

# CWS Blankets: Leader's Guide

## Simple Tips for Hosting a Successful CWS Blanket Sunday

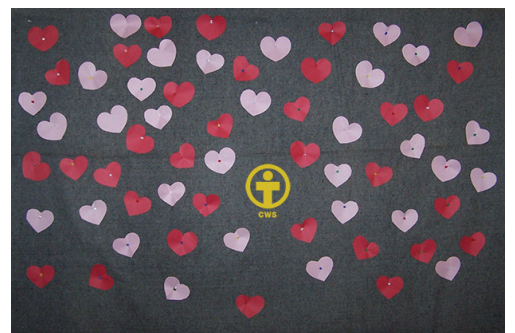
1. If you have not already, order NEW free CWS Blanket promotional materials at **cwsblankets.org**, including bulletin inserts, offering envelopes and posters.
2. Start publicizing your CWS Blanket Sunday 3-4 weeks in advance. Place announcements on your church website and in your Sunday bulletin. Hang CWS Blanket Posters in prominent locations with your church event details.
3. Ask your clergy to make an announcement during the church service several weeks prior to the CWS Blanket Sunday.
4. One week before the CWS Blanket Sunday: Cut up an old blanket or pieces of felt. Use young people in your congregation to distribute the pieces of blankets as reminders for people to bring their donation.
5. Download moment for missions, videos, prayers, children's sermons and blessings to use during your CWS Blanket Sunday at **cwsblankets.org**.
6. Turn in the white 6" x 9" remittance envelope with completed offering envelopes and checks made payable to CWS. Convert any cash into a check.



---

## Creative Ideas that Work

- A women's group in Ohio makes handcrafted greeting cards for all occasions. They sell these cards and all of the money raised supports CWS Blankets.
- A church in Michigan challenges the members of their congregation to buy one CWS Blanket for each blanket that they have in their home. The leader bought nine CWS Blankets!
- A church in Iowa hangs a CWS Blanket in the front of the sanctuary for several weeks before their CWS Blanket Sunday. The youth group cuts out paper hearts. Each person who buys a blanket may write the name of a person they want to honor with their donation and then hangs the heart on the blanket.
- A youth group in Texas hosts a car wash each summer and donates the money to CWS Blankets.
- A youth group in Florida wraps Christmas presents at a local mall to support CWS Blankets.



## Blessings of the CWS Blankets

**Leader:** Let us pray. God of great love who taught us all compassion, we continue to share the blessings that we have received from you with our neighbors.

**People:** Who are our neighbors?

**Leader:** A Mother sheltering her children from the cold. A family looking for a new home. A homeless person living on the streets. May we recognize them as God's children.

**People:** How will these blankets help?

**Leader:** The blankets we bless today represent our compassion for our brothers and sisters. With the blankets we send our love and our witness to the presence of God's divine nature in our world.

**People:** We bear witness.

**Leader:** That the people who donated these blankets will provide a blessing of God's love in this world.

**People:** We send our love.

**Leader:** Acknowledging that we first received this love from God and pray that in so sending these blankets that God's grace will spread far and wide.

**People:** This is our prayer.

**Leader:** Bless the givers, the blankets we provided, the work of Church World Service to deliver the blankets on our behalf and the lives of all who receive our blankets, with God's great love.

**All:** Amen.



---

## Prayer for the Blessing of the Blankets

**Leader:** Gracious God, you have given us so many good gifts. Help us to share these gifts with others.

**People:** God of love, grant our prayer.

**Leader:** Let us pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed, the unemployed and those in any need.

*(Silence)*

**Leader:** Gracious God, bless the givers of these blankets. May they demonstrate your love through the giving of these gifts.

**People:** Bless the blankets we have provided. Bless Church World Service while they are delivering the blankets on our behalf. Bless the lives of all who will receive these blankets, with God's great love.

**All:** God of love grant our prayer. Amen.