

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING GOOD

Chase the Chill

A woolly random act of kindness

Chase the Chill was founded in Easton, Pennsylvania, and is described as combining “art, charity and yarn bombing.” It is a coalition of stitchers and groups who independently make (or buy) scarves and then come together to “paint the town” with yarn. Chapters have been started in Canada and across the United States.

Amy Hahn, realtor at Pine Knoll Shores Realty, chartered a local chapter, Chase the Chill on the Crystal Coast, in 2015. The first graffiti/yarn bombing event in January 2016 was a success, and the group distributed hundreds of scarves, hats and gloves in public places so that those in need—regardless of income and without any qualifiers—could help themselves. Scarves and hats

were given to Hope Mission at Christmas to pass out to those in need, and Amy also kept some in her car to pass out to anyone she spotted who could use a little defense against the cold.

The charter members of Chase the Chill on the Crystal Coast are Pine Knoll Shores resident Julie Kowalski, Amy Hahn and Denise Kjellgren of Morehead City and Denise Throckmorton of Emerald Isle. The group has grown to about 20 participants who knit, crochet or buy scarves.

There are few rules: anyone can participate in any part of the process. Those who knit or crochet can make scarves, hats or gloves, or participants are invited to buy these items. Yarn can be donated for handmade items, and help is needed to hang the scarves around town. Gently worn items, including coats and jackets, may be donated as well. Each item has a tag inviting those with a need to take it, with the qualifier “if you’re cold—or if you like it.” The tag also includes washing instructions.

More information about Chase the Chill on the Crystal Coast can be found on its Facebook page. An event was scheduled after press time for this issue, and full details were posted on Facebook.

If there is a sudden cold snap or if a scheduled event is rained out, scarves and other items are taken to Hope Mission for distribution to those who need them.

Donations can be dropped off at Pine Knoll Shores Realty at 320 Salter Path Road in Pine Knoll Shores. Amy can be reached for questions or to make arrangements to pick up donations at amyhahnncc@gmail.com, through the Facebook page or by calling 723-7972. Anyone can be a part of Chase the Chill on the Crystal Coast. It meets a critical need—and it’s a lot of fun.



Scarves, hats and gloves are left in public places for the taking. —Photo by Amy Hahn

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