

Providence Little Company of Mary's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Service Project

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is designed to care for premature and ill newborn babies. Each year they provide care to over 250 infants and their families. The NICU staff at Providence Little Company of Mary has a need for some unique items that will help with the care and recovery of these precious little ones. They cannot be bought at a store but rather can be handmade. This is a unique opportunity for the crafting community to help. (NOTE: All these items will be washed using hospital standards - very hot water and strong agitation. They therefore need to be carefully constructed).

Donations are appreciated and accepted according to the guidelines below.

INCUBATOR COVER/NURSING COVER

These lightweight receiving blankets are used to cover the incubators while the lights are on to protect the baby's eyes. They double as nursing covers giving the mothers some modesty while nursing.

MATERIAL: Light colored, pastel flannel fabric (no strong prints, or bright colors)

DIRECTIONS: This receiving blanket comprises just 2 pieces of fabric (top and bottom - no batting). Sew 2 pieces of fabric right sides together. Turn inside out. Sew the opening closed and around the whole blanket to stabilize.

FINISHED SIZE: 36" x 36" OR 42" x 36"

SCENT CLOTHS

Babies and mothers are separated for varying periods of time during their time in the NICU. These cloths are worn by the mother transferring her scent and then placed by the baby in their crib giving the baby comfort.

MATERIAL: Solid pastel flannel fabric (no prints, or bright colors)

DIRECTIONS: Cut 2 rectangles 5"x 6". Place the rectangles right sides together. Sew together using a ¼" seam leaving a 2" opening. Trim the corners. Turn right-side out pushing out the corners and sew the opening closed and around the remaining sides to stabilize.

FINISHED SIZE: 4½" x 5¼"

PILLOWCASE

Baby's heads are soft and malleable. In order to prevent flattening, the nurses use these pillowcases to place moldable material inside allowing them to direct the baby's heads.

MATERIAL: Light colored fabric (no strong prints, or bright colors)

DIRECTIONS: Cut 1 rectangle 13"x19". Double fold one side of the long side of the fabric creating a 1/2" cuff. Using the French seam method. Fold rectangle wrong sides together and sew side and bottom together. using a ¼" seam allowance. Turn out and press. Sew along the seams using a generous ¼" seam allowance. Turn out and press.

FINISHED SIZE: 9"x11"

TUBE PILLOWCASE

These pillowcases are used to encase long sandbags that allow the babies to have resistance when they kick.

MATERIAL: Light colored fabric

DIRECTIONS: Cut 1 rectangle 12½ x 48". Double fold the material at one end creating a ½" cuff. Fold the width in half right sides together. Using an overhand stitch sew up the side and bottom using ¼" seam. Turn right-side out pushing out the corners.

FINISHED SIZE: 48" x 6"