

# 4-H'ers Make Quilts For At-Risk Babies



York County 4-H seamstress Angle Whitcraft concentrates on stitching crayoned fabric squares with bright cotton strips for donation to HIV-positive and drug/alcohol-syndrome babies.

**JOYCE BUPP**  
York Co. Correspondent

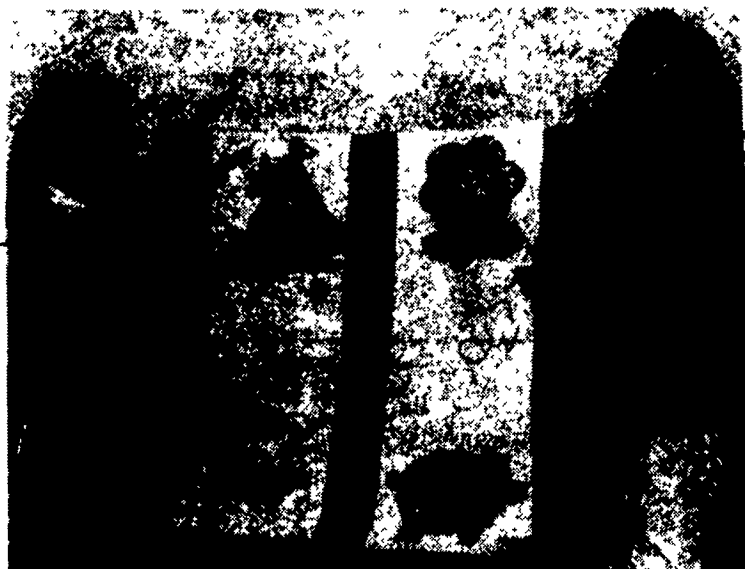
YORK (York Co.) — Sewing project members of the York County 4-H have been busy practicing their ABC's.

They also did a little coloring before the project was sewn up.

Participants in the recent county fashion revue each took a little time off during the day's competition and judging to design a colorful picture on a cotton square. Rainbows, flowers, teddy bears and a variety of other designs were further personalized with each artist's signature, and the fabric-crayon color set with hot irons.

Then, as part of the county's 4-H Fair activities, several of the 4-H seamstresses joined adult volunteers on July 25 to stitch the fabric pictures into baby quilts.

The finished, colorful small



Rachael Price, left, and Cindy Dehoff, left, admire one of the finished crib quilts made by York 4-H members and the York County Sewing Chapter.

quilts are for the At-risk Baby Crib (ABC) Quilt Project, a nationwide effort of volunteer

seamstresses helping HIV-positive babies and babies born with drug and/or alcohol-related problems.

"These quilts will be donated to hospitals, drug counseling centers, foster home services," explains Ronnie Beaman, ABC project chairman for the York County Sewing Chapter. "Every year the chapter tries to do something with the 4-H members; this year we're doing crib quilts."

Sewing chapter and 4-H member volunteers gathered in Horticulture Hall at the York Fairgrounds, portable sewing machines in hand, to join the squares with bright cotton strips and borders. Using six squares per quilt, including squares commemorating York County crayoned by a chapter volunteer, the joint effort produced eight lightweight coverlets for use as needed by local agencies.

According to Beaman, some 55,000 infant quilts have been made and donated nationwide in the four years that the ABC Quilt Program has been in existence. The project with the 4-H members marked the first time that the York Sewing Chapter has participated in the national effort. Quilts are distributed locally, and any excess ones shared with surrounding counties as needed.

Development of the ABC Quilt Program, Beaman added, is detailed in the book "Kids Making Quilts For Kids." Chapter members plan to display one of the quilts during an upcoming promotion for the book at Dalton's Bookstore in the York Galleria Mall.

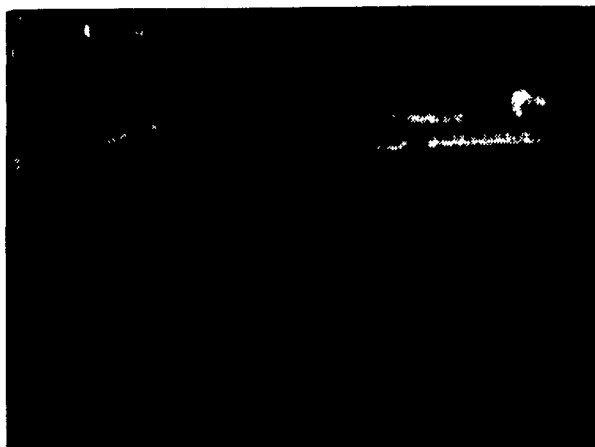
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