



# Sewing With A Deeper Meaning

By Cecily Hastings

After reading the article we published a few months ago about the need for hand-sewn fabric bags for foster children at the Sacramento Children's Receiving Home, **Carole Kenney** had an idea.

"I was just in the middle of planning a trial six-week run of a summer sewing design clinic for 11- to 14-year-olds," said Kenney, who designs and creates custom-designed garments for women out of her at-home studio in Arden Arcade. "We included making these bags as one of our projects. I was hopeful that it would inspire the students to give back to the community, as well as learning about sewing and design. Including a project for those in need really brought deeper meaning to the class for all of us."

The classes are being held at the Bearpaws and Hollyhocks shop at 4128 El Camino Avenue near Eastern Avenue.

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Class sessions were designed to expose young people to the art of sewing and include learning the sewing machine from top to bottom.

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"This great shop specializes in high-quality quilt fabrics from around



Carole Kenney with some of her summer sewing class students. Sydney Steele, Alexey Chandler, Julia Peterson, Alexandra Papantoniadis and Makayla Mellas have been working on fabric bags for the foster children at Sacramento Children's Receiving Home.

the world, plus they offer a huge selection of notions," she explained. They also offer classes, clubs, special events plus expert quilt appraisals.

Class sessions were designed to expose young people to the art of sewing and include learning the sewing machine from top to bottom, working with pattern books, layout

and cutting, straight sewing and seam allowances. The classes also included style basics. "I call this taking something ordinary and making it extraordinary," Kenney said.

After working on the bags project, Tessa Stangl, 12, remarked, “We’re using our new talent to help others and we hope these drawstring sacks will ‘bag’ a smile on the faces of children that are less fortunate than ourselves.”

Said Devin Heranda, 10, “I really enjoy learning and at the same time helping someone.” Sibling Clare, 12, concurred: “I really like sewing and doing it to help someone else really does give it more meaning.”

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Added 11-year-old Alex Ellison, “It’s great to be able to learn while having fun. And, to make something for someone else in need is a good feeling. It’s a good feeling to know that something I made may make someone happier.”

For information about future classes or custom clothing designs, contact Carole Kenney Design at 482-2083 or go to [carolekenneydesign.com](http://carolekenneydesign.com).

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“It makes me feel good being able to sew something myself to help kids that don’t have a lot. I feel like I’m doing something more than just buying something, I’m putting some time and love into this bag.”

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Meanwhile, Alexandria Valdez, 12, said, “It makes me feel good being able to sew something myself to help kids that don’t have a lot. I feel like I’m doing something more than just

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