generally take about an hour or 1.5 hours to create 6 layettes containing undershirts, sleepwear, diapers, outer onesies, a hand-knit crib blanket or stitched quilt, hand-knit sweater set, receiving blanket, washcloth, diaper cream, baby bottle and shaken baby and “read to me” cards. 6 Layettes are delivered each month throughout the year to our local Sacred Heart Community Service Center, which gives them to those in need. We also spend time during the year making the blankets and quilts, and cutting out and finishing the edges of the receiving blankets. These are usually done individually. The sweaters with matching booties, and caps are all knit by one woman who loves knitting and is way ahead of our delivery schedule.

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**Fiscal Information:** We buy ahead, usually finding things during sales, e.g. diapers in large boxes when Costco is offering a sales price, clothes from Carter’s on sale racks, flannel and yarn on sale from Jo-Ann’s Fabrics. Our last year showed a $1400 expense for layettes, (we delivered 66), but this generally includes inventory that wasn’t used yet, and excludes inventory that we started the year with. We average about $25/layette.

**Partnerships:** We partner with Sacred Heart Community Services to deliver the layettes to pregnant women in need. We also partner with the woman who loves to knit and makes all of the little sweater sets. She has recently joined the CCS as a Sustaining member, (not active in programs – put supports us with monetary donation).

**Clients:** Clients are the mother’s in need as determined by SHCS (above). We do not meet with the clients.

**Volunteers:** Roughly 8 of our current 10 members do some work with the layettes.

**Program Description:** Prepare some of the necessities mother’s require to care for newborns, by making or purchasing them, and assembling them into individual packages for distribution to low-income mothers through our local general charity organization, Sacred Heart Community Services. We try to provide 6 layettes each month. We have a knitting machine which we use for the basic crib blanket, then individuals crochet an edging to finish them off. We cut and stitch the edges of flannel for receiving blankets and use the leftover flannel to make quilts for distribution in the colder winter months. Sweater sets are provided by a local volunteer. All other items are purchased as necessary.

More Information: Chairperson is Mary Jean Wagner,

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