

Reach out with puppets

Whimsical puppets bring a loving touch to children everywhere.



There's fun at your fingertips making these adorable felt puppets. And it's easy for kids to help you stitch up a perky bird, cheeky monkey or friendly

elephant and then let their imaginations run wild playing with them.

Craft Editor Vanessa Tsumura designed this too-cute menagerie for a very special purpose. *Country Woman* is partnering with Craft Hope, a charitable crafting organization, to make puppets for The Miracle Foundation, a nonprofit group dedicated to helping orphaned children.

Why finger puppets? "Puppets are great teaching tools for children," Caroline Boudreaux, founder of The Miracle Foundation (at right), explains. "They help kids learn problem solving, how to communicate their feelings and basic skills for making friends." And, she adds, "anything made with the extra ingredient of love makes a real difference."

Make a flock of bird puppets with your family, a herd of elephants with your Scout troop, or a barrel of monkeys with your crafting group. While you're having a blast, you'll be doing something important. "It's crafting for the greater good," says Craft Hope founder Jade Laswell. "We might not all have money to give, but we have time—one of the greatest gifts you can give."

How you can help

1. Make as many finger puppets as you like, following our directions on pages 40-41.
2. Mail your puppets to: The Miracle Foundation/CW Puppets, 1506 W. Sixth St., Austin TX 78703. From there, they'll be shipped to international orphanages.

Like to do more?

Visit crafthope.com to learn about its latest projects. Go to miraclefoundation.org to find out other ways you can help turn an orphanage into a home.

BOUDREAUX: THE MIRACLE FOUNDATION

