

Students, seniors team up on blankets

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

BACK MOUNTAIN - Students from the Salt and Light Ministry at College Misericordia have teamed up with senior citizens to make blankets for Hospice St. John patients and clients of the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen.

Residents and friends of The Meadows Apartments and Wesley Village made dozens of colorful knitted and crocheted afghan squares, which 17 young women from the college stitched together into snugly, warm blankets.

"These aren't made to fit a single or double bed," said co