

Dress A Girl Bay Area - OCTOBER

From: Dress A Girl Around the World (mail@flocknote.com)

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Date: Sunday, October 4, 2020, 02:04 PM PDT



LOL...don't you feel like this is a Loony Tunes episode and it just keeps going?? 😄
I don't know about you, but I think that sewing is keeping some of us somewhat sane! Thank you so much for all of you who continue to support Dress A Girl even though we aren't able to get together! Here are a few items of interest:

Our two Christmas box groups, Operation Christmas Child and Box of Joy, are still planning on Christmas box deliveries and are ecstatic that we will be able to provide them with so many dresses. I anticipate that we'll have about 4000, though honestly we just keep taking boxes of finished dresses to our storage unit, and I have no idea exactly how many...I'll have to start counting them soon! We also have committed to sending dresses to the Hawaii mission for Christmas as well. So it's good to know that our efforts won't be at all in vain this year!

So, knowing that many of us have worked crazy hard to keep DAG going these past crazy months, the plan is to take a break for November and December. Of

course you can still keep sewing, but we won't be making up any kits or receiving any dresses during this time. We will be processing the dresses we do have and getting them ready for pick up by our Christmas groups. We'll start up again in January!

SO, please plan to turn in as many dresses as you have finished by the end of October or the first few days of November. Of course, you can keep whatever kits you have and continue working, but whatever you turn in will be sent off as part of our 2020 contribution.



In the meantime, if you want to use your own fabric to make dresses, that's fine, **BUT PLEASE, PLEASE** follow all our guidelines, [listed on our website here](#). We are VERY strict about these things as dresses go through our quality control process. Here are some highlights from dresses submitted recently:

- 1) Width of fabric should always be the full 44" width - there is no reason for it to be any less. The girls need room to run and play.
- 2) Elastic should be 1/2" and 7" for **all sizes**. Some folks try to use 1/4" but it doesn't hold up as well, so we really encourage you to use 1/2" (which is thankfully back in stock now!)
- 3) Two good-sized (roughly 6" wide x 4" tall) pockets, placed about half-way on the dress (think where you like your pockets to be, just below your waist.). There's a great tutorial AND video on our website [about pocket placement here](#). At that link you can also find ideas on how to decorate pockets, especially tons of great ideas on using the **little armhole cutout** that we include in the dress kit. Remember sometimes the girls live in such conditions that these pockets are THE ONLY PLACE they have that is their own, to keep their own treasures, so let's be generous and careful on this one.
- 5) And please be sure to tack the pockets down carefully at the top sides. Think about little hands going in and out and in and out, and what stress that puts on that seam, so we want to make sure that area is really secure.
- 5) If you use your own bias tape, please make sure it's ironed flat and that each piece is **not less** than 42" long. Any shorter will not tie into a bow. **DO NOT USE RIBBON OR STRING** or any kind, (We don't accept dresses that are drawstring style--well we accept them, but we will remove the string, which is a choking

hazard and instead will have to fix them by using elastic and bias, as per our guidelines.)

6) if your dress form/finished dress is longer than 32" it should have a SMALL (3-4") slit in the back seam to allow for extra room for the girls to move/walk/run.

The more of these guidelines that you follow, the easier it is on us as we process the dresses, so we are **REALLY GRATEFUL** when you do follow them.! While we get many lovely dresses, there are lots that don't adhere to these points and that just means that someone has to take the time to FIX each one, as we don't allow inferior dresses to be sent. We'd much rather be making dresses than FIXING others! :)

And, just in case you don't have enough fabric and/or if you'd like to shop for fabric for Dress a Girl for next year, here's info on the next Amador Valley Quilters Fall Sale coming up in a couple of weeks...check it out! I've heard from some of you that there are CRAZY good deals. AND, if you know any quilters or fabric hoarders, tell them about us...we can always use fabric as our coffers are pretty low (*and by the way, huge thanks so much to those of you who responded with Joann's gift cards this month to keep us going!*)



**Amador Valley Quilters
Yard Hop Fabric Sale**

October 16 & 17, 2020: 9 AM to 4 PM

471 South O St. Livermore, CA 94550

2352 Redberry Ct. Pleasanton, CA 94566

19910 Forest Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546

New Sale Fabric: \$3.00/yard

Precuts, UFO's, Kits, Yarn, Panels, Notions

Sewing Machine, Quilted Items, Needlecrafts

Visit all 3 locations to enter special prize drawings!

Rain Cancellation Possible

www.amadorvalleyquilters.org

Of course this is a crazy, chaotic, unheard of time in our lives and we are all trying to do the best we can. But again, don't forget that GOD is STILL in charge! He knows our daily challenges, sorrows, and frustrations and is using all those to make us holy and more ready to spend eternity with him!



One thing that has helped me through the past few months is a wonderful podcast that I'd like to recommend. It's 3 young Catholic gals--two married with

kids and one a lovely nun, called the Abiding Together podcast; a new 30-45 min episode goes live each Monday morning. You can find it at abidingtogetherpodcast.com; this is their 8th season so you can also go back and listen to their archived episodes as well. They are real, raw, very spiritual, and very funny, and I highly recommend it! (There's also a Facebook AB discussion group which is a group of lovely gals with thoughts/prayer requests re: each episode if you want to join in on that.)

Thank you so much for all of you who have been helping keep Dress A Girl going in the past few months. It has been a lot of extra work making it happen, but on the other hand, we've not had to haul things to and from sew-fests! 😊 I REALLY DO MISS EACH ONE OF YOU! I hope that we'll be able to get back to 'normal' and meet together in 2021. While we are still making dresses and accomplishing our goal, we really are missing out on the camaraderie and fellowship that happens when we meet together. Having said that, I'm available for coffee (or a glass of wine!) anytime, so don't hesitate to reach out...this has been hard on us extroverts!! 😊

Blessings,

Suzanne



Sent by Suzanne Beck

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