



**Quilts
for
Kids**

Northeast Georgia Chapter

May 2012

Transforming fabric into patchwork quilts

to comfort children in need.

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

Since our first quilt delivery to NEGa Med Ctr and our first newsletter, our chapter has been hard at work moving ahead to comfort children with quilts made with lots of love. Another 14 kits were distributed at the monthly meeting of the Block of the Month at Georgia Sewing and Quilting and nine finished quilts were turned in. A workshop was held on May 3rd in Gainesville and five kits were cut out and work was done on several quilts already in progress.

Our biggest surprise was on Wednesday May 2nd when I received an email from Brandee Thomas, a



BOM Finished Quilts



Tracie and Elleda
choosing fabrics



Maria in Sewing Area



Diann, Mary & Patsy working

reporter at The Times in Gainesville. She wanted information on our project and asked to visit our workshop to see the process. She and the photographer joined us and wrote the best article which appeared in the paper the next day. (See it on page 3 of this newsletter.)

My sincere thanks to the volunteers who attended the workshop and agreed to be photographed and interviewed. Getting this publicity so soon after our kick-off is unusual but so key to our success.

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Then on Friday, May 4th Patsy S., my husband Harold and I delivered 5 quilts to the hospital. Four of our patients were under 2 months old and the fifth was 13- year old Hannah Anderson. Her photo with her beautiful smile is to the right.

The appreciation of the quilts was expressed by the parents of the babies and Hannah. The father of one of the 6-week old boys said that he couldn't believe that people were out there that still did good for strangers. He hugged us and thanked us repeatedly for the UGA Bulldog quilt he chose for his son from our basket.

I invite each of you to make a quilt delivery with me at a future date. It's an experience that you will not soon forget.



Workshop Dates

May 24, 2012

June 14, 2012

10:00 am to Noon

Arts/Crafts Room of Family Life Center of
First Baptist Church
751 Green Street Gainesville, Ga. 30501

Join us for cutting, sewing and
fellowship!

Welcome to the New Volunteers and Supporters

Susan M.

Angie H.

Dora G.

Martha A.

Janet S.

Tania B.

Dianne F.

Vickie W.

Paula J.

Jackson W.

Quilting for a cause

Group gives warmth, comfort to the sick

By Brandee A. Thomas bthomas@gainesvilletimes.com

READ MORE

Quilts for Kids

To learn more about the organization, visit www.quiltsforkids.org.

If you are interested in volunteering, email NortheastGaQ4K@gmail.com.

The Gainesville-based chapter will host their next workshop from 10 a.m. to noon May 24 in the arts and crafts room in the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church of Gainesville, 751 Green St. Volunteers are welcome.



Patsy Shuford working on a tie-blanket



Elleda Rule cutting fabric

Being bitten by the quilting bug is both a gift and a curse. "I quilt every single day," said Elleda Rule, who has been quilting for 11 years. "It's addictive."

Although her addiction leads her to create beautiful pieces she gifts to friends and family members, that wasn't enough for Rule. She needed more outlets to share her quilts, and she found it by joining the Northeast Georgia Chapter of Quilts for Kids. "It's a worthy cause, and it makes me happy," said Rule, who drives up from Duluth to sew with the other members at First Baptist Church of Gainesville. "And it gives me an excuse to quilt."

Quilts for Kids is a national nonprofit that was created by Linda Arye as a way to keep discontinued and leftover material out of landfills, while simultaneously providing comfort to children in need. Volunteers nationwide create quilts from provided kits, which are donated to children in hospitals and shelters.

After learning about the organization through fellow quilters, Hall County resident Betty Wright went to the national website to find a local chapter to join. "I saw there was only one chapter in Georgia and that was down in Waycross, so I said we need something up here," Wright said.

Apparently, folks in and around Hall County agreed with her. Since holding a kick-off meeting in March, Wright's group has made 22 quilts, with another two dozen in various stages of completion. Seven have already been donated to pediatric patients at Northeast Georgia Medical Center here in Gainesville. Wright will be dropping off another batch this afternoon.

"We use patterns that we get from the national headquarters, and they're all about 36 inches by 48 inches," Wright said. Because the quilts have to withstand frequent washings for the hospitalized recipients, they have to be created on sewing machines.

Although Wright's group meets regularly in an arts and crafts room at First Baptist Church — the next workshop is May 24 — potential volunteers don't have to create their quilts there. After obtaining the free kit, quilters can make their blankets at home and mail them back to the group.

While all of the quilts are made using designated patterns, volunteers can use the provided material or their own — as long as it is 100 percent cotton. That's one of the perks that attracted Mary Nelson.

"I've been collecting leftover pieces and pieces that I didn't use for

years," said Nelson, a Hall County resident. "This is a way to use up some of that stash of fabric in my closet."

If sewing isn't your cup of tea, Wright says they also need volunteers to help create the kits, raise funds and handle some small administrative tasks. They could also use volunteers to help create no-sew fleece blankets to donate to shelters. No matter how limited time or crafting skills may be, Wright says there's room for everyone.

Although they can't create quilts for every child in need, Wright says they're dedicated to doing what they can, "one stitch, one quilt, one kid at a time."

May 4, 2012 from The Times, Gainesville, Georgia, page 5C



Betty Wright sews on her quilt.



Maria Ross lays out her quilt.

Little Bits of Fabric

Little bits of fabric
sewn into a baby quilt



Form a warm & loving blanket
From which memories are built.

And when you seek peace & comfort
In the quiet of the night

It will keep you warm & snug
Until the morning's light.

Anonymous



Thanks to Mary N., Elleda R. and Judy W. for fabric donations for our kits.

Thanks to Jackson W. for spreading the word to the quilting community of Ellijay and Jasper.

And thank you to Donna S. for soliciting donations for the Northeast Chapter of Quilts for Kids.

These efforts along with everyone's help and support are vital to the success of our chapter.

Please feel free to direct any questions

regarding donations to Betty Wright at

NortheastGaQ4K@gmail.com

In response to our first newspaper article I emailed to everyone I know:

Betty,

Wow ! talk about hitting the ground running...you took off flying. And in newsprint so soon. I feel like a proud mama. You go girl. Thank you so much for your efforts and the talents as you share to comfort children and their families in such a stressful time. One stitch, one quilt, one child at a time,

Sally Weber
Director of Chapter Services
Quilts for Kids, Inc.

I saw the article at 4:40 a.m. as I was leaving to work out. It was awesome to see it so soon & made me proud of what we are doing! You have started something wonderful!! Thank you!!

Thanks so much! The article is great. I passed it along to some of my quilter friends around Ellijay. I know how proud you must be. Talk with you on Monday.

I am so delighted to hear your good news! That makes me even prouder to know that I am a small part in the process. There's no doubt that you are building a great quilting community in Gainesville and word will continue to spread. As I am finding out, the quilting community is a great place to be.

This is a wonderful project. I know you get pleasure from doing this, and you get thanks from many people, but thank you from me for helping these children. You are truly stacking up those treasures in heaven.

That's sooo cool!