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Duneland YMCA face mask project in need of volunteers

As the fight against the COVID-19 virus continues, the Duneland YMCA Face Mask program is doing a great deal of good for those who are working on the front lines to protect us all and those who are in medical facilities with the virus.

Face masks are being produced thanks to a group of YMCA Seniors, and volunteers from the Duneland communities, in the safety of their homes. Material, thread and machine needles have been donated to the Y by area residents to help in the effort. The Mask Project has grown out of necessity due to the extreme shortage of manufactured protective masks. Plans are for the project to continue until the crisis is over. To date, 474 masks have been delivered each Friday to front line responders for the past several weeks by Y CEO Dave Kasarda.

"We are so grateful for the masks provided by the volunteers from the Duneland YMCA," said Sister Petra of Franciscan Alliance. "These will help us in our efforts to fight COVID and protect our staff by providing us masks that will be distributed to all patients as well as to some of our staff. I have been so touched by the outpouring of support from the community. We are grateful for all the Duneland YMCA and our other community partners are doing to show their support."

Volunteer to sew masks

More volunteers are needed to help produce the masks. "Making sure area medical professionals, their patients and first responders have the protection they need is imperative as they face emergencies arising from the pandemic. It's an urgent issue that anyone who can sew can safely support," said Kasarda. As masks are completed, they can be safely placed in the drop box outside of the Y front doors by Thursday evening each week. Masks can also be picked up from doorsteps for those unable to come to the Y. If material is needed to sew masks, a safe pick up or delivery can also be arranged.

For more information about the project, email Dave Kasarda at dkasarda@dunelandymca.org. "We need your help to ensure better safety for the brave men and women who are fighting the coronavirus on the front lines."

The Duneland Family YMCA is located at 215 Roosevelt St., Chesterton. For more than 50 years the Y has been serving the Duneland communities focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.