

Comfort Dolls

Global Sojourns' Giving Circle





Mission

The Global Sojourns' Giving Circle pools the time, talent and financial resources of individuals to educate and support children – especially girls – in sub-Saharan Africa. Donors make a direct and lasting imprint in the children's lives as they connect personally with people and projects, while having the opportunity to learn more about the region.

Comfort Dolls

Inspired by one of our GSGC members and with the help of our volunteers, the Global Sojourns' Giving Circle provides Comfort Dolls to children in our partner organizations in Livingstone, Zambia and Cape Town, South Africa. Children who are experiencing adversity in the form of abuse, illness or the loss of a parent may receive a handmade doll sent with care and love.

Volunteers sew gender and ethnically neutral dolls that are designed to be 'huggable'.

Members have hand carried these dolls to Africa where they have been distributed to:

- Ill children at a hospital in Livingstone
- Children identified by our partner and friend Lynne Silawa at the Tutulike Preschool in Livingstone
- Children at Nonceba Trust, a counseling center that helps abused, neglected and orphaned children in the Khayelitsha Township outside Cape Town
- Individual children who have been identified by our African partners who are in special need of some comfort

We have begun mailing the Comfort Dolls to Cape Town with the help of Uthando (a GSGC partner), DHL and Rotary International. Shipping and customs can be very expensive and challenging and with this helpful partnership, we will be able to provide the dolls on a regular basis.

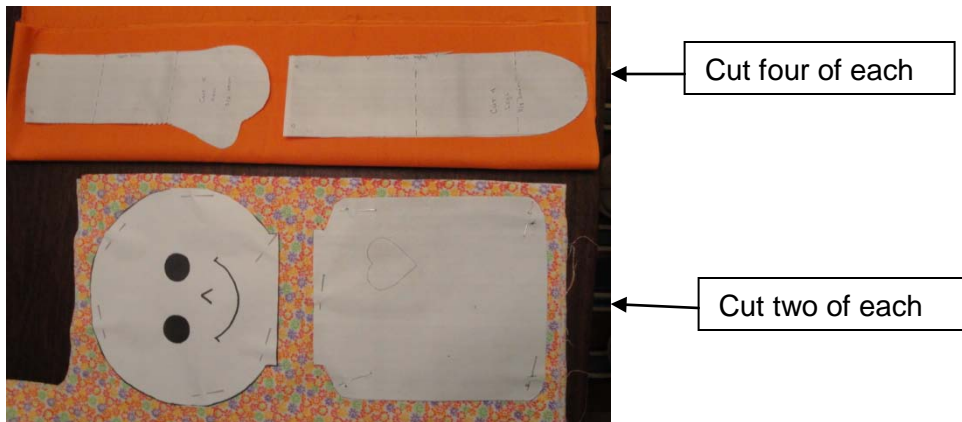
We encourage members, donors and friends to join this 'global' sewing circle and help us by making these very special Comfort Dolls or even providing material to those who can sew.

Comfort Doll Pattern

Global Sojourns' Giving Circle

Materials: 1/3 yard fabric for head and body, 1/3 yard coordinating fabric for arms and legs
Black and red fabric markers, red heart, polyester fiberfill, thread

NOTE: If you have a Build a Bear store close to you many of them will donate the hearts for this project. Most store managers will give you a handful at no cost if you tell them what the hearts are for. If not ask to buy some from them. They pay \$11 for a 1000 hearts.



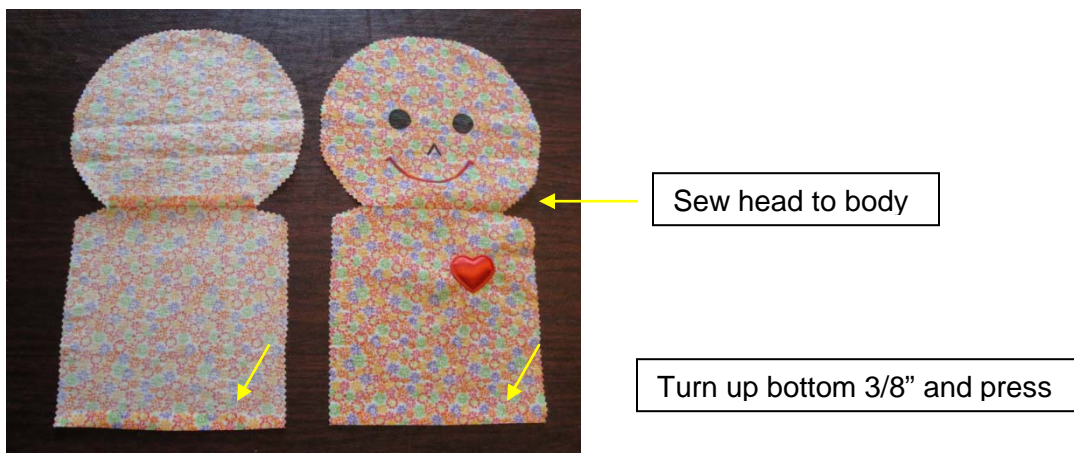
SEWING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DOLLS

Allow a 3/8 inch seam allowance when sewing the pattern, which is already built into the pattern.

