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## GOOD WORKS

Knitters combat soldiers' chill

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
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When Diana Baber takes a few minutes to work on knitting helmet liners for our American troops, she's carrying on a family tradition.

"My grandmother knit socks for soldiers in World War I and World War II," said Baber, president of the Atlanta Knitting Guild. "This tradition goes back to the Civil War days, when women knit socks for soldiers."

But instead of socks, today's soldiers are asking for wool helmet liners, which look like a ski mask, to fit under their helmets to keep their faces and necks warm in the brutally cold desert winters.

The project to make and send the liners overseas was started about three years ago by Linda Swinford of Auburn, Ill. Swinford said she was concerned when she heard a former classmate of her daughter was fighting in Iraq. When she heard he also was freezing in the frigid desert winter, she did more than just care — she took action.

"I learned about a pattern for helmet liners and I made him one," Swinford said. "He suggested some modifications; I made some more. Then I made some for his friends, then other people asked for them and I made more."

Soon, Swinford realized she couldn't keep up with the demand, so she asked other knitters for help. That was more than 11,000 helmet liners ago. The liners have been shipped all over the world, Swinford said, but most end up in Iraq and Afghanistan. Swinford said they also make neck coolers for the troops to help fight the summer heat, as well as scarves and blankets for wounded troops.

Baber said some Atlanta knitters from her group started working on the project about a year ago. The group plans soon to send about 200 helmet liners to Swinford, where she and her husband, Bob, sort, pack, and ship everything from their dining room table.

The liners must be made to military specifications, including color and material, Baber said, and are easy enough that any intermediate knitter should be able to make them. Cascade Yarns even donated skeins of wool yarn in the required colors, she said.

"We hope more knitters will join the project," Baber said. "Many people are looking for ways to support the soldiers. Here's a very tangible way to show your support."

For more information go to [www.atlantaknittingguild.org](http://www.atlantaknittingguild.org) or [www.geocities.com/helmetliner](http://www.geocities.com/helmetliner). Donations, which are all used to buy supplies or pay for postage, also can be sent to: Helmetliner, P.O. Box 236, Auburn, IL 62615.

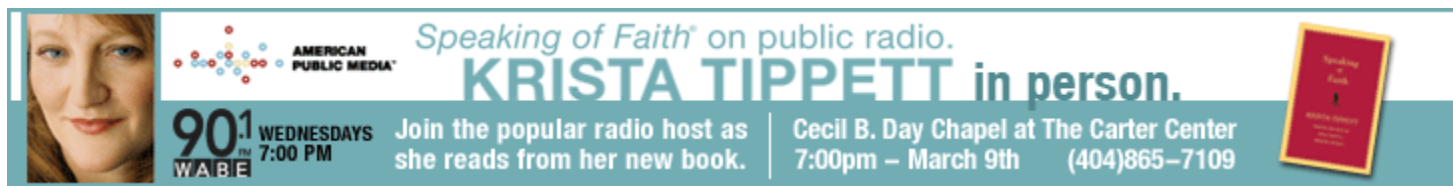
## FUND-RAISERS

- **Cops, doughnuts and charity.** We know police officers like to help people, but this weekend they'll prove they also can poke a little fun at themselves. Police officers will be on top of six metro area Krispy Kreme stores from 6 a.m. Friday through 6 p.m. Sunday. They will lower buckets and "raise dough" for the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which helps the Special Olympics Georgia. Officers will be at these locations: 295 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta; 3387 Buford Drive, Buford; 1550 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth; 4129 U.S. 78, Lilburn; 299 Cobb Parkway South, Marietta; and 791 Atlanta St., Roswell.
- **Walk for food.** Thousands of walkers and runners will hit the pavement Sunday for the 23rd annual Hunger Walk/Run in downtown Atlanta. The event gets under way at noon, with the 10K run beginning at 1 p.m. and the walk and run launching at 2:30 p.m. Runners must register by 11:59 p.m. today, but walkers can register the day of the event. Runners must contribute at least \$25 in donations, and walkers are asked to do the same, although it's not required. There also will be fun events for the family. At the Turner Field blue lot, 755 Hank Aaron Drive, Atlanta. For more information, call 404-892-3333, Ext. 1430, or go to [www.acfb.org](http://www.acfb.org).
- **Drive for the cure.** BMW is asking people to take test drives to help the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation. The company will have a fleet of 19 vehicles at two local dealerships and will donate \$1 for every mile driven. The cars will be at BMW of South Atlanta at 4171 Jonesboro Road, Union City, Friday and at United BMW of Gwinnett, 3264 Commerce Ave., Duluth, March 13. The test drives will take place between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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