

**Crafting for a Cause:
Leveraging Community Partnerships to Provide Meaningful Service Experience
for Tweens and Teens**

Illinois Library Association Annual Conference
Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:45-3:45 p.m.

Presenters:

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Additional Contributors:

- Kerry Bailey, Tween Librarian, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
- Alyssa Johnson, Teen Librarian, Westmont Public Library

Organizations:

- A Million Thanks - Cards for military (<https://amillionthanks.org/>)
- Amy Krouse Rosenthal Foundation: <https://www.amykrouserosenthalfoundation.org>
- The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago (<https://anticruelty.org/>) or Your Local Animal Shelter/Rescue
- Cards for Hospitalized Kids: <http://www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com/>
- Cards for Kindness: <https://www.scrapbook.com/articles/cards-for-kindness>
- Cardz for Kidz: <https://www.cardzforkidz.org/>
- Color A Smile (<https://colorasmile.org/>)
- DuPagePads - Supports those experiencing homelessness in DuPage County (<https://dupagepads.org/>)
- Fandom Forward: <https://fandomforward.org>
- Institute for Positive Mental Health (Erin Fountain, Executive Director): <https://www.ipositive.org/>
- JOURNEYS | The Road Home - Supports those experiencing homelessness in north/northwest suburban Cook County (<https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/>)
- Operation Gratitude - Paracord for military, as well as other items that can be made and donated (<https://www.operationgratitude.com/>)

- Paper Bridges - Letters to orphanages (<https://www.paper-bridges.org/>)
- Project Linus: <https://projectlinus.org/chapters/>
- Your Local Civic Engagement Group (ex: League of Women Voters, community organizers)
- Your Local Food Pantry
- Your Local Government
- Your Local Homeless Shelter
- Your Local Nursing Homes
- Your Local Quilting Groups
- Your Local VFW

Additional Project Ideas:

- DIY to Donate: <https://diytodonate.com/>
- Do Something: DoSomething.org
- Ok You: <https://okyou.org>

Craft Supplies/Directions:

- For quilt squares, cut white muslin fabric cut into 6.5" squares (or the size that your local quilting group requests). Wash and dry it in hot water first, and iron it. Cut freezer paper into 6" squares (or .5" smaller than the fabric, so there is .25" border around the entire fabric square). Iron the sticky side to the center of one side of the muslin fabric. The kids can use fabric markers to color on the side of the fabric square without the freezer paper. They should be sure NOT to color past the freezer paper (you can see it through the square), as the .25" border will be sewn into the quilt.
- [Letters to Orphanages \(Paper Bridges\)](#)
- [Letters to Veterans \(A Million Thanks\)](#)
- [No-Sew Blankets \(Project Linus\)](#)
- [No-Sew Scarves](#)
- [Quick Deploy Paracord Bracelets](#)

Additional Resources:

- Example of fleece hats: <https://www.ehow.com/13730763/diy-no-sew-fleece-hat>
- Get Out the Vote
 - <https://www.mylibraryis.org/blog/get-out-vote-your-virtual-library>
 - Get out the Vote 2020: <https://www.etiberland.com/blog/get-out-the-vote-2020-recap>
- Rescue Bears
 - <https://www.etiberland.com/blog/rescue-bears-experience-with-erin-fountain-of-institute-for-positive-mental-health>
 - Video instructions for making Rescue Bears: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCJhV1yAUSM>
- Video instructions for making dog tug toys: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MkR4dGuNUg>