Transfer the markings for the face and heart to the fabric. The eyes and nose are made with a black fabric pen, the mouth with a red fabric pen. The heart is sewn to the front body piece.

Stitch the head to the body, right sides together, for both the front and back.

Press the seam upward towards the head. Also fold and press the bottom edge of the body, wrong sides together, at a 3/8" seam.



Stitch two arm and hand sections together, leaving upper edge open. Clip the curves to the stitching being careful not to clip through the stitching. Turn arm right side out.

Stuff the hand with the polyester fiberfill until you can measure 3" from the tip of the hand up the arm. Stitch across the arm from one side of the seam to the other. Stuff the arm with additional filling until you have stuffed another 3". Stitch across the arm at this point from one side of the seam to the other. Finish filling the arm for another 3" and baste the top of the arm closed. Repeat for the second arm.



Stitch two leg sections together, leaving upper edge open. Clip the curves to the stitching being careful not to clip through the stitching. Turn leg right side out.

Stuff the leg with the polyester fiberfill until you can measure 2" from the tip of the toe to up the leg. Stitch across the leg from one side of the seam to the other. Stuff the leg with additional filling until you have stuffed another 3.5". Stitch across the leg at this point from one side of the seam to the other. Finish filling the leg for another 3.5" and baste the top of the leg closed. Repeat for the second leg.



Pin arm, thumb up, to right side of the body front. Place the top of the arm 1/2" down from the shoulder. Repeat with the second arm.



Pin arm 1/2" down from shoulder

Pin back of body piece to the front body piece, right sides together, with arms tucked in the middle and out of the way of the stitching.



Sew around the body, making sure you catch the ends of the arms in the seams but not any other part of the arm. Leave the bottom open. Clip the curves to the stitching being careful not to clip through the stitching. Turn the body right side out.

Stuff the head and torso until it is firm and the head is not floppy.



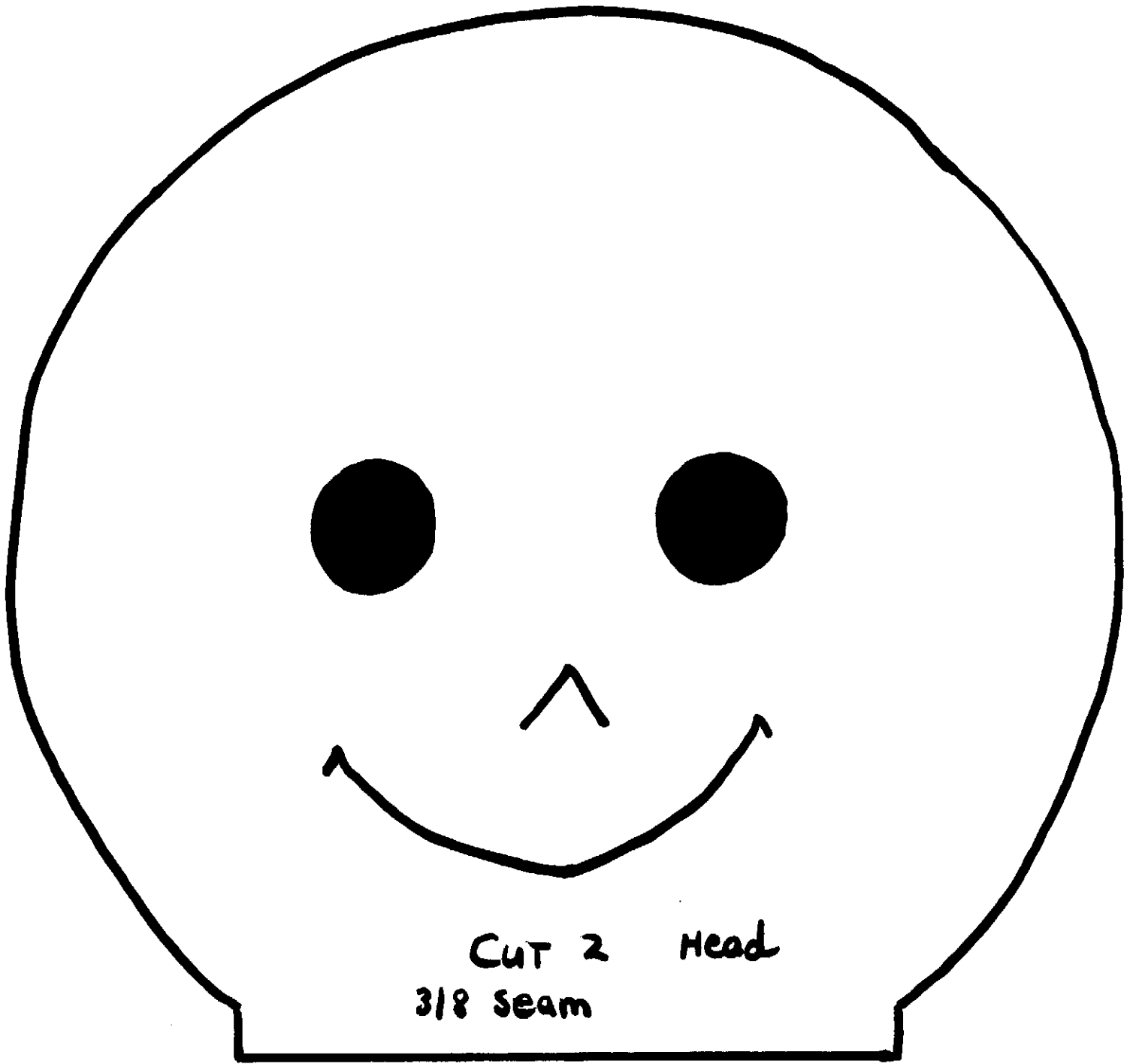
Pin the legs to the bottom of the torso. Each leg outside edge will be flush with the seam on each side. Push the filling back up into the body so you can pin the front and back body together over the legs matching the bottom edge seams.

