

PS4FS Monthly Newsletter - July 2011:

Dear PS4FS friends,

Once again we've outdone ourselves, especially with the Dover Program! Words seem inadequate to thank you for being so passionate about our program – you will read several thank you notes from our Dover families – we know they often do not write to us, and that's understandable due to their insurmountable grief. But when they do, it's a pearl for us to know how much our work means to them.

Good things continue to happen with our ministry – this past month, Betty Nielsen from Fonda, Iowa, founder of Freedom Quilts, Inc., emailed to ask if they too could contribute to Dover! I eagerly gave Betty the Dover contact information, thinking how wonderful to have them join in our work! Betty shares my frustration with the Army's casualty list seldom coming on time, often not at all, and when it did, it was a partial list. She decided to take this new direction with her quilting ministry. We welcome her to our Dover work. Now our families will have choices of yarn or cloth! How wonderful! If you'd like to check out Betty's program, click below.

<http://freedomquilts.net/>

Many of you will be pleased to see an old familiar face, Chaplain David Sorensen, in this newsletter! As a tease, you'll have to read the newsletter to learn more! Happy knitting! Thank you for your time, your love, and your passion in this ministry. Thank you for mending so many broken hearts! We continue to grow – each month it amazes me what you all accomplish! Blessings to you all!

Reminder: Please send me photos of yourselves to share – those photos give us a binding camaraderie so don't be shy! And include photos of your work!

Note: If you prefer to be removed from this list, please notify me.

<http://webpages.charter.net/ps4fs/Shawls/>

Fondly,

Cozette

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I.) CURRENT STATISTICS:

# Prayer Shawls made since October 2007:	4,958	<i>Includes Dover prayer shawls (numbers below)</i>
# sent to Dover since inception of program (Sept. 2009):	1,792	
# sent to Dover this past month:	145	<i>This number is included in 1,792 total above</i>
# Prayer Shawl Groups/Individuals:	270	

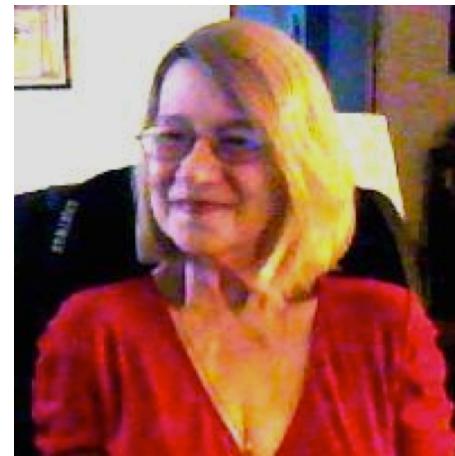
*A Warm Welcome to New Groups/Individuals who Joined PS4FS in June 2011

Contact Name	Town	State	Group Name	Date Joined
Karen Hanson	Murphy	TX	Single member (see photo section II)	6/17/11
Jan Lakovich				6/24/11
Diane Slagle	Batavia	OH		6/28/11

II. COMMUNICATIONS FROM YOU:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Mitzi Christian, from Alexandria, Virginia, joined us in May.

She wasted no time sending three prayer shawls to Dover. Mitzi shares a photo of herself, and of some of her prayer shawls. Welcome to our ministry, Mitzi!



Our newest member, PS4FS knitter/crocheter Karen Hanson from Murphy, Texas, joined us this month! We warmly welcome you, Karen! She began by sending her first prayer shawl to Dover Air Base! Karen, you belong to a “big” state, not in terms of size, but in terms of this ministry’s membership! You’ve become the 13th member of this active group.

Just for fun, I’ve included all our Texas groups below: (*1 photo right*)

<i>Rep. Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Group Name</i>
Rachael Huntley	Austin	TX	
Joan Britton	Buda	TX	
Regina Everman	Converse	TX	
Michelle Calhoun	Coppell	TX	
Heather Thayer	Denton	TX	
Judith Minchew	Hereford	TX	Threads of Love, First United Methodist Church
Debbie Kendall	Katie	TX	Covenant Lutheran Church
Joyce Raymer	Keller & Southlake	TX	
Karen Hanson	Murphy	TX	
Sharon Knibbe	Spring Branch	TX	St Paul Prayer Shawl Group
Saskia Mehlhorn	Sugarland	TX	St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Virginia Littleton	Weatherford	TX	Grace First Presbyterian Church
Diana Gonzalez	West Columbia	TX	



