

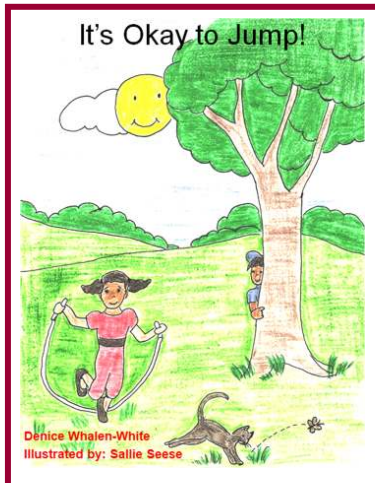
# ASOP Echo

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## ASOP PUBLISHES COLORING BOOK



***"This coloring book will be a resource for parents to use to help explain what mom will go through when diagnosed with breast cancer."***

All Shades of Pink is happy to introduce *It's Okay to Jump!*, our organization's first resource geared to children ages 6 to 12. Founder Denice Whalen-White and illustrator and breast cancer survivor Sallie Seese crafted a beautiful, easy-to-read story and lively pictures that capture the feelings and experiences of two siblings after their mother is diagnosed with breast cancer. The 28-page book, Ms. Whalen-White says, can be used as a tool to help other young children understand what their mom may go through after her diagnosis.

"As a parent, we generally want to protect our children from difficult situations that we believe they probably won't understand anyway. When faced with a major illness, parents will tell their children about it, but follow it with a statement like, 'Don't you worry, mommy will be just fine' and leave it at that," she says. "With improved medical procedures and greater awareness of the disease mommy will be fine, but she'll have her ups and downs and we have to let kids know that the good and bad days are part of mommy getting better. So this coloring book is a way to ease some of the concerns kids may have and to hopefully prepare them for what to expect."

Copies of the coloring book will be distributed to area support groups, doctor's offices and hospitals, and proceeds from the book will help cover ASOP's administrative costs and support the organization's signature programs. To order a copy of *It's Okay to Jump!*, please visit [www.allshadesofpink.org](http://www.allshadesofpink.org) and click on the Pink Cafe tab. Each book costs \$5.50 plus shipping and handling.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

<b>When You Give, Good Things Come</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>New Concern Blanket for Sale</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Small Part for a Great Cause</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Volunteer Spotlight</b>	<b>4</b>

### SAVE THE DATE

- **February 14, 2009**, *Blanket Gathering* at More Than Coffee Lounge!, Upper Marlboro, MD from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- **March 28, 2009**, *Hoop the Loop for Breast Cancer* at Glenn Dale Curves, 7401 Forbes Blvd., Lanham—Stay tuned to [www.allshadesofpink.org](http://www.allshadesofpink.org) for more details
- **April 23, 2009**, *Pink Silent Auction & Dinner*, Newton-White Mansion, 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, 5:30 p.m.

## When You Give, Good Things Come



Jackie S., one of ASOP's comfort blanket volunteers, called me on December 9 to inquire if I was interested in taking a few chances on a beautifully crocheted blanket that the Doctors Community Hospital Volunteers were raffling at their holiday event that afternoon. Unable to attend, I arranged to take 5 chances, although I never expected to hear back from anyone regarding the drawing. To my surprise that very evening I was called by Jackie where she informed me that I was the winner of the burgundy blanket. Little did Jackie know that it was my birthday. What a wonderful birthday gift to win. I recently claimed

(cont'd, next column)

## Hoop The Loop

Come show off your hula hoop skills at our inaugural Hoop the Loop for Breast Cancer marathon hula-hoop fundraiser from noon to 4 p.m., March 28 at Glenn Dale Curves, 7401 Forbes Blvd., Lanham.

Prizes and refreshments will be available and t-shirts will be given to all participants who register by March 10.

Look for more information about Hoop the Loop in the March issue of the ASOP [www.allshadesofpink.org](http://www.allshadesofpink.org). Echo and on our website.



my prize and now snuggles under the blanket at home while watching my favorite shows on TV.

Although I make several blankets each month, not only for All Shades of Pink but also for my prayer blanket ministry at church, I have never won a raffle and I truly appreciate this blanket because someone else with loving hands made it. "It's beautiful and it's all mine!" Good things do come to those who wait.

