

Creative Hands Reach Zimbabwe

It is said that behind every great man is a woman. That may be true, but what is also true is that most successful organizations have groups of unseen persons contributing behind the scenes in countless ways.

CREATIVE HANDS FOR COMFORT AND WARMTH is one of these groups. Creative Hands is a ministry of women who use their time and talents, to learn, create, and share their gifts with those in need. Since its beginning in 2005, its participants have created, made, and donated 1,400 blankets and 850 hats, as well as sweaters, dolls, puppets, fabric checker boards, washcloths, and even diapers made from recycled t-shirts to the Nyadire United Methodist Mission, Aseracare Hospice, and Project Linus.

The group meets at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Allison Park every second Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning to share ideas and simply get inspired with new ideas. In the spring, Creative Hands also offers classes on knitting, crocheting, and different crafts taught by volunteers. Those who come to learn make a monetary donation to the Nyadire Mission.

In the past three years these classes raised over \$3,000 for The Nyadire Connection, a volunteer organization in western Pennsylvania whose mission is work in a long-time relationship with the people of the United Methodist Mission in Nyadire, Zimbabwe in supporting their programs and projects. The Nyadire United Methodist Mission, located in the northeast part of this South African nation, resembles a college campus. It contains a hospital serving 150,000 people in the surrounding rural area, a large nursing school, and 1,200-student school system from preschool through high school, and orphanage, church, and farm. Creative Hands has sent 252 blankets for newborns and children in the hospital as well as an orphanage along with 130 hats in the first nine months of 2010! With no central heating, and night and early morning temperatures in the 40s in Nyadire, these gifts are greatly welcomed. For information on the mission and The Nyadire Connection in Pittsburgh, go to www.nyadire.org.

Another recipient of Creative Hands donations is Aseracare Hospice, an organization that provides support and care for people with life-limiting illnesses and their families. Knitted and crocheted lap robes add physical as well as emotional warmth to patients. See www.aseracare.com for more information.

Project Linus, a national organization, is another group that reaps benefits from Creative Hands. Blankets of all kinds are given to the Pittsburgh Chapter coordinator, who then distributes them to hospitals, police departments, firefighters, etc, in Pittsburgh to be given to seriously ill or traumatized children. Visit www.projectlinus.org for more information.

If sewing, knitting, crocheting, or expertise in any craft skill is your thing, it can really help someone who needs the warmth or the function of the item as well as the assurance that someone cares. Contact Barb Greway at 724.444.3070. She and her co-chair, Lou Ramser, will welcome you.



(and other places too)