

The Doctors Clinic Staff Mask the Community in Hope

Medical assistant joins group of tailors across Kitsap County making masks to help prevent spread of COVID-19.

SILVERDALE, WA– 04/06/2020 – By day, Annette Knight works as a medical assistant at The Doctors Clinic Urgent Care, taking staff temperatures and helping to ensure the flow of patients in the clinic.

Once home, however, she and a community of tailors across Kitsap County take on a very different job: sewing homemade face masks for caregivers and healthcare workers.

“If I hear a cough, I start patrolling the office offering masks,” she said while donning a mask she made with pink flowers. “We’re all for one and one for all here, and we need to be doing this [helping one another] for each other.”

A shortage of personal protection equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted many like Knight in the public [Kitsap Masks for Caregivers Facebook group](#) to go home or use their downtime to sew fitted and pleated masks. The masks are created with pockets for hospitals to place extra barriers inside to help increase the protection against the virus.

Started two weeks ago, the group – made up of 239 members – has delivered hundreds, soon to be thousands of masks, to various healthcare centers like: The Doctors Clinic’s seven locations in the county, Harrison Emergency Room in Silverdale; Liberty Shores Assisted Living in Poulsbo; Martha and Mary Health and Rehab Center in Poulsbo; [Salmon Medical Center in Silverdale](#); and Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle – among others.

As of Monday, Knight has sewn more than 500 masks using scraps from her stores, some extra elastic and material she’s bought especially to help brighten the spirits of her mask recipients. In addition, she’s gathered several colleagues in the clinic to help join her sewing cause. The clinic now has four seamstresses creating masks and, in partnership with tailors county-wide, delivered 479 masks to the clinic this week.

“I am trying to make them happy,” she said while showing us photos of some of her brightly-colored masks in sugar skulls, flower and animals prints. “This is a downer for many people so I’m trying to make them [the masks] as happy as possible.”

Knight and others receive requests via phone calls, posts in the group – even personal Facebook Messenger requests. If she has the materials, she said, the need will be met.

For now, Knight said, she will do whatever she can to ensure the health and safety of those in her community and those she works with.

“If I know there’s a need, I will make [masks],” Knight said. “Something is better than nothing.”

About The Doctors Clinic

The Doctors Clinic, a part of Franciscan Medical Group, is a multi-specialty, physician-owned medical group with seven clinic locations across Kitsap County. The clinic was built on a history of medical excellence and compassionate care more than 70 years ago. Today, The Doctors Clinic has more than 80 healthcare professionals and more than 300 staff members dedicated to providing personalized and compassionate

care for all who come to one of our clinic locations. We work in partnership with CHI Franciscan Health network to bring residents more than 45 specialties and services. Learn more at www.TheDoctorsClinic.com

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