III. DOVER PROGRAM:

Below is a message from Robin Raine from the Fischer House. How many of you recognize the “young” man standing next to her? We all say it’s a small world! Nearly everyone here should recognize Chaplain David Sorensen, who was our original Dover Chaplain contact. He is responsible for beginning our relationship with the Air Base! We’re glad to see you again! Additionally, Robin continues to spread the word about our good work with Dover, enabling us to reach as many military families as possible. Thank you, Robin!

I hope this finds you doing well on this fine summer day! Guess who Ms. Moore and I bumped into at a grief symposium we attended in La Crosse, WI? Chaplain Sorenson! He's doing well and said to say "hi." Thought I'd send a pic of him and me along for you.

The main reason I'm writing is to introduce you to Sadiqa Moore, Family Support Coordinator for our Air Force Families Forever program. She is working on the summer newsletter for the Family Support Network she started last fall, and would like to see how we could incorporate your prayer shawl ministry into the newsletter so families can reach out to you all if they wish. I'll let the two of you work that out, if you're interested. Thank you for always keeping in touch, and especially for the care and compassion you extend to our families of the fallen from all branches of service. Best, Robin ROBIN L. RAIN, M.A., Chief, Families of the Fallen Support Branch



IV. THANK YOU NOTES AND MESSAGES:

PS4FS knitter/crocheter Gretchen Reid, who works with Saint Columbkille Prayer Shawls group in Papillion, Nebraska, answered a direct request from Maria Medrano-Nehls. Maria lives not far from Gretchen in Lincoln, Nebraska. Maria was the legal guardian and aunt to MSGT Linda Ann F. Tarango-Griess, DOD 7/11/04. (Note early DOD). It's is always consoling to hear from our families who continue to ask for our prayer shawls, despite the time. Time does not erase the pain, but maybe our prayer shawls will! Thank you, Gretchen, for responding and making Maria's life a little bit smoother as a result of our loving work! (2 photos right, 2 below)





This month we received several thank you notes from Dover families. The first is from Toni Kay Attanasio, proud mother of SPC Christopher Fishbeck, DOD 6/6/11. Toni lives in Victorville, California, and traveled to Dover to witness the Dignified Transfer Ceremony of her son, Christopher. There, she received 2 prayer shawls from PS4FS Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Richmond Virginia, which is headed by Cathy McCormack. Cathy intends to make a third for this family. Toni writes: (1 photo left)

Dear Cathy, My son, Specialist Christopher Fishbeck (US Army) was killed in Iraq June 6, 2011, when insurgents attacked his base. A total of six young men were killed, and 22 were wounded. The military sent me and my daughter, Randi, to Dover Air Force Base for the Dignified Transfer of Remains. While we stayed at the Fisher House we were given prayer shawls. I was given a beautiful one that is in the shade of aqua and is rectangular and knitted. It had your personal tag on it, so I wanted to write to you and tell you thank you for this generous and most beautiful gift. I will always be reminded of your love and generosity and thoughtfulness during such a difficult time in my life. I never dreamed I would be there at Fisher House! But all the small acts of kindness from people such as yourself have made this deep ache in my heart seem less. Thank you so very much. Toni Kay Attanasio

Below is a web video I urge you to watch – it's Toni and her family giving a loving tribute to Christopher:

<http://www.ocregister.com/video/c/1125901233/latest/993331949001/army-christopher-fishbeck>

PS4FS Cathy McCormack, who heads the Bon Air Presbyterian Church prayer shawl group in Richmond, Virginia, also received a thank you note from Rosalia Verbeck, mother-in-law, who lives in Visalia, California. Jared's father is Travais Verbeck. Rosalia writes: (1 photo right)
My name is Veronica Salazar. I lost my son-in-law Jared Verbeek on Tuesday, June 21st. We arrived at Fisher House in Dover on Wednesday and we were given the opportunity to pick a "Prayer Shawl" on Thursday - the day of Jared's "Dignified Transfer". I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the shawl. It is a remembrance of a painful, but beautiful day.
Sincerely, Veronica

