Nancy Daly is the enthusiastic coordinator of the busy Hat Ladies! In a typical season the Hat Ladies and Gentlemen host about 45 Hat Gigs and make over 7,000 winter fleece hats. All the hats are donated to the recipients at schools or programs—with high concentrations of low-income children.

The children select the colors for their hat from pre-cut polar fleece, and they sit with a Hat Lady or Gentleman (there are two!) to have it sewn to size. For many of the children, this is the first piece of brand-new clothing that belongs just to them.

If you’re inspired to make hats for children in your community, or would like to know more about this organization, please contact Nancy Daly at nmdaly@charter.net

SUPPLIES {for two hats}:

• 18-inch knit fleece
• Size 11/14 Ball Point Needles
• Attached Pattern Pieces
• Neutral Sewing Thread

INSTRUCTIONS:


2. Cut a 6-inch x 22-inch crosswise band (the stretch of the fabric).

3. Optional: Cut three 1-inch x 3-inch tassel pieces, cutting fringes 2/3 the length of the tassel piece.

4. For an adult head size, use 1/4-inch seam allowances. For a child’s size, stitch with 1/2-inch (or larger) seam allowances. Seam allowances can be adjusted, made deeper, to fit a child.

5. Stitch three sections of each hat panel to create two hat halves.

6. Stack tassel pieces and place at center top of one hat panel.

7. Stitch the two hat halves right-sides together with tassels hanging down between the two halves. Turn crown right side out.

8. Stitch short edges of hat band with chosen seam allowance. Fold hat band in half, wrong sides together, meeting long edges.


10. Align hat band to hat crown with right sides together.

11. Slightly stretch band to meet hat crown. Stitch.

12. To finish, turn band downward.

Note from Nancy Daly: The Hat Ladies always add a 3-inch folded length of twill tape into inner hat. Use a fabric pen to permanently write the child’s name on tape.
Cut 6 from fleece fabric

1" guide square