Shoeless In The House

Everyone has a pair.
Just admit it. You know you've had those times when walking around in your really comfortable shoes you start to think, "I feel like I'm wearing them for the wrong reason, at the wrong time." Not kicking around in at the grocery store. You can do that. But when these shoes issued off near the back, in the garage or the mudroom. 

Moderism is the modern term used by millennials who install fancy benches, brass hooks and cubbies near the inside doors of their homes. We just used to call it the shoe closet. It's actually been there for a long time. It usually included a plastic bucket with an assortment of wet boots and muddy shoes. 

It's nothing new to remove your shoes before entering a house. They were required to do so to keep the freshly waxed kitchen floor and the newly swept hardwood work area clean. The real test was getting the dog's paws to adhere to the clean floor regulations. 

However, the dawn of the indoor shoeless movement has led to no shoes in the house becoming an art form. It is more common to see barefoot outside your front door. It's really only in the winter. Other cultures have done so for centuries. They respected the floors, knowing that tracking dirt into a home or damaging floors with their shoes was taboo. 

A study by the University of Arizona revealed that there are more than 421,000 different bacteria on the soles of your shoes. You don't really want to know what they're doing in your home, especially if you're reading this while wearing your socks. 

Let's just say, leaving your shoes at the door is a great way to keep the germs and fungi that come in with your shoes at the door. 

Maybe we should carpe diem and wear shoes with us much like we became accustomed to carrying our umbrellas. 

But going shoeless inside doesn't mean you can't get fancy socks on your feet. It's a good time to show off your fancy socks or a slipper. My aunt used to put her crocheted slipper socks on all day and the time and they came off during the evening. It is said that it's healthier to walk barefoot on the grass. 

Younger people may benefit from wearing our socks on our feet as well. As for the bathrooms, there are non-slip mats. 

The two administrators behind the crafting program are Linda Scott (left) and Margo Scott. While not related, the women are frequently mistaken for sisters and have worked together so long they finish each other's sentences. 

Kae (not her real name), another Helinski Shelter resident, whipped up this doll skirt on her first day with a sewing machine. 

Crafting Brings New Skills, Fresh Outlook to YSS Residents

By NORA EDINGER

A study by the American Pet Food Industry revealed that there are more than 421,000 different bacteria on the soles of your shoes. You don't really want to know what they're doing in your home, especially if you're reading this while wearing your socks. 

Let's just say, leaving your shoes at the door is a great way to keep the germs and fungi that come in with your shoes at the door. 

Maybe we should carpe diem and wear shoes with us much like we became accustomed to carrying our umbrellas. 

But going shoeless inside doesn't mean you can't get fancy socks on your feet. It's a good time to show off your fancy socks or a slipper. My aunt used to put her crocheted slipper socks on all day and the time and they came off during the evening. It is said that it's healthier to walk barefoot on the grass. 

Younger people may benefit from wearing our socks on our feet as well. As for the bathrooms, there are non-slip mats. 

The two administrators behind the crafting program are Linda Scott (left) and Margo Scott. While not related, the women are frequently mistaken for sisters and have worked together so long they finish each other's sentences. 

Kae (not her real name), another Helinski Shelter resident, whisked up this doll skirt on her first day with a sewing machine. 

Crafting Brings New Skills, Fresh Outlook to YSS Residents

By NORA EDINGER

A study by the American Pet Food Industry revealed that there are more than 421,000 different bacteria on the soles of your shoes. You don't really want to know what they're doing in your home, especially if you're reading this while wearing your socks. 

Let's just say, leaving your shoes at the door is a great way to keep the germs and fungi that come in with your shoes at the door. 

Maybe we should carpe diem and wear shoes with us much like we became accustomed to carrying our umbrellas. 

But going shoeless inside doesn't mean you can't get fancy socks on your feet. It's a good time to show off your fancy socks or a slipper. My aunt used to put her crocheted slipper socks on all day and the time and they came off during the evening. It is said that it's healthier to walk barefoot on the grass. 

Younger people may benefit from wearing our socks on our feet as well. As for the bathrooms, there are non-slip mats. 

The two administrators behind the crafting program are Linda Scott (left) and Margo Scott. While not related, the women are frequently mistaken for sisters and have worked together so long they finish each other's sentences. 

Kae (not her real name), another Helinski Shelter resident, whisked up this doll skirt on her first day with a sewing machine. 

For the Sunday News-Register

GLITTERPALOOZA

"I've got kids that can sit and crochet and you don't have to turn the lights on (for them to see their work)," said Margo Scott, who works with girls age 17 at YSS's Helinski Shelter on Whaling Island. "It's a way of them keeping control and de-stressing. 

That means so much." 

Margo Scott's young charges — and other youth aged 10 to 21 who are serving court sentences at a companion YSS property in Wheeling's downtown — are in residence for a variety of reasons. None of them are happy ones, they noted. But, Scott and fellow administrator Linda Scott (not related) make sure both programs' crafting time is all happy all the time. 

Both women said crafting is, in fact, so popular with residents it can be used as a behavioral incentive. Residents know that crafting supplies that could be used as weapons are tightly monitored and missing ones lead to a lockdown. And, at least on the detention side, court officers can suspend crafting time if a youth goes in a fight or otherwise breaks center rules. 

That possibility matters, they said. Glitter, it seems, goes a long way to heal wounds. 

The women — who are themselves so crafty they've each owned a ceramic shop, and one is so skilled at sewn she can alter wedding gowns — grimaced at the mention of the sparkly stuff. Glitter and sand art are a housekeeping nightmare. But, they do both anyway. 

They also do machine sewing — think some 450 masks launched into the community during COVID — doll clothing and the occasional skirt or hair for the residents themselves. There's also hand sewing, painting, paper mache, origami, Christmas ornaments, blankets for babies born at Wheeling Hospital, card making, illustrations, jewelry and on and on. 

"Anything you can think of, we will try to teach the children and, sometimes, learn something ourselves," Margo Scott said. Linda Scott said the latter happened when some girls on hold of red furry fabric recently went crazy for all things Christmas. She noted the girls also teach each other as they learn the skills. 

"We've even had girls that teach the boys how to crochet," Linda Scott said, laughing about the most likely reason. "They just want to sit by each other." 

"When we teach them how to crochet, they can take that skill with them when they leave," Margo Scott said. That matters, because residents like Kae — and even those in detention — will never forget it. "This is a part of their lives. They will move on from here, but they will never forget it." 

Linda Scott, who administers the detention side of YSS program, has already spoken the spoiler. One former resident regularly displays her yard work on social media. Another designs and sells baby clothing online. You just never know what might happen when you put a crochet needle or a sewing machine in a youth's hands, they said. Kae, the teen with the yarn stash is trending. And dreaming. She likes to imagine a life in which she could be a doctor by day and an artist by night.