

Dolls on a mission

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FROM LEFT: JANNEY PRIDY, VICKI WELLS, JANICE SNOW, JEAN MEADE, BONNIE DANIEL, DEBBIE WINECROFF, JAN HUGHES, NITA VAN DAMME, LOUIS DOWDY, BONNIE FINCK, EVA MOWEN, KAREN KLIEWER, ELLEN NANCY, RAY SPIVEY, EMILY GLIDEWELL, AND DEBORAH HUNT.

the world who are suffering from poverty, natural disaster, or various catastrophic circumstances.

You might think Spivey has a factory in her basement or a sweat shop, but with the group of volunteers, they have developed a strong friendship with one purpose, for the love of Jesus. They also take turns to bringing snacks, they share a devotion and pray for the dolls, their friends and families.

The dolls are all different. They have modified them from the original 300; they are half the size so they are able to fit in a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. Each doll has two sides. One side is a sad face (life without Christ) and the other side is happy (life with Christ). Each doll wears a necklace of colored beads to indicate a different message in

Christ's story. They will also translate Christ's message to the language where the dolls are going. There are different jobs for each



EVA MOWEN AND VICKI WELLS WORKED ON STUFFING AND SEAMING THE DOLLS.

volunteer. There are pattern cutters, sewing machine workers, stuffers, seamstresses, a face painter, an applique person, a person making the hair, card maker, and a laminator. They also have volunteers who will cut out patterns from their home and send them to the group for completion.

"It means so much to us that the Lord has blessed us to bless the children," said Pat Eubank, one of the four original members.

Another of the original four, Nita VanDamme said, "We have made a lot of new friends."

"The dolls are free. Everything is donated. Every time we need something we get it," said Spivey. "And there has never been a dry period when the dolls did not have a destination.

"We did it to bless others but it is like the blessing is coming back to us," she said. "Now life has a purpose."

Dolls on a Mission relies on donated materials to make the dolls. If you would like to help, they need polyester fiber fill, material, craft beads, yarn, and black and white felt tip markers for faces. They also accept cash donations.

To get involved with the group, they meet a couple times a month. Spivey said you do not have to know how to sew or be creative to help create the dolls. "Just come with a happy heart and we will teach you the rest."

They have also helped other

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