

# Sew on Fire - Bags of Love from Burlington

Wendy Hagar of Burlington, Ontario, is "sew" busy giving! Some say it's the best kept secret in Burlington, but for ten years, Wendy has been working long hours to help the less privileged and orphaned in Canada and around the world.

Since Wendy launched Sew on Fire Ministries on February 6, 2000, hundreds of groups and volunteers across Canada have joined her to sew, crochet and knit gift items, baby blankets, overalls, mittens, nightgowns, skirts and t-shirts. She combines these items in bags with school supplies, treats and personal care items, and

gives them free of charge to mission teams that hand-deliver to those in need.

How did it start? When Wendy heard a missionary at her church, compassion for the poor whose plight he described, overwhelmed her. Longing to make a difference in their lives, she decided to knit 100 mittens, sew 100 pajamas and 100 drawstring bags, and fill them with gifts for children in a Russian orphanage. The decision was nerve wracking. She hated sewing!

But an amazing thing happened. When she

made the commitment, "Passion spread everywhere. People asked me why I was buying so much fabric, toys and school supplies. Right away they got involved. Our house became a manufacturing plant!"

Four months later, instead of 100 gift bags, 1,725 went to Kyrgyzstan. Since then schools, Brownies, kids clubs, Rotary, hockey teams, women's groups and church groups have become involved. Companies, like Werthers, Colgate, Trebor Allen and Irwin Toys donate skids of products. Cash donations come from individuals, companies, and fundraising events. One company contributed \$30,000 in shoes. Friends gave sergers and sewing machines. Even the Canadian Air Force volunteered and flew 6,000 bags to Nicaragua.

Wendy's bustling warehouse is at 975 Fraser Drive, Unit 4. She has sent 150,000 bags of God's love to refugees, orphans, widows, single moms, children who scavenge garbage dumps and the homeless. Shipments have gone to 90 countries and 30 Canadian cities. Sew on Fire also helps other groups fill and ship containers with bikes, blankets, shoes, books, clothing, wheel chairs, crutches, medical supplies, fabric and sewing machines.

A 10-year celebration will be held in April 2010. For more information or to find out how you can help, please visit [www.sewonfire.com](http://www.sewonfire.com) email [whagar@cogeco.ca](mailto:whagar@cogeco.ca) or call 905-333-5722.

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Bags of toys and other items are delivered to a group of children in Nicaragua