

67 Blankets

for Nelson Mandela Day



BE A KNI TWIT FOR MADIBA

Aim: Mandela Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18th July, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in 2009. In support of the national initiative of 67 blankets for Nelson Mandela Day, the UKZN community has joined the call to action from the College of Law and Management Studies who initiated support for the project at UKZN.

Rationale: Conceived in December 2013, this (now) international "movement", was a challenge from Zelda la Grange (late former President Nelson Mandela's assistant) to philanthropist and "Arts Angel", Carolyn Steyn... the purpose was to knit, sew or crochet 67 blankets to be distributed to those in need on Mandela Day.

To achieve this challenge, Steyn called on friends and relatives for assistance and developed a Facebook group called "67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day". This garnered support from hundreds of people in days when pledges began streaming in.

Milestones of the national campaign:

- Nine months after inception, 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day won CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR (South African of the Year Awards, October 2014).
- In April 21, 2015, to mark 21 years of democracy in South Africa, 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day smashed the Guinness World Record for the "The Largest Crochet Blanket in the World" measuring 3 377 square meters at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.
- On August 7, 2015 Carolyn Steyn signed an MOU with National Commissioner, Zach Modise, formalising a partnership between 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day and the Department of Correctional Services whereby every prison in South Africa will have the initiative introduced as part of their curriculum.

UKZN Participation:

In 2016, the College of Law and Management Studies joined the 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Day to benefit those in need in South Africa and abroad. The College project has been working hard to complete 67 large blankets by the end of June 2017. This project has been led by College Director of Professional Services, Dr Kathy Cleland and College Journalist, Ms Thandiwe Jumo.

Call to action: The team are nearly halfway through but need University wide support to achieve their target. The UKZN community are being called upon to show their support.

Staff are encouraged to dedicate some of their spare time – including lunch hours – to take up the challenge of knitting, sewing or crocheting a square... which will invariably add to the big picture. Staff will be encouraged to devise as groups, Units, Schools or Colleges to congregate, and learn this therapeutic art and craft. Staff and students of UKZN, who are especially skilled are encouraged to lead others and share their knowledge.

The project culminates in the handover of, ideally, 67 blankets to the organisation.
In turn, they help keep those in need much warmer this winter.

TAKE PART NOW!

For more details on how you can participate in this warming initiative, you can refer to the accompanying notice.



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