



Soldiers' Angels has kicked off its "No Sew Blanket Drive" to help our veterans stay warm this winter. Soldiers' Angels is one of the few nonprofit agencies approved to work within VA Hospitals and Medical Centers. As deployments continue to draw down, our team is shifting many of our resources to support a growing veteran population. While many organizations are only focusing on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, Soldiers' Angels supports veterans of all generations.

One of our greatest needs to serve our veterans is no-sew blankets. These blankets are provided to veterans who are hospitalized or in wheelchairs and a way of saying 'thank you' for their gallant service to our country.

We are asking the American public to help us keep our veterans warm this winter by making a no-sew blanket to share. This is a great project for church groups, sewing clubs, scout troops, businesses, and individuals who want to share their appreciation to our veterans.

Fleece "no-sew" or "tie" blankets are very easy to make. Many of the large fabric companies have great fleece material with military themes, sports themes, patriotic themes, plaid, and various colors. Soldiers' Angels is collecting no-sew blankets in two sizes - one for twin-bed and one for laps (for wheelchair veterans).



"If it had not been for your support I would have had nothing. I know that a blanket may not seem like much, but it has made a lot of difference. You will never know how much you helped me."

GENERAL GUIDELINES AND TIPS FOR MAKING NO-SEW BLANKETS

Twin-bed Size Blanket: 36" X 60"

You will need approximately 2 yards of material of each (print and solid) depending on the width of the fabric bolt.

- ❖ Step 1: Choose a print and a contrasting or matching solid. You will need a solid and a print that are the same size.
- ❖ Step 2: Line up the two fabrics on a large table, right sides OUT.
- ❖ Step 3: Trim both pieces of fabric to the same size.
- ❖ Step 4: Cut out the corners. Make a 4" X 4" template out of cardboard. Place the cardboard template in each corner and cut.
- ❖ Step 5: Cut fringe on all four sides of the blanket. The fringe should be 4" in length and 1¼" wide. Cut through both layers of fabric at the same time. Cut in from the edge 4 inches. You may want to lay a yard-stick across the fabric, 4 inches from the edge so that you know how far in to make the cut.
- ❖ Step 6: Leave your blanket lying flat on the surface, with all fringes lined up. Tie knots in the fringe with both pieces of fabric. These knots are called balloon knots... tie them just like you would if tying off a balloon!
It easier to start tying from the left and work right, going around the blanket.
- ❖ Step 7: Tie all the fringes together on all four sides of the blanket. All the knots should be snug up to the blanket, but not too tight. The finished blanket should lay flat. You are finished - what a great gift to give to our veterans who sacrificed so much for our freedom. You can also add a personal tag or note of thanks to the blanket.

Lap Blanket Size for Wheelchairs: 30" X 42"

You will need approximately 1 yard of material of each (print and solid) depending on the width of the fabric bolt.

- ❖ Follow all steps outlined above.

You can also find more detailed instructions and directions on the internet.

THANK YOU for your support of our veterans, wounded and ill warriors. You are making a difference!

"I got shot in the foot and I got your blanket while hospitalized ... I do not mind going back to my unit knowing I am fighting for people like you... "

For further information, please contact Renee Cheatham, Sewing and Crafting Team Leader at rcheatham@soldiersangels.org.