

Wrapped in Love:

Knit/Crochet Blankets + Hats

AS KEEPSAKES FOR BABIES WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Program Overview

The Handmade Blanket + Hat Initiative provides soft, handmade blankets and hats to families who have experienced the loss of a baby. These items are distributed through hospital partners as part of bereavement care and often become the family's most treasured keepsake.

Your work helps families feel supported, honored, and remembered during one of the most difficult moments of their lives. Thank you for your care, skill, and heart!

Why Your Work Matters

Many hospitals do not have the resources to provide personalized comfort items. A matching blanket and hat set offers warmth, comfort, and a meaningful connection to the baby. Every item should be made with care, softness, and attention to detail.

How It Works

1. Create & Collect Items

- Volunteers handcraft blankets and hats to meet Gemma's Hope standards for **softness, sizing, matching, and safety**.
- Each item is **inspected, measured, and packaged** for use in hospitals.
- Completed items can be **mailed** or **dropped off** (see submission info below).

2. Distribution Through Hospital Partners

- Partner hospitals receive **free, labeled sets** and provide them to families as part of bereavement care.

G-E-N-T-L-E Standards

Every item should follow these standards to ensure safety, comfort, and care:

- **G — Gauge & Sizing:** Approved sizes for babies **30–40 weeks gestation**.
- **E — Even Stitches:** Consistent tension and clean stitch work.
- **N — No Harsh Textures:** Use soft **#3 weight yarn** only; avoid scratchy or stiff yarns.
- **T — Tone (Color):** Light, calming pastels or ivory. Avoid black, gray, or beige.
- **L — Launder-ready:** Machine washable yarns that hold shape and drape.
- **E — Excellent Quality:** Finished edges, secure ends, no gaps or flaws.

Matching sets are highly preferred. Hats and blankets should use the **same technique** (knit or crochet).

If you are unsure about your project, **send us a photo of a gauge swatch** for feedback before creating multiple items. Items not meeting standards will be **recycled or reused thoughtfully**.

Blankets

- Use whatever pattern you'd like, but **avoid large holes or overly tight stitches**.
- The main color(s) of the hat and blanket should **always match**.
- For blankets, decorative stitches (e.g., shell stitch) are preferred, but HDC & DC work as well.
- Trim on blankets and hats is optional, but highly recommended to elevate simple stitches.

Hats

- Use the sizing chart to get the **crown diameter → determines your increase rounds → make your even rounds until you reach the final hat height**.
- Focus on **gentle textures, simple stitches, and clean finishing**.
- It's OK if you make the blanket a fancy stitch (e.g. shell stitch) but the hat is a SC or HDC.

Quality & Submission

- Items are **inspected, measured, and packaged** for hospital use.
- Volunteers may send a **photo of a gauge swatch** for feedback before starting multiple items.
- **Drop-off / Mailing:**
 - **Address:** 6302 Gold Dust Ct, Charlotte, NC 28269
 - **Drop-off instructions:** Leave in a bag on the front-door table if dropping off in person.

In Summary

1. Make a **matching hat + blanket set** for babies 30–40 weeks gestation.
2. Use **soft #3 weight yarn** in light pastels or ivory.
3. Maintain **even tension, gentle textures, and quality finishing**.
4. Hats: follow the **crown diameter → increase rounds → even rounds formula**.
5. Blankets: choose **safe drape, minimal holes**, and optional matching trim.
6. Submit completed sets to **Gemma's Hope** for distribution to hospital partners.

Contact Information

Contact Ally Shaw with any questions or concerns: 704-659-4957 (please text before calling)
allyshaw@gemmas-hope.com

Hat & Blanket Size Chart

provided by Gemma's Hope
www.gemmas-hope.com

Gestation	Baby's Weight	Head Circumference	Hat Circumference*	Hat Width	Hat Height	Crown Diameter**	Blanket Size	Notes
20 Weeks	<1 lb	8"	6.5-7"	3.25-3.5"	3.25"	2.5"	16"x16"	
22 Weeks	1.25 lb	8.25"	6.75-7.25"	3.5"	3.25"	2.5"	16"x16"	
24 Weeks	1.5 lb	8.5"	7-7.75"	3.75"	3.5"	2.75"	18"x18"	
26 Weeks	2.25 lb	9"	7.5-8.25"	4"	3.5"	3"	20"x20"	
28 Weeks	2.75 lb	9.5"	8-8.75"	4.25"	3.5"	3"	20"x20"	
30 Weeks	3.5 lb	10"	8.5-9"	4.5"	4"	3.25"	22"x22"	
32 Weeks	4 lb	11"	9-10"	4.75-5"	4.5"	3.5"	22"x22"	
34 Weeks	5 lb	12"	10-11"	5-5.5"	5"	4"	24"x24"	
36 Weeks	6 lb	13"	11-12"	5.75-6"	5"	4"	24"x24"	
38 Weeks	7 lb	13.5"	11.5-12.25"	6"	5.5"	4.25"	28"x28"	
40 Weeks	7.25 lb	14 "	12-13"	6.25-6.5"	6"	4.5"	28"x28"	
42 Weeks	7.75 lb	15"	13-14"	6.75-7"	6"	4.75"	30"x30"	

*Hat Circumference & Width measured at hat brim/bottom. Circumference measured as hat width, slightly stretched (to mimic being worn by baby), and multiplied by 2 to get circumference.

**Crown Diameter is measured across the center of your circle (the increase rows)

Crochet Baby Hat Pattern (all sizes):

Yarn Weight: Use Baby/Sport weight yarn (#3) - do not use any yarn heavier than #3 yarn (it's too chunky for these tiny babies)

Colors: Light or pastel colors, or ivory. Please do not use pure white, beige, black, or gray in any shade. Varigated yarn is fine as long as they are all pastel/light colors. Pure white is OK in varigated yarns. Our favorite brand is Bernat, they have lots of color options.

Hook Size: 3.50 mm (E), 3.75 mm (F), or 4.0 mm (G)

- If you crochet tight → go up to 4.5 mm
- If you crochet loose → try 3.5 mm (E)

Baby Hat Instructions

Create Crown

Round 1: Magic circle (alternately, ch 3 and join to form a ring). Ch 1, 10 HDC in ring. Do not join; work in a continuous spiral, placing a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round. (10)

Round 2: 2 HDC in each st around. (20)

Round 3: HDC in next st, 2 HDC in next st repeat around. (30)

Round 4: HDC in next 2 sts, 2 HDC in next st repeat around. (40)

Increase Rounds:

Repeat the previous round, adding 1 additional HDC between each increase, until crown diameter reaches the desired size according to the Size Chart.

Create Height

HDC in each st around. (40)

Repeat until hat reaches desired height according to the Size Chart.

Finishing:

SC in next st, SL ST in next st. Fasten off and weave in ends.