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Colorful owners wrap their Dallas home with threaded treasures

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Ben Torres/Special Contributor

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Every piece of furniture, including the wood floor, is decorated with an item made of yarn inside Paul Wackym and Darren Stanley's home.

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No sparkle, no glitter, no waving snowmen or nodding reindeer.

Paul Wackym and Darren Stanley decorated with wool this year.

They wrapped their Casa Linda home in knits for a grand party and served cookies made from heirloom recipes, a cheeseball shaped like a pine cone and lots of punch.

Bright knits wrapped the home's columns like architectural sweaters. More knit warmed the crape myrtles.

Inside, artfully arranged sock monkeys, salvaged scarves and vintage afghans were the decor's mainstays.

"Mr. Wackym is wacky, and that's the kind of client we like to have," says Ronda Van Dyk from the Dallas Yarn Bombers, a group that uses knitted or crocheted items as very public decorations.

Van Dyk, along with Sally Ackerman and friends, have done several installations, including decorations in Klyde Warren Park when it opened. Van Dyk and Ackerman also were selected among a group of local artists to decorate parking meters with bright yarn flowers as part of a city of Dallas public art project.

Wackym doesn't mind being a little bit wacky. For 20 years, his eccentric Christmas parties were a fixture. He took a break when he started his business, Wackym's Kitchen, which makes artisanal cookies, but decided it was time to get the party started again.

Wackym and Stanley busily scrounged for appropriate pieces. Wackym says he always works for a nontraditional theme for his parties. "He didn't want it red, white and green. He wants it crazy," Van Dyk says. She and Ackerman used some pieces they already had and speedily made new ones.

Wackym met Van Dyk at an art event at Fair Park and thought he might get some original hats, one of his signatures. Then, looking at Dallas Yarn Bomber projects, he decided a yarn bombing would make a great party theme.

Wackym liked the yarn bombing idea so much that he was reluctant to just use the home's decorations for a single party.

He's working with the Dallas 24 Hour Club, which offers transitional housing and other services to those with drug addiction and alcoholism.

"I realized it was selfish to do this for one night. That's when I thought about the 24 Hour Club," Wackym says.

The club is working to raise \$1.3 million for a new building. Currently, it's on Ross Avenue.

"The goal is to wrap the building in the spring to give a visual presence to the club to show what it is and where it is," Wackym says.

Plans still are being developed, he says, and they are looking for sponsors to help cover the cost.

"It's a great, great cause," Wackym says.

Karel Holloway is a Terrell freelance writer.

More on Dallas Yarn Bombers at facebook.com/dallasyarnbombers.

Find out about Wackym's cookies at wackymskitchen.com.

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