*Denice Whalen-White*

## New Concern Blankets on Sale

Since launching the Comfort Blanket program, ASOP has donated 120 blankets to Doctors Community Hospital. We received requests from many people asking how they could purchase one of our comfort blankets for loved ones recently diagnosed with breast cancer or who are survivors. Whether a patient at Doctors Community Hospital or elsewhere, we'd love to be able to provide a Comfort Blanket to every woman affected by this disease, but due to limited funds and volunteers, our organization could only do so much.

Our board members and volunteers agreed on a middle ground approach to the demand and designed a blanket available for purchase through [www.allshadesofpink.org](http://www.allshadesofpink.org). Called the Concern Blanket, each 52x52-inch waffle-weave crocheted blanket is made using various shades of pink and white yarn, just like the Comfort Blankets. At \$90 plus shipping and handling, each one is one-of-a-kind and will be available for purchase for a limited time.

As each blanket is unique, we are unable to display the exact blanket that will be shipped to you. However, each one is beautiful and will make a wonderful gift for someone you love. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery upon confirmation of your order.

## SMALL PART FOR A GREAT CAUSE



There's nothing like getting together with friends to fellowship for a good meal or simply for girl talk to inspire good works.

A few months ago, Brenda discovered All Shades of Pink and the Comfort Blanket program and she was excited to have found an organization in need of her talent—crocheting. As someone who's crocheted a number of articles for family and friends over the years and as a recent retiree, Brenda's found an outlet in All Shades of Pink.

At her most recent get together with her friends, Brenda told of her work with All Shades of Pink. Afterwards, two of her friends and fellow long-time crocheters Louise and Katherine contacted ASOP to volunteer their services as well.

Since then, Katherine completed blankets that she will soon deliver to the organization, and Louise has started a blanket and attended a monthly blanket gathering where, to her surprise, she ran into Brenda. During the gathering, the pair shared tips and tricks on keeping their blankets square.

Louise, whose husband has weekly chemotherapy sessions for kidney cancer, said she understands "how hard cancer is to deal with both for the patient and for the loved one."

"Helping to make afghan blankets for women battling breast cancer is my small way of helping to bring them joy," she said.

For her part, Brenda has become a bit of a local celebrity after a photograph of her and other volunteers displaying Comfort Blankets appeared in a recent issue of The Gazette. During a previous blanket gathering, she discovered one of ASOP's volunteers worked with her at the Department of Commerce in the past.

"It's a great pleasure to find that many of the people helping to promote the mission of All Shades of Pink are people I am well acquainted with," she said. "This is great that each of us is doing our part for such a great cause."

Katherine, the third spoke in this special circle of friends is an experience grant writer and has volunteered her talents to helping the organization pursue funding opportunities in the future.

Founder Denice Whalen-White she feels blessed that the trio has shared their time and talents with the organization.

"Their small acts of kindness will help make a world of difference to those we serve," Ms. Whalen-White said.

The next Comfort Blanket gathering is scheduled for 10 a.m. on **Saturday, February 14** at More Than Coffee! Lounge, 14757 Main St., Upper Marlboro, MD.

Give the Gift of  
Love

Donate Today  
to ASOP

## **All Shades of Pink, Incorporated**

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**All Shades of Pink, Incorporated** is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation founded in 2007. Our mission is to assist women (and their families) diagnosed with breast cancer with resource referrals, non-medical advice and/or emergency financial assistance during their treatment period.

All Shades of Pink believes that various acts of kindness help in reducing the stress that breast cancer families experience. Our purpose is to perform acts of kindness to as many breast cancer families as we can reach.

We invite you to support our mission by making a donation, volunteering in one of our programs, and/or sharing your story of strength and encouragement. Together we can stand strong in the fight against breast cancer.

## **Volunteer Spotlight**



Stacie E., one of our newest volunteers, is a young lady of special skills and talents. Stacie attends Spring Dell Center in La Plata where she has learned to overcome many challenges, and she loves to read, exercise and most of all, crochet. For her efforts, she won first and third prize for her Granny square blankets at the 2008 Charles County Fair. She's also been an employee at Red Lobster since 2005 and is always looking for new ways to challenge herself.

When asked if she would be interested in making a blanket for All Shades of Pink, Stacie said there was no doubt in her mind that her answer would be 'yes', and she finished her blanket in about three months. Stacie has plans to start another blanket soon.

**Way to go Stacie!!!**

If you would like to volunteer for our Comfort Blanket program or to lend a hand with our administrative tasks, please call 301-356-4688 or email us at [asop@allshadesofpink.org](mailto:asop@allshadesofpink.org) and let us know how you would like to help.