

LOCAL NEWS

Something from nothing

Seven agencies benefit from donated yarn and volunteer crafters

By MANDY MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

When Lori Baird had the idea to create something from nothing last January, she never doubted success. Literally hundreds of warm clothing and bedding items were created in the past 11 months - all now divvied up for donation to nine Northumberland County organizations for distribution.

Lori suspected there was lots of unused yarn stowed in closets, left under beds, unsold at rummage sales, floating amorously because no one wants to throw out something that is potentially useful.

"I love to knit," she said back last January. "And I know there are probably others out there who do, too, but they can't afford the yarn or they have no one to knit for."

Lori offered to put match the unused yarn with the underutilized talent pool. She launched an appeal for donations of yarn. Then she asked for volunteer knitters and crocheters to come forward.

"I have one volunteer in Brighton who has great difficulty seeing, but she knit hundreds of woollen squares which were then made up into blankets and lap warmers," Lori reports.

At Dorland House, a seniors' residence north of Brighton, volunteers jumped to the challenge, creating more hundreds of crocheted and knitted squares for blankets and shawls.

By word of mouth, the dona-

tions of wool poured in, and the craftspeople came forward. Toques, mitts, socks, slippers, blankets, toys, sweaters - the needles flew and the piles and piles of warm winter goods amassed.

By the end of November, Lori was ready for the first major turnover of items.

"I was amazed at the stuff," Lori reports. "I filled a trunk of the car plus the whole back seat with items."

Two weeks ago, the distribution of goods took place. The Salvation Army in Cobourg has a load as does Streamway Villa and the Golden Plough in Cobourg. Colborne and Area Community Care has items, the Warkworth Community Nursing Home, Transition House in Cobourg and the Northumberland OPP.

The OPP were presented with wraparound, toques, gloves, scarves and toy stuffed animals to be used at emergency scenes.

"It just made me feel so good in my heart," Lori says on the entire undertaking.

That's not the end of the story. There's another year ahead.

"There's lots of yarn to around for anyone who wants to get involved. It's amazing!" she says revealing waiting bundles of donated yarns waiting for creative energy.

"I need knitters!" Lori appeals. "Or if you crochet - or whatever! There's lots of yarn to around for anyone who wants to get involved."

To knit yourself into the loop, call Lori Baird at 905 355 1803.



Some of the many items made by area volunteers were distributed to seven county agencies.



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

BUNDLE UP: Warm winter woollies like this afghan were made by area volunteers throughout this past year from yarns donated to the cause. The project coordinator Lori Baird notes seven agencies have benefitted from the blankets, toques, toys, mitts and socks made for county charitable works.