

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Needed to Knit and Crochet for Charity

Help warm local children this winter by knitting or crocheting in the 20th annual Crochet & Knit-A-Thon

ST. CHARLES, Ill. – Crafters nationwide are sought to participate in the 20th annual Crochet & Knit-A-Thon (CKAT) now through Dec. 14. The CKAT is part of the larger Snug Hugs for Kids clothing drive which provides warm winter clothing for children served by Children's Home + Aid.

Donations of handcrafted items can be mailed to the event's sponsor, Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops' corporate office at 3815 E. Main St., Suite D, St. Charles, IL 60174, dropped off at any Merlin 200,000 Miles Shop in Illinois or Wisconsin, or brought to the one day appreciation event that will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ill.

All participants are encouraged to register, especially those who will attend the local CKAT event to spend time with fellow crafters and view the items being donated. Registration forms can be obtained at www.merlins.com/ckat, or select yarn shops in the Chicagoland area. All items crafted help more than 40,000 children served each year by Children's Home + Aid, a leading provider of quality programs and services to families in need, from the snow and winds during winter.

Knitted items should be sized to fit boys or girls aged new-born to 18 year old children. The need is greatest for newborn to seven year old children. The following items are needed most

- Gloves, hats and scarves
- Sweaters, slippers and blankets
- Baby items (sweaters, caps, layette sets and blankets)

Merlin's Marketing Director, Penny McDowell said, "Every year we are amazed by the volunteers who literally handcraft thousands of beautiful items for the children served by our charity partner, Children's Home + Aid. I've personally witnessed the joy in a child's eyes when they receive a handmade gift and they realize that someone special took the time to make something beautiful and warm especially for them. We know that through this program two people are warmed by every gift – the recipient and the volunteer who crafted the item."

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On Dec. 14, Merlin franchisees, corporate staff and vendor partners will deliver the crafted items and donations to strategically located Children's Home + Aid family centers. Over 30 Merlin vans and vendor trucks will form a caravan to deliver an anticipated 9+ tons of clothing.

About Children's Home + Aid

Children's Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. The organization helps children recover their health, their hope, and their faith in the people around them. We link children to a network of opportunity and care, to extended family, teachers, mentors, and the resources of the neighborhood and community. For more than 130 years, the organization has gone wherever children and families need them, and where that work has been proven to be most effective: at home, in the classroom, in the neighborhood, in the course of daily life. The organization has offices located across Illinois and serves more than 40,000 children and families in over 60 counties each year. For more information about Children's Home + Aid, visit childrenshomeandaid.org.

About Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops offer a neighborhood approach to automotive service and provides both repair and maintenance services as well as tire replacement and tire services. Merlin's DRIVE FOR 200,000, the industry's most comprehensive and affordable maintenance program, supports vehicle owners thousands of miles beyond the usual manufacturer's maintenance requirements and has positioned Merlin as the leader in vehicle longevity. Founded in 1975, Merlin is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois. In February 2014, Driven Brands acquired Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops. For more information, please visit www.merlins.com.

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