

Embracing Hope Through Crochet

Child abuse is a silent epidemic many people do not want to talk about, but the fact remains: In the United States alone more than 3 million reports of child abuse and neglect are made each year. As a victim herself, Roxanna Moreno of California understands the mental and physical trauma caused by child abuse, which is what led her to put her new-found crochet talents to use helping other victims.

Roxanna had always wanted to learn to crochet but had never attempted it until just last year. With the help of a YouTube video, she learned to crochet and found she was quite good at it. Inspired by a poem titled [The Burden Bear](#) and encouraged by her family, Roxanna decided to form the Embracing Hope Project to help other children dealing with the trauma of abuse.

Roxanna says, "Our project is still small and just starting, but we have great hope that we can make it grow and make a big difference for a lot of children. Since the article appeared in [The Orange County Register](#) we have gotten great feedback, donations and a couple new volunteers. One step at a time will result in a great journey."

The goal of Embracing Hope is to donate crocheted or knitted bears and other stuffed animals to children who are victims of abuse and are dealing with trauma. Whether the children have been removed from their homes or not, the stuffed animals are a symbol of hope for a brighter future and show the child that someone cares. Some donations of crocheted bears are even arriving from as far away as Germany!

All of the items donated by Embracing Hope are handmade and come with an [inspirational poem](#) and a blue ribbon, symbolizing the awareness of child abuse. For information on how you can help the project achieve this goal, visit [Embracing Hope Project](#) or the [Facebook page](#).

