

# beanies 4 babies

## Who are we?

The Beanies 4 Babies Project was created by a group of health science students from the University of the Free State. While working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein, we had the privilege of meeting the tiny miracles who came through the doors of the NICU. Their fighting spirits inspired us to reach out and make a difference.



## The need

Many of the babies in the NICU are born prematurely and are critically ill. Low birth weight- and preterm infants have an increased risk for hypothermia (low body temperature) because they cannot regulate their body temperature effectively. They need extra thermal care including incubators, blankets, skin-to-skin contact, beanies and booties. Many of the moms do not have the means to provide their infants with beanies and booties due to premature labour.

## Our dream

Our dream is to provide comfort and support to all low birth weight infants born in the public hospitals of South Africa by providing each infant with his or her own pair of beanie and booties. This will be given to them as soon as they are born or arrive in the NICU and will be taken home with them when they are discharged. Our dream to expand nationwide, has slowly become a reality as we are currently functioning in four provinces in 2023 (Free State, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Western Cape).

## How to get involved

Beanies and booties for this project, are produced by various volunteers from all over the country. We are in need of healthcare professionals to expand & run the project in more clinics & hospitals over the country. To keep this project running, we need...



**Hands to knit**



**Financial support**



**Wool donations**

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