

ONCE UPON A TIME (well actually it was just the other day) **IN A LAND FAR, FAR AWAY**
(wishing that part were true) **THERE LIVED A KINGDOM OF PEOPLE** (okay, a democracy) **WHO**
WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR WINTER CELEBRATIONS.

They were building buildings, gathering with friends, skiing on the hillsides, attending classes and learning about electricity and generally enjoying life, when seemingly out of nowhere (okay, warnings came, but seemed too outlandish) a global pandemic hit the land. Nothing like it has ever been seen in more than 100 years. It threatened lives and livelihoods. It created distance, as the people were told to stay indoors and stay home. It created sadness and fear, as disease began to impact the people's families, friends and coworkers. Lives were lost and still others would be changed forever.

It took armies of doctors, first responders and scientists to fight the disease. It took more armies of reporters and elected officials to help people understand their part in fighting it. It took massive data centers to keep home computers running to have the people connect digitally to everyone they knew. Deemed essential, electricians worked to keep the power and technology on and the hospitals running. They built more hospital space. Every day, these heroes went to work. Safety teams worked around the clock to create and communicate protocol to keep these heroes safe. So many people, so many heroic acts.

Supplies were hard to find, and money was scarce. It seemed that the disease raged on, but with great courage they kept going. They fought hard, and they were tired.

Then the people had had enough. They wanted to do something. They wanted to support the front-line workers and help fight the pandemic. But how? What could the ordinary people do to help? All they had to do was realize that sometimes what seems so simple can be so strong. So they got to work.

In the town of Glenwood Springs, while volunteers got together to use landscaping fabric to sew disposable hospital gowns, some electricians helped the process. Working with 100-pound fabric rolls that were two feet wide and two feet thick was taxing. Several electricians got together and helped hoist the fabric onto jack stands so the seamstresses could work with it more easily.

In the town of Littleton, a creative risk manager worked tirelessly, seemingly 24/7 to help her company understand all the details behind the pandemic and at the same time, sewed cloth face coverings for her coworkers to keep them safe. She must have been burning the midnight oil to get it all done.

And in the town of Mead, while her electrician husband worked constantly, one woman sewed hundreds of face masks. Those masks were eventually brought to her husband's company to help the electricians and office teams ward off the disease, like suits of armor.

In this story, the main characters were:

- **ELECTRICIANS OF ENCORE ELECTRIC**, who never gave up, wore masks before mask-wearing was cool, and who showed up day after day to keep the power and technology available to all of the people, especially the busy hospitals and data centers. They helped build new hospital capacity, too.



- **KIM PALMGREN** and **DEB WILLET**, who found a creative way to provide medical workers with the supplies they needed, using their talents to serve others.
- **STAN MCCLINTOCK** and **LUKE STANTON**, who provided a system to support the hospital gown process, which was well above and beyond their call of duty.



- **HEATHER RUDDY**, who used both her risk management expertise to provide a North Star for Encore Electric when the sky was so cloudy, and who also used her creativity to sew masks for many, including customized versions with places for HEPA filters.
- **CAROLINE RIEPLER**, who not only sewed hundreds of strong and fashionable face masks, but also provided a personal prayer for safety with each one, printed on a note that was neatly packaged for the user.



There were so many acts of kindness and heroism throughout the land. The people took personal responsibility, time and energy to do their part to defeat the disease. They wore masks, kept their distance and washed their hands until the pandemic eventually disappeared. The people were resilient. They vowed to remember how important it was to bring individual talents and band together so that life could be normal again.

-THE END-

