



Donating Masks to Hospitals in Need

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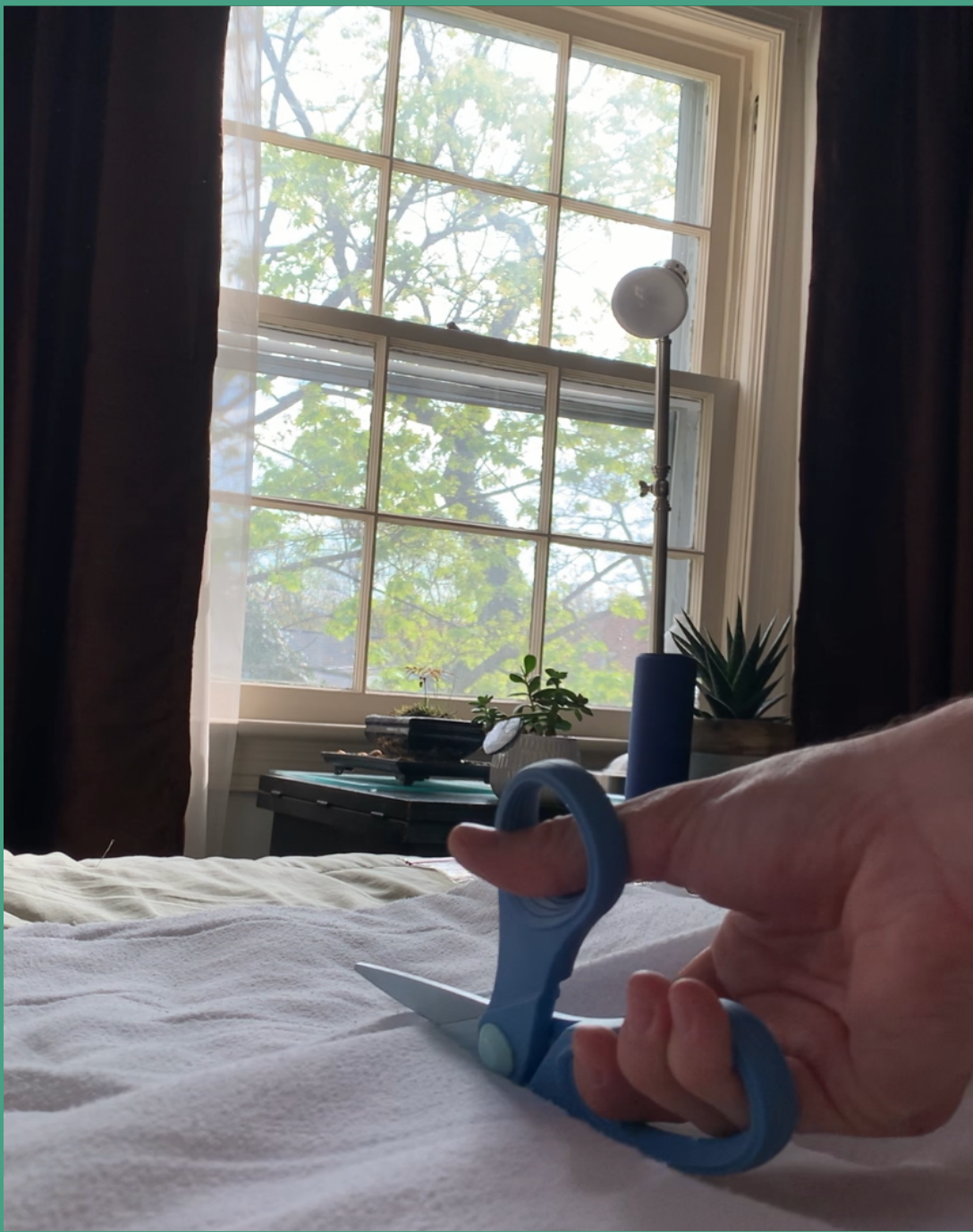
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College Park Scholars Academic Showcase, May 1, 2020



Introduction

There is a limited supply of N-95 masks in the country. These masks are the best protection against air-borne viral particles that may spread COVID-19. In order to make the supply of PPE like N-95 masks last as long as possible, local hospitals are asking for donations of masks for nonessential duties.



Activities:

For this service project, I am creating homemade personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of 100% cotton, pleated face masks with elastic ear loops and a plastic nose piece. I am donating the masks to a local hospital, Holy Cross.

Service Site:
Site: Holy Cross Hospital
Address: 1500 Forest Glen Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20910
Objective: Create and donate 20+ masks to the Holy Cross Hospital
Site Contact: Greg Jolissaint, MD

Service Project Issues:

Initially, my service project was to teach young kids how to build and program LEGO robots through a class at UMD. Due to COVID-19, I was unable to complete this project. During the quarantine that followed the outbreak, my friend became involved in a program to move PPE from hospitals that don't need it to those that did. I felt inspired and, after some research into the donation process, decided that my biggest contribution to the pandemic was to create homemade masks for my local hospital.



Impact:

My practicum experience opened my eyes to the way a community can come together to support itself in a pandemic (even if the government doesn't). When our rapidly changing world presents society with challenges, I am more hopeful of our ability to be resilient and adaptive in order to help each other through the storm.

Discussion:

Ideally, this specific service to the community will be unnecessary in the future. The United States should have been more prepared, inspired less public panic, and prioritized the needs of the healthcare industry and its workers over the profits of corporations in order to eliminate the critical shortage of PPE.

Bibliography:

- <https://www.holycrosshealth.org/donate/covid-19-support/#homemade>
- <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>
- https://www.froedtert.com/sites/default/files/files/2020-03/MaskInstructions_V2.pdf

Acknowledgments:

Greg Jolissaint, My parents, and Drs. Holtz & Merck

