

## PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

“Peace doesn’t always happen with soldiers and guns; sometimes it happens with kids, dolls and grins.” From a letter of a Canadian soldier whose unit in Kosovo distributed 500 Izzy dolls

- The Order of the Eastern Star (OES) presented more than 7,000 hand-knitted dolls to members of the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment at the Perth Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in 2008. The dolls joined the next rotation of troops headed to Afghanistan
- The knitters from a seniors’ home, Hickory Hills in Tillsonburg, made 900 of the 7,000 dolls. In four years of knitting, the group made 8,200 dolls. They won 2010 ICROSS Humanitarian Award
- 60 knitters from Eastern Ontario knit 2,357 Izzies in 2008 according to Marlene Harnden of Grafton. One lady in Madoc made 500 dolls; another in Brighton over 200
- Eileen Helpel of Owen Sound and her neighbour made 100 dolls
- Gwen Brain, a nurse from Foxboro, made 500 dolls between 2006 and 2010
- Knitters from the Calvary Lutheran Church in Thunder Bay made 100s of dolls in 2010
- In 2011 The Purple Socks Knitters Club in Coldwater handmade 254 Izzies for the annual medical mission organized by Georgian College students and faculty

Therapist and adoption practitioner Sandra Webb took Izzy dolls knitted by Sheila Johnson of Cobourg to orphanages in Haiti, Russia and China. “It warmed my heart, made me teary and made me smile as the children hugged the dolls and walked away with a smile on their faces. I felt so happy for Sheila Johnson. She wasn’t there to see the joy, but I got to be the witness to how her little Izzy dolls gave a little delight to the children of Haiti.”



## WHO IN YOUR COMMUNITY IS KNITTING?

Organize an Izzy Drive.



*The Izzy Dolls go to Haiti  
[www.snapdragonink.com](http://www.snapdragonink.com)*

*I couldn't speak for a while after this picture was taken in the tent community  
of Trois Rigoles, Haiti, Joanne Edmundson Kistruck*