



**Baby Blanket Project: Otisville Correctional Facility  
May 15, 2014**

For the last two years inmates at Otisville Correctional Facility (Orange County) involved in the *Network Community's* Program have been learning to crochet baby blankets for underprivileged mothers and expecting mothers. This year alone, one of the coldest winters New York has experienced in decades, 20 baby blankets were sent to Women In Need, Inc. (WIN), an agency which serves 8,000 homeless women in the New York City area.

"Baby Blanket Project" (BBP), has received growing interest from staff members and inmates at Otisville. The inmates interested in learning how to make the baby blankets presented the Otisville Executive Team with a proposal for the program. Funding was donated by the Lifer's & Longtermers' inmate organizations that are often times donating to positive programming for the inmate population.

The program was approved and it truly demonstrates a collaborative effort between the inmate organizations, the community and the DOCCS Executive Team. DOCCS staff members have pitched in to assist BBP with the logistics. Ms. Northrup and Ms. Legenos both Offender Rehabilitation Counselors assisted in providing materials and sending the blankets to WIN. Anne Williams, Executive Director of Network discovered that WIN was an agency in need of baby blankets. This very program not only embodies *Network's Community* philosophy, it demonstrates another way in which inmates within our correctional facilities are giving back to the community.

**Below are personal testimonies from members of the program:**

*"It has been an amazing feeling to be able to work on this project. Acts of charity not only builds and strengthens character, but also reinforces our sense of humanity. There is little doubt that within the act of giving is a lesson of virtue that all people can learn from."* –Alejo Rodriguez

*"The Baby Blanket Project gave me a chance to serve others in a way that I had not imagined. The unimaginable was providing a safe place of comfort and warmth for the infants."* –Eddie Williams

*"I feel blessed to able to give something I made to someone who will really appreciate it...it is an amazing feeling."* – David Putland