

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2009

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Quilters Making a Difference in the Lives of Patients

A little over two years ago a group of quilters, known as the Comfort Quilters, decided to get together to make quilts for the patients of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH). Since then, the quilters have donated over 45 quilts to the hospital and the impact on the patients has been enormous.

“We have been steadily making the quilts and really had no idea how many we had donated until the hospital provided us with a number,” stated Marilyn White, member of the Comfort Quilters. “We’re proud of what we have been able to accomplish and very pleased that we are able to make a positive impact on a patient’s stay in the hospital.”



The Comfort Quilters preparing a quilt for a patient of the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital. The finished quilt will have a label that states ‘Quilts are like friends, a great source of comfort and warmth’.

The handmade quilts are given to patients that need something to brighten their outlook, are experiencing a long term stay in the hospital, or are in palliative care. When the patient returns home or moves to a long term care facility, the quilt leaves with the individual and often becomes a source of pride and conversation.

The hospital has also found that in cases where the recipient is suffering from dementia, the quilt provides a source of familiarity and helps the patient to identify their room and /or bed.

“Each time a patient receives a quilt, their faces light up like a child at Christmas and I am so grateful that our hospital is the recipient of this program,” stated Laurie Scissons, Manager of the Nursing Unit at CPDMH. “It is impossible to measure the impact these quilts have made on the lives of our patients but I know each quilt is very much appreciated and loved. On behalf of everyone that has benefited from this program, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the quilters that have shared this very unique gift of comfort and warmth with our patients.”

The Comfort Quilters are a self supporting groups and each month a member brings the supplies needed to complete a quilt and the quilters work together to complete the project. At the end of the evening, the work in progress is either brought home to be finished or brought to the next meeting to be completed. Each quilt is finalized with a label saying the quilt was made by the Comfort Quilters of Carleton Place and states ‘*Quilts are like friends, a great source of comfort and warmth*’.

There are currently 15 members in the group and the Comfort Quilters welcomes anyone interested in quilting to join the group. The group welcomes all skill levels from non-quilters wanting to learn how to quilt to experts of the hobby. Since the group is self supporting, donations of 100% cotton fabric are also welcome.

“Working together as a group is a great way to learn the basics of quilting as well as learn new techniques,” stated member Liz Campbell. “We really enjoy what we’re doing and at the end of each meeting our goal is to have a new quilt that can be given to the hospital.”

The Comfort Quilters meet at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church on the second Tuesday of every month from 9:00 am to 3:00 am and the last Thursday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining The Comfort Quilter is welcome to drop in and learn more about the group. For more information, please contact Marilyn White at 613-257-3274 or Liz Campbell at 613-257-4737.

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