

Warm, Fuzzy Service

By Laura Byrd
(Based on a true story)

Alex looked around the fabric store. There were tons of colors and cool patterns. He saw a few that would be perfect.

"Hey, Mom," said Alex, pointing to some fabric with colorful geckos on it. "Do you like these geckos?"

"I like cute, fluffy bunnies better," Mom said. Alex laughed. "You know what I mean! Would this be good for the scarves?"

"I think your friends will like it."

Alex was going to make scarves for his friends. He would use the soccer-ball print for Josh, the rocket-ship print for José, and the gecko print for Mike.

Soon they were heading home with the fabric. As they left the parking lot, Alex saw a man holding up a cardboard sign to ask for help. He knew the man

What could Jay do with the extra fabric?

probably didn't have a job or a home. And he looked really cold! He only had a thin jacket. Alex had a thick winter coat, but he still got cold walking to school in the mornings.

When they got home, Alex's mom showed him how to lay the fabric out straight and measure how much he needed to make one scarf. He carefully cut the fabric with his scissors. Then he cut slits along the ends to make a fringe. Before long, Alex had six brightly colored scarves. There was also a big pile of extra fabric.

"Can you think of anyone else you want to make presents for?" Mom asked.

"Not really," Alex said. Then he thought of the man holding the sign. He had an idea.

That week for home evening, Alex taught his whole family how to make scarves. His mom measured them out. His dad cut the fabric. Alex and his sister made the fuzzy fringe. He like making scarves with the gecko fabric. The geckos seemed to smile at him as he worked.

"Wow," Alex said when they finished. "We made 14 scarves to share!"

"What do we do now?" his sister asked.

"I think we should put them in the car," Alex said. "Then when we see someone who looks cold, we can give them one."

"That's a great idea," Dad said.

Mom took a bag out of the closet, and they stacked the cozy scarves inside. "Maybe we can go on a family drive sometime to look for people who need scarves," she said.

"Can we go right now?" Alex asked.

Mom looked out the window. "I don't know. It's kind of cold outside."

"Isn't that the point?"

His parents smiled.

"I guess you're right," Mom said. "Just make sure to bundle up."

Alex threw on his coat, but he hardly noticed the cold air. He knew his scarves might help someone, and that made him feel warm inside. ●

The author lives in Oregon, USA.