

# The Common Thread Circle

## E-NEWS - March 2024



### COMMON THREAD STARS!

During our February meetup, CT had a visitor that brought his camera and used it to video our Common Thread volunteers. This was done as part of a project for the Memorial Drive United Methodist Church to create a video for the church entitled *Memorial Matters*. About 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way into the video, there is a generous segment about The Common Thread Circle with an interview by Pastor Michael with JOAN GAROFALO and GEORGIA KIMMEL. This video contains glimpses of Common Thread volunteers at work, some of our handiwork, a peek at the *Methodist Hospital Blessing of the Scarves* event with much praise for Common Thread and the good works that we do. To view this video, click the link below or copy and paste the link into your browser.

<https://youtu.be/axH-Nuh8YBY>



### An Email from Mission Center in Conroe to the Common Thread Circle

Greetings!

The critters are always so lovely and so appreciated. In fact, Child Backpacks with Common Thread critters in them are being donated to a women and children shelter in Livingston. So, please share with everyone how their efforts are touching children and helping them during difficult times.

Your continued support of the ministries at the Mission Center is a blessing to us as well!

Peace and Blessings,  
Christine Riggle  
Mission Center Administrative Assistant/Facilities Manager  
Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church



JOAN GAROFALO and GEORGIA KIMMEL

**United Women in Faith Program Meeting and Brunch** was on March 5th. Our appreciation is extended to our Common Thread members: LENORE ALFREDSON, SUSAN ANDERSON, DEEDEE ARONSON, DIANE BOWERS, PL DISINGER, BEVERLY EKSTROM, GAIL KOCIAN, DEBBIE MOORE and LINDA MORGAN. They provided a variety of tasty foods for the brunch and lent a hand to hostessing the UWF program meeting. We couldn't have done it without your help.

Harris Health System  
P.O. Box 66769, Houston, Texas 77266-6769

February 28, 2024

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church  
Common Thread Circle  
Attn: Joan Garofalo  
12955 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77079

*Thank you  
for all your  
support!*  
*JG*

Dear Common Thread Circle,

It seems like 2023 went as quickly as it came, but I want to extend gratitude to you for all of your generosity over the last year! As a health system, we are always working to bring quality health care to more patients, and we are proud to say we achieved just that with your support.

Here are a few highlights from 2023:

The Quentin Mease Health Center was remodeled and officially reopened as home to Thomas Street at Quentin Mease for HIV/AIDS services, a new dialysis center, and an expanded endoscopy center. This expansion is improving patient wait times for routine appointments and increasing the number of patients receiving vital colon health screenings. The Food Farmacy program continues to grow, distributing over 238,000 pounds of fresh food to patients facing food insecurity through 3 locations, with additional clinic locations planned. And, your generosity ensured our hospitals and clinics had tangible items to enhance care and comfort when our patients needed them most – to the tune of over 15,000 donated gifts in-kind. Thank you for allowing us to care for the entire well-being of our patients, not just their physical health!

As we respond to the changing needs of the community, we look forward to one of our biggest undertakings yet. In November 2023, Harris County voters overwhelmingly approved a \$2.5 billion bond that will allow Harris Health to replace and expand LBJ Hospital over the next 5 years, make improvements to Ben Taub Hospital, and increase access to quality healthcare through new community health centers in under resourced neighborhoods. We hope you will continue on this journey with us in 2024 as we create a healthier Harris County for all!

Sincerely,

*Kelli Fondren*

Kelli J. Fondren  
VP, Development  
Harris Health System

All contributions to Harris Health System are tax deductible as allowable by law.  
Tax ID: 74-1536936



## Follow Up Email to the Common Thread Circle from Mission Center in Conroe

We received the awesome critters today!

Thank you to Common Thread for sharing your wonderful handiwork with children throughout East, Southeast and Northeast Texas!

Peace and Blessings,  
Christine Riggle  
TAC Mission Center



We have 2 new hospitals receiving our items & both are in the Methodist system.  
**Methodist Hospital Sugar Land & Methodist Hospital Clear Lake.**



We are so happy that our Common Thread group is growing!  
That means that the number of items we make is also growing.  
Should you know of a medical facility, a nonprofit, or other group that could give our comfort items to patients or clients, let us know.

**JOAN GAROFALO and GEORGIA KIMMEL**





## Some Good Works by Common Thread Circle Volunteers

### TEAM WORK

**MARY WYLIE** took precut fabric pieces cut by **JEANE KRANZ** and matched the fabrics together. **GWYNNE ROSS** will sew these pieces together to create worm critters then wash and iron them. **DODIE GABER, RENE GUGENHEIM** and several other stuffers will stuff these worms. **JOYCE WOLF, JUDY AYCOCK, JEANE KRANZ** and others at the closing table will stitch the worms closed. *This is Common Thread Teamwork in action!*



**RENE GUGENHEIM** – Knit scarves





**LESLIE ANTLEY – Pink knit caps**



**NOREEN WILLIAMS – Crochet caps of all sizes**





**JEANE KRANZ – Small unique pillows from fabric squares**



**GAIL KOCIAN – Variegated blue lap blanket**





**SUSAN ANDERSON** brought CT volunteers an afternoon energy boost of Pink Icing Sugar Cookies from Crumbles Cookies. Thank You Susan!







**No Common Thread Meetup March 25 or April 1**







## Happy Passover



**See you Monday, April 8**

**The Common Thread Circle**

**Mondays 2:00 to 4:00 PM - Adult Ministry Center at Rummel Creek Center, 13194 Memorial Drive**



Your Common Thread Leaders,

**JOAN GAROFALO and GEORGIA KIMMEL**

The Common Thread Circle E-News

**Your submissions are welcome!**

Respectfully submitted by Gwynne Ross

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