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Mike Bell, County Commissioner

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# Humboldt County Health Board

Humboldt County Courthouse  
50 West Fifth Street Room 205  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445



May 5, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MUCCA MASK MAKERS CONTINUE TO COVER WINNEMUCCA, SUPPLIES NEEDED**

WINNEMUCCA, Nev.— Leanne Robertson never thought she would be at the head of a mask-making empire.

It started innocently enough. One evening, back in March, she threw out a casual query over Facebook asking if anyone wanted a homemade mask to help provide added protection during the COVID-19 outbreak.

By the next morning, Jace Edwards from Nomadic Broadcasting called with an idea and the Mucca Mask Makers were born.

The past month has been nothing short of a whirlwind as Leanne and over 70 fellow mask makers have cut and sewn well over 3,500 masks.

They began by distributing them to essential businesses and organizations like the hospital and the school district; more recently their efforts have turned to local residents—especially as Humboldt County Health Officer Charles Stringham, MD, has called on all Humboldt County citizens to don a mask when in public.

And they're not done yet. In addition to requests for more than 700 masks from private citizens, the group continues to fill orders from other businesses and organizations; they also have set up a weekly distribution point that rotates between local stores to cover—literally—the rest of the community.

While the group has plenty of fabric, thanks to the generous help of community members, they are looking for donations of several critical items, including:

- 1/2-inch or 1/4-inch elastic, any color
- Double-fold bias tape, any color
- Sandwich size plastic zip bags

Leanne said the last month has been its own incredible journey for her personally.

“This has been such a life-altering experience,” she said. “It has changed me.”

Dr. Stringham said Leanne and the Mucca Mask Makers are giving people power against the virus in Humboldt County—one mask at a time.

“When combined with social distancing, masks add important and needed protection,” said Dr. Stringham. “Not only do masks keep us from touching our mouths and noses, but they keep the fight against this virus at the forefront of our minds.”

Dr. Stringham added, “Long after we put the masks away and people go back to whatever we think is normal, I hope we never forget this effort from this group. The Mucca Mask Makers have shown us what we can accomplish as a community when we truly care about one another and try to do something to help.”

Local residents who have supply donations or who need a mask may message Leanne Robertson @MuccaMaskMakers on Facebook. The group asks that residents take only one mask per person so more members of the community can be protected.

When the virus threat has passed, residents should wash their mask, dry it well, and place it in a plastic zip bag and store it in a safe place, in case it is needed in the future.

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