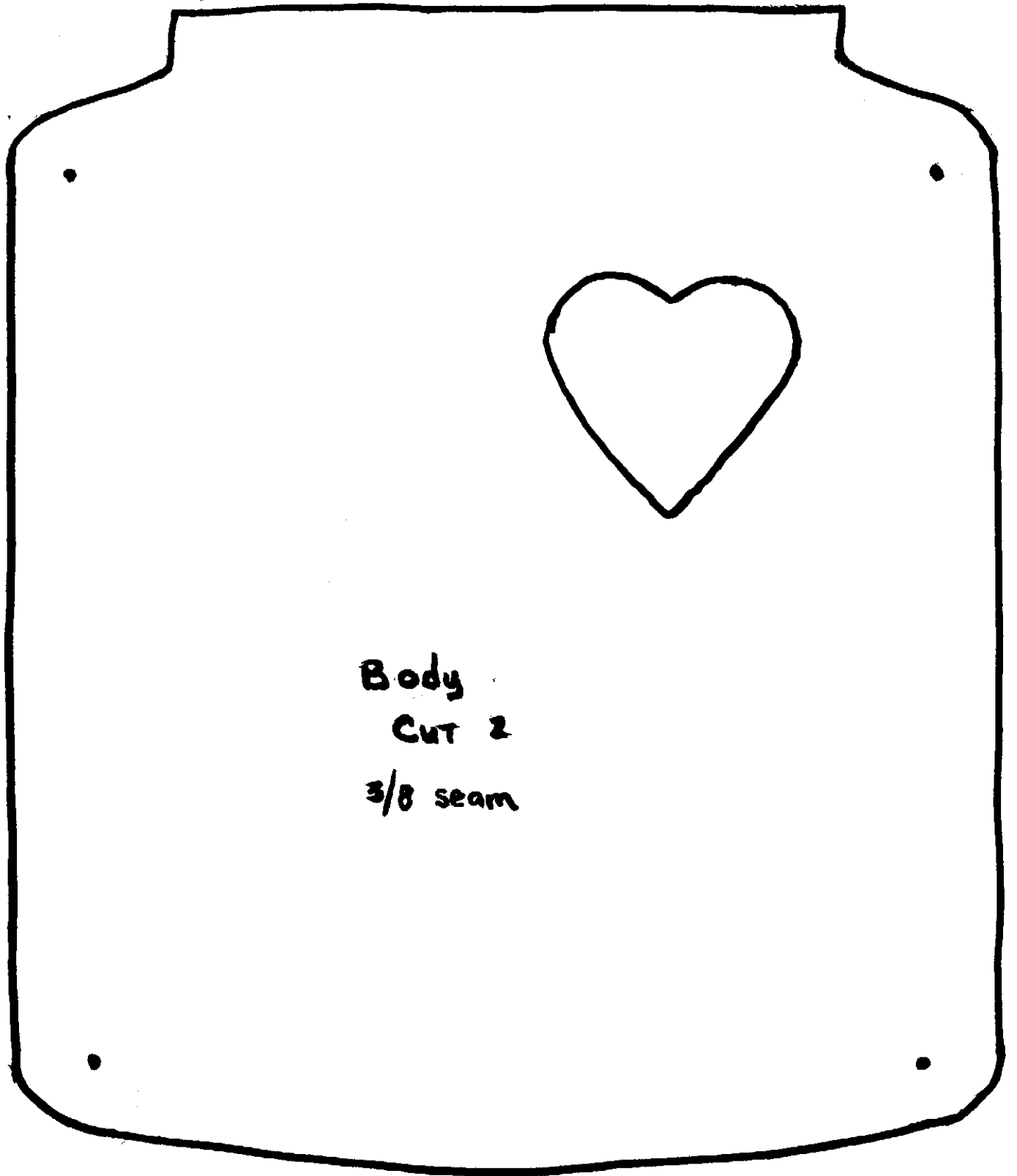


Sew a straight seam across the lower body using approximately a ¼” seam allowance making sure you catch both sides of the fabric.



Once the doll is complete please contact Paige Hasson for information on how to get your doll(s) to Global Sojourns Giving Circle. Her e-mail is morkh1@comcast.net. Phone is 503-246-9691.





Body
Cut 2
3/8 seam

Comfort Doll Pattern

