

## **CANADA COMFORTS SOCIETY- QUESTIONS WE ARE ASKED**

### **HOW DO WE GET OUR ITEMS TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD?**

We ship primarily through the completely volunteer run Compassionate Resource Warehouse, directed by Dell Wergelund. Dell receives lists of needed goods from the consignee (which is an officially recognized organization working in a particular country). Most warehouses specialize in one thing - i.e. medical, or building schools etc. This Warehouse covers the whole spectrum, and tries to fill all the requested needs. The Warehouse relies on Canada Comforts for the children's needs.

### **WHAT DOES SECOND WAVE MEAN?**

When there is a crisis (earth quake etc.), there is hopefully immediate aid that is rushed into the stricken area. This is called first wave response. Organizations like the Red Cross are equipped for first wave action. The Warehouse is on second wave response. This means that an assessment is made of the damage, and specific lists of needed articles are sent before we respond.

### **WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF SENDING A CONTAINER?**

Depending on the distance~ and whether the country has a seaport, or is inland, the costs range from \$6,000. to \$19,000. Philippines is about \$6,000 and the Sudan is about \$19,000.

### **WHO PAYS FOR THE SHIPPING COSTS?**

There are a number of ways this happens:

1. The organization (consignee) working in the field who requests the shipment often does.
2. Businesses who have money left over at the end of their fiscal year contribute.
3. Persons say something like this – "I have spent 10 years working in Sri Lanka, the next time you ship there let me know I would like to help financially".
4. There are generous people who help financially when other funds are not sufficient.
5. Nothing is sent until all the official paper work has been done, and the consignee has been checked for credibility. Nothing is sent that is not asked for, so there is no waste.

### **WHY NOT JUST SEND MONEY RATHER THAN EXPENSIVE CONTAINERS?**

1. The value of the goods in the container is far more than the shipping cost.
2. In some cases it is very appropriate to send money. i.e. mosquito netting is generally accessible and is far cheaper to purchase over there.
3. In states of emergency the prices over there sky rocket.
4. In most refugee camps there is no access to most articles that we send.
5. Much of the hospital and school equipment we send, is not available, or is beyond purchasing price.
6. We do not send goods that will upset a country's economy. i.e. clothing is a very important industry in the Philippines, so no clothing is sent.
7. In our massive consumer society, much of what we send would otherwise end up in our landfills.
8. It is a great comfort for us to be able to do something for these people with our own hands. And for some seniors, it has changed their lives around-they are needed once again.
9. EVERYTHING THAT IS SENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED. NOTHING IS WASTED.

### **HOW DO WE KNOW THE GOODS REACH THE RIGHT DESTINATIONS?**

1. The container is tracked from start to finish, including when it arrives in the designated country and when it is going through customs .
2. Dell knows who is distributing the contents and to whom. She has full reports back from the receivers, and sometimes pictures.
3. Agencies who pay for these shipments make sure they arrive safely.
4. If it's Government to Government the black market seems to get involved more readily. The Warehouse has not lost one container, and 300 have been sent!

### **WHEN DID WE START?**

Canada Comforts (Bears and Bags) started in 1988. The Compassionate Resource Warehouse started in 2000.

Both groups are run completely by volunteers, and both are absolute scroungers!!!!

**CANADA COMFORTS EXPENSES?**

We rely heavily on donations of fabric and knitting yarn. People help us financially and we can give income tax receipts.

**WHAT ARE THE MEASUREMENTS?**

**BEARS-** Please follow the measurements. They have been specifically determined because of feed-back we have received over the years. For example, the bears need at least a **2 3/4 inch** body (from the crotch to the arm pit) When the body is shortened, the object looks like a star fish rather than a cuddly bear.

**DISHCLOTHS** – (are used as wash cloths) any colour, 8X8 to 12X12 as long as it is knitted or crocheted in cotton yarn.

**BLANKETS - approximately** Baby Blankets 40” X 40” Crib size - 45”X60” Adult - 72”X60”

**BLANKET SQUARES** – (knitted or crocheted) We had suggested 12 X 12 in. but we have found that people really don’t like making that size. So 8X8 inches or 10X10 inches or actually any size as long as there are enough to make a blanket!!

**BAGS-** The lengths and width (13”) of the bags are printed on the pattern. The bag is designed to drop open for the land mine victims. We have trouble having people follow the instructions. When sewing the side seam, you must stop **4” from the top** and the **top casing must be 1½ inches.** for ease in pulling the bag closed. Our 90 years olds do the threading of the bags at our workshop. They use two colours, so children will know which colour to put in their mouths so if they don’t have a hand(s) they can use their teeth for pulling the bag closed.

**BOYS’ SEWN SHORTS** – Please check the lengths. We have been asked to make them longer, and some of you might have an older pattern. Measure where the length of the **side crease** is shown before the shorts are hemmed.

**small** (1-3) side crease is **17”**, **medium** (4-6) is **20 1/2”**, **large** (7-8-9) is **24”**

We have the elastic and ties at the workshop, and we can finish your shorts for you. Please label what size your shorts are. This will help us tremendously. Also, please note S,M,and L have different widths. Maybe some need a new pattern.

**GIRLS DRESSES** – Please check out these measurements, because the pattern has been changed. Length of the **front fold** before the dress is hemmed---

Size 2 is 20 ½” Size 4 is 24” Size 6 is 28” Size 8 is 31”

Also the **armhole depth** has been changed for easier dressing. After sewing the 5/8” seam allowance at the shoulders, measure down from the shoulder seam 7” before sewing the side seam for sizes 2,4,and 6. and 8” for size 8.

*Quite a difference from the old pattern.*

Like the shorts, if you could label the size of the dresses, it would help us so much. We have to know sizes for knowing what size panty to put in the pockets, and we box by sizes.

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**Please check your dress and shorts pattern, even if you were just sent a pattern. We got a bit “discombobulated” with altering the patterns. Sometimes it just happens!!!!**

If you are sending by post, all parcels are mailed to Sylvia. She lives the closest to the Warehouse. Do **not** mail directly to the Warehouse, volunteers are not there all the time, and you may have your parcel returned.

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