



Inmates and community pitch in to sew face masks for jails

The detainees at Shelby County (TN) Jail East are now sewing masks at the facility after recently receiving donated materials.

Chief Jailer Kirk Fields authorized the purchase of two new sewing machines and they have been put to good use. Under the supervision of Chief Inspector Takietha Tuggle, Sgt. Alicia Sykes, Sgt. Sharon Milburn, and Sgt. Sereta Stanley, several female detainees have made more than 200 masks thus far, with the immediate goal of having 300 masks ready in the near future.

Each detainee will have a mask in her cell, matched by name of detainee. The masks will be washed and reused. According to Chief Tuggle, the plan is to eventually have approximately 1,000 masks on hand, which will also help supply the main jail and Juvenile Court Detention Center.

And they're not the only ones who have been busy making masks. A group of industrious community members donated nearly 800 washable masks to the

Shelby County Sheriff's Office for detainees at the Shelby County Jail. They were donated in person on June 12 in the parking lot of the Memphis Police Department due to COVID-19 access restrictions in the precinct building. The group, spearheaded by Mrs. Hattie Jackson, worked on this project for approximately six weeks, personally sewing these masks.

Sheriff Floyd Bonner, Jr. expressed his appreciation to the volunteers, donors, and his Shelby County Sheriff's Office employees for their efforts and creative problem solving during the difficult disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

