

Translation of newspaper article:

**Schmidhuber, W. (2007) 'Handgestrickter rosa Schal als Zeichen der Hoffnung', *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, 29 December, p.25.**

## **Hand-Knitted Pink Scarf as Symbol of Hope**

*Knitters from Oberhausen-Rheinhausen participated in this international work of art / Project to find a Cure*

**Oberhausen-Rheinhausen.** What connects Toronto and Oberhausen-Rheinhausen? A Pink Scarf, at present approximately eight meters in length, in the end perhaps 50 or more meters long: a piece of knitting and a work of art at the same time, created by many hands in the hope to conquer breast cancer. The project "Chest of Hope" was brought to life in 2006 by artist Christa Gampp, who was born in Oberhausen and now lives in Toronto. Her mother died of a malignant breast tumor in 2005.

The artist, living in the largest city of Canada, set out to use her artistic talents to support Breast Cancer Research and to raise awareness on breast health issues. The 51-year old artist immigrated to the second largest country in the world as a young woman. In Toronto, the capital of Ontario, she studied art and education. The practicing artist also works as visual arts teacher for the Catholic school board in the 2.5 million city. She was already featured on television with her project.

So far, approx. 30 women from Canada, the US, and Germany, have been knitting on this long scarf. All ages contributed to its' success. The connecting force for all the participants is the fact that each person has been touched by cancer, either within the family or in the circle of friends. Each knitter continues where the last one finished. This allows for a mix of pattern and colour variations.

The scarf has already traveled across the Atlantic three times. Eight women from the artist's native country, six from Oberhausen-Rheinhausen and two from Philippsburg are contributing to the growth of this woolen symbol. Even a few men offered their participation, because breast cancer affects males as well.

"The knitted sections are being transformed into a prayer, a resolution", relates Christa Gampp. "The knitting builds a bridge of hope and sisterhood among women." This piece of knitting is scheduled to travel around the world in the near future. Once the scarf has reached a length that will make it too difficult to transport, it is going to be offered for sale at an auction.

Why did the project founder choose the colour pink? A pink ribbon symbolizes the fight for a cure for breast cancer in Canada. However, the scarf project is not the only initiative. Christa Gampp also creates mosaic sculptures to raise funds. During a recent exhibition across the Atlantic, a total of 22 torso sculptures were offered for sale at a silent auction and \$4.000 were donated to breast cancer research. The 22 torso models were women between the ages of 16 and 60, some of whom were breast cancer survivors.



Pink Scarf knitters from Oberhausen-Rheinhausen and Philippsburg.  
Christa Gampp (second from left)