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**A Fundraiser for Our Times:
The Hardwick Gazette Offers Hand-Crafted Comfort Chickens**

HARDWICK – It seems like everyone is fundraising these days. Politicians, parties, charitable causes... they all have their hands out. But one fundraiser is making an offer that stands out from the crowd.

Starting on Giving Tuesday, the next 10 people to give \$500 or more to *The Hardwick Gazette* will receive a plush, cozy comfort chicken handmade by *Gazette* staffer Sandra Atkins. It's the most appropriate gift imaginable for these troubled times. (As of Sunday afternoon, three chickens had been adopted; just 7 more to go!)



A HUGGABLE handmade comfort chicken for emotional support brings happy smiles in these days of stress. Include an address with your \$500 donation to receive a chicken. Then name your chicken.

The origin of the comfort chicken, or “emotional support chicken” as some call it, has been traced to a fiber artist at a Los Angeles craft store called The Knitting Tree. As blogger David Friedman wrote, the idea “spread like wildfire through the knitting community... They’re roughly the size of a throw pillow and are stuffed with material to be soft and huggable.”

Atkins explains how she started making chickens: “A friend of mine made one for her daughter, who got so many comments about it that I decided to try it. I enjoyed it and kept on going. I love color, so my chickens are very colorful.”

Unless you’re a friend or relative of Atkins, there’s only one way to get one of her comfort chickens: Donate \$500 or more to *The Hardwick Gazette* at <https://hardwickgazette.org/donate/>.

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ABOUT THE HARDWICK GAZETTE

The Hardwick Gazette is a weekly newspaper that serves 11 communities in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, including Cabot, Calais, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Plainfield, and Woodbury. *The Gazette* has served its area for close to 140 years; it was reinvented as a community-governed nonprofit organization in 2024. Donations to *The Gazette* are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information, and to contact *The Hardwick Gazette* visit www.HardwickGazette.org