

Kids to Kids Project Work Day

“What else can I do?” asked Mae Kinerson as she finished tying one side of a no sew blanket.

Marcy and Danelle turned the quilt they were working on so Mrs. K. and Mrs. D. could tie the blanket together.

Mrs. K. and Mrs. D. were two of the 20 Grafton County Nursing Home Residents who worked with 27 4-H members and leaders on Thursday, December 28, 2006, to create more Kids to Kids quilts and tote bags.

It was a productive day for seniors and 4-H'ers. The group completed 3 no sew blankets and 15 tote bags. In addition, volunteers cut out and tied three quilt centers, cut out and stitched two quilt tops, and an additional 10 tote bags are ready to be finished with hems and handles.

Kids to Kids is an ongoing project of Grafton County 4-H and the Grafton County Attorney's Office. Over the last three years, 4-H members have provided over 80 quilts in tote bags, complete with a stuffed toy, for police cruisers in Grafton County. This was the third work day done in partnership with the Grafton County Nursing Home.

The County police vehicles were asking for replacement quilts. Ruth Potter, Activities Director at Grafton County Nursing Home, and Kathy Jablonski, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, planned this day with the help of the Activities staff and 4-H leaders to create tote bags and quilts to fill the requests.

The New Hampshire State Police Auxiliary provides stuffed toys for each tote bag. As one police chief said when asking for a replacement bag, “This is all this girl had as we left her home after the fire.”

The smiles, laughter and antics of all ages rang throughout the room on the work day. Throughout the day, youngsters and oldsters worked side by side cutting out tote bags, stitching parts of bags and quilts, cutting out pieces, deciding on colors to put together and smiling over completed items.

Lizzie Vaughan and Jessica and Justin Gall were there to add “a touch of baby” to the day, brightening the smiles of the elders who cooed and oohed with the wee ones.

Marie Cataldo, a visiting aunt, Diane Keith, a 4-Her's grandmother, and Kim Alcantara, Littleton Quilt Guild member, helped round out our crew of expert helpers.

Grafton County Nursing Home residents helping throughout the day were: Catherine D., Mae K., Jack K., Minnie W., Betty W., Hazel W., Paul S., Allianora R., Olis A., Esther G., Tony S., Herman B., Bea B., Hazel J., Doris H., Barbara S., Louise W., Aurelia B., Helen P., and Peggy C.

4-H members helping were: Martha Robie, Erva Barnes, Marcy Daley, Rebecca Page, Joshua Page, Jessica Beck, Taylor Morris, Stephanie Morris, Robert Butler, Rachel Butler, Danelle Huntington, Samantha Huntington, Hope Cataldo, and Adam Cataldo.

4-H leaders assisting throughout the event were: Amy Gall, Deb Robie, Katy Blaine, Robin Page, Lynne Butler, and Mary Cataldo.

For more information about the Kids to Kids Project or the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program, please call 603-787-6944 or email: Kathleen.Jablonski@unh.edu.