



wounded veterans must contend with clothing that is difficult or impossible to wear due to prostheses or other equipment. They need adaptive clothing to accommodate their medical issues and allow them to wear normal civilian apparel. Wearing regular clothing can greatly enhance a positive approach to healing, providing dignity, warmth, and comfort as veterans recover from their injuries.

Answering a Need

In 2004, Sew Much Comfort (sewmuchcomfort.org) was founded to “support the unique needs of our wounded service members from all branches of the military and National Guard serving in current conflicts.” It is the only known organization that provides free modified clothing to those wounded in service for our country.

The national organization provides patterns and specific instructions to guide local volunteer groups. Before clothes are distributed, they are checked for quality and specifications. Clothing is sent to the distribution center in Boulder, Colo., then to military hospitals across the

nation. In eight years, Sew Much Comfort has made and given over 115,000 items of adaptive clothing to wounded veterans.

Monetary donations are always welcome. The website provides information on clothing donations.

Starting a Ministry

Begin by visiting the website, sewmuchcomfort.org for guidelines. Then, invite people in your congregation to meet once or twice a month for a sewing session.

If possible, provide a room for sewing machines and equipment. Encourage participants to bring their personal sewing machines. Volunteers who can't sew can cut patterns and press finished garments. Kits are also available for those who prefer to sew at home.

As you work, pray for the wounded veterans who will receive these items.

Those who are involved in making adaptive clothing for veterans have discovered a way to give back to those men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Carolyn R. Tomlin writes for numerous Christian publications. She is the co-owner and teacher of Boot Camp for Christian Writers.



GETTING INVOLVED

In Jackson, Tenn., members of First Presbyterian Church meet once a month to make adaptive clothing for veterans. “Newcomers are always welcome,” says Marge Stumpenhorst, who started the group in 2007. “I wanted to be more involved in caring for our servicemen and servicewomen, so I took the project before the church, and we have their support. It’s impossible to count the ways I’ve been blessed.”



Previous page: Colorado volunteer models shirt. Top: 88 year-old volunteer, Bottom: Volunteers in Colorado

MAKING ADAPTIVE CLOTHING

Clothing is adapted by replacing seams in pants and shirts with Velcro® closures to accommodate medical equipment, allow access by health professionals, and make dressing possible for patients. Sew Much Comfort uses copyrighted patterns and has high quality standards. Please refer to the website, sewmuchcomfort.org for information.

Comfort for Wounded Soldiers by Carolyn R. Tomlin

When a soldier is seriously injured, everything changes.

In the last decade of warfare in the Middle East, battlefield medical care has greatly improved. Of the 51,000 servicemen and women wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, 90 percent have survived due to critical medical advancements in casualty care.

Along with the emotional and physical strain of adjusting to their injuries,