

The Thursday Quilting Club

Codrington WI members Willa McCann (seated left), Liz Hunt (seated right), Edna Cameron, Celine McGowan and Lorna Barron (standing, left to right) are shown with their crafts; they have been dubbed "The Thursday Quilting Club." Member Jeannita Campbell is absent. The Club's quilting creations are donated to the Northumberland Women's Shelter and the OPP Office in Campbellford



to give to women and children in need. The six ladies also made 35 Comfort Bags for breast cancer patients to tuck under their arms after treatment. These long-time Codrington members also sold their wares at a craft show to raise money to buy more supplies to make more crafts for those in need.

Submitted by Marlene Smith, Codrington WI, PRO, Northumberland East, Trent Valley Area.

Growing with DFRFR

Quite a few years ago a member of the Bethesda-Reach Women's Institute attended an FWIO Provincial Conference and came home with a wonderful idea. As a farm wife and a grandmother she felt what she learned about "On Farm Child Care" was just what her community needed. That summer, child care was initiated for farm families on a day-to-day basis so mothers could help in the field or barn.

This service was well received and has grown to become the Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources (DFRFR). It provides programs in a community resource center for children from birth to age 6. Experienced staff work on site and resources are available to promote learning, growth and development. While DFRFR works hard at finding funding, they are doing well at the present time under the watchful leadership of a retired Rural Organization Specialist, who is also an active WI member.



Perhaps this could work in your area too?

Submitted by Doreen Brethour, Bethesda-Reach WI, Ontario, Central Area.

Valuing the Rural Volunteer

Have you ever volunteered? I bet you have! I worked retail for a number of years and hardly even knew my neighbours, let alone had any time to volunteer. I did do some volunteering of baking and sewing and always wished I could do more. After 13 years, I quit my job. At this point, I joined the Russell Village Women's Institute. And it was through this wonderful organization that I was able to participate in a course called "Volunteer Extraordinaire."

The one-day course was to train individuals "to enhance and rebuild the rural volunteer base" - that would be US! The course cost \$10, lunch and a 70-page Tool Kit was provided. This course was financially supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and sponsored by Ontario 4-H, The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies and Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc.

Sylvia Densmore, formerly of Prima Event Management & Consulting, and Wendy Hay, from Niagara Loyalist Training, were the instructors. These two inspirational women took on the job of instructing and inspiring participants to develop skills, including recruiting, training and motivating volunteers and honing effective communication and conflict management techniques. The series of discussions and team activities were a gentle, but truly eye-opening, walk through what makes people "tick" and how to make that "ticking" work effectively toward reaching your organization's goals.

Wendy continues to give these courses all over Ontario. In fact, there is one scheduled for June 26 in Sault Ste. Marie and another for June 29 in Sudbury. So, if you have been inspired to become a more effective volunteer, you can reach her by calling 1-877-933-0033 or email wendyhay@sympatico.ca

Submitted by Jean Williams, Russell Village WI, Russell, Eastern Area.