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Former Derby design duo hope jewels help celebrity moms spread word for charity

By Jean Falbo-Sosnovich, The New Haven Register

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DERBY >> Celebrity moms will celebrate Mother's Day in style this year, and hopefully raise awareness for worthy causes, courtesy of necklaces exclusively created by former Valley-based mother/daughter duo, Jewels for Hope.

The likes of Christina Aguilera, Kelly Clarkson, Jennifer Love Hewitt and a handful of other famous folks will receive or give their own mothers a special Swarovski crystal charity heart necklace, handcrafted by Jewels for Hope owners Sandy D'Andrea and her daughter Stevie D'Andrea.

The mother/daughter duo began the business <http://jewelsforhope.net/> in their Derby home in 2009. Since then, the pair's dazzling trinkets have been featured in Ladies Home Journal and numerous 'swag bags' that Hollywood's royalty walk away with during the Oscars, the Golden Globes, Emmy's and other star-studded events.

Their latest venture, 'gifting' the heart-shaped necklaces for celebrity moms, came about through Jewels for Hope's connection to The Artisan Group, which is a juried group that helps handmade artists get their items into the hands of celebrities.

Stevie D'Andrea said while the Mother's Day necklaces were donated to the celebrity moms at no charge, the notoriety and exposure that comes from someone famous donning one of their pieces is priceless.

"With these types of events, once the celebrity wears the jewelry, that's what really pays for the gifting," D'Andrea said.

When the D'Andreas met 'What Not to Wear' host and stylist to the stars, Stacy London, and gifted her with one of their American Cancer Society bracelets, the bracelet immediately sold out, enabling Jewels for Hope to donate "much more than we normally would have" to ACS.

The bracelets, necklaces and rings Jewels for Hope creates are all specially color-coded to represent various CT-based charities, like [Labs 4 Rescue](#), Hospice, National MS Society, Terri Brodner Breast Cancer Society and Miles for Smiles.

"We hope the moms and the moms to be will rock this necklace and in turn it will bring awareness to the causes they are color-coded to," D'Andrea said.

The heart-shaped necklaces dangling from a sterling silver chain were recently sent to the famous moms, created to represent their birthstones, favorite charity's colors or children's birthstones, D'Andrea said.

For example, Christina Aguilera is getting a necklace color-coded in black and red Swarovski crystals for a charity close to her heart, [Labs 4 Rescue](#) <http://labs4rescue.com/index.shtml>. Kelly Clarkson will get a heart necklace representing the Save the Sound charity <http://www.ctenvironment.org/save-the-sound/>. D'Andrea said a personalized note mentioning the charities were included with each necklace to their famous recipient, in hopes of "bringing awareness to these amazing causes."

Jewels for Hope has its own special charity, Hope for Caregivers, which provides assistance to caregivers who can't afford aides for their loved ones. That's how Jewels for Hope was born five years ago, when Sandy D'Andrea quit her job to stay home to care for her elderly mother suffering from Parkinson's disease. Sandy discovered that stringing beads and crystals onto wires was therapeutic for her, and decided to bring Stevie into the mix to create the business.

The D'Andreas since moved to Stamford but continue to crank out beautiful jewels in the name of charity, where they donate 10 percent of the profits of every sale to charitable organizations close to their hearts.

The D'Andreas hope to have their custom creations featured again in next year's Golden Globes or Oscars celebrity gift lounges. At the end of this year, one of their bracelets will be featured in a movie, 'Hidden In the Woods, The Remake.'

Jewels for Hope can be reached via email at: jewelsforhope@gmail.com or by phone (203)595-5404.

URL: <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20140508/former-derby-design-duo-hope-jewels-help-celebrity-moms-spread-word-for-charity>