

## THE SANCTUARY BLANKET PROJECT



The Sanctuary<sup>®</sup> Model was derived by Dr. Sandra L. Bloom and colleagues to assist people in recovering from traumatic life experiences. The basis of Sanctuary is creating and maintaining a safe, non-violent, democratic and therapeutic community in which youth are empowered as key decision-makers to influence their own lives and their community. We use the Sanctuary<sup>®</sup> Model as our universal method of care on the residential campuses of Hawthorne Cedar Knolls, the Goldsmith Center for Adolescent Treatment, and Linden Hill.

Most children in residential treatment have experienced a variety of traumatic life events. When people have been traumatized it is common to have a foreshortened sense of future. Many of our residents have had a life of transitions- to and from home, foster homes, group homes, hospital stays, and residential treatment. The purpose of giving a Sanctuary Blanket to each child who leaves our program is to help them transition from this home to the next, and to have a sense of linking the past to the present, and eventually the future. We hope the blanket will remind them of the good things they experienced here, and to provide comfort in their new life.

Whenever we receive a hand-made gift we know that a special effort has been made in the making and giving. This is an especially meaningful gesture for children who may have been devalued by their families, the system, and society. When we give a child the gift of a blanket we are saying, "You are important to us, and we value you. We wish you comfort, health and happiness in the future."

The Sanctuary Blanket Project pieces together squares made from different individuals to make a *whole* blanket, rich in color and texture. Each square is symbolic of the different people who have come together to help the youngster heal from trauma, and to guide them into a safe and healthy future. Hopefully, the blanket will also provide some warmth along the way!

**In order to give each child a Sanctuary Blanket, we need help from volunteers to make blanket squares and donate supplies. If you would like to organize a knitting or crocheting group, or to make squares from home, please contact us! For more information on the Sanctuary Blanket Project, contact Liza Kuritsky at (212) 632-4515 or Lisa Marcus at (212) 632-4616.**