

6-1-14

Hi Marianne:

This piece came from a friend who lives in Maritowac, Wi. So, the good deeds of Peggy have traveled far.

Barb.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

➔ It started with a 14-hour airplane ride and a loom knitter.

Rather than grumble about the hours of travel she faced flying to Australia and New Zealand in 2010, **Peggy McGee** decided to put the time to good use, making hats for homeless veterans. When a woman she met at a local thrift shop donated 39 skeins of yarn to the project, McGee's idea really took shape.

"I knew there was no way I could ever use it all up and told some of the Women of Quail Creek members that if they would do the knitting, I would provide the yarn," says McGee, 69, of the

Knitting for the vets

55-and-older adult active community in Green Valley, Ariz. "And as they say, 'The rest is history!'"

The effort has grown into a clothing drive for homeless veterans, held on Make A Difference Day for the past three years.

Besides handmade hats and other clothing items, community members donated bed and kitchen linens, business suits, vacuum cleaners, backpacks, trashcans and money. The 18 volunteers sorted about 3,000 items and delivered them to the Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System.

"These donations help raise the recipients' self esteem and make they feel good that the community cares about them," says Jodi Frederick, clinical director of Rehabilitation Programs. "It gives them dignity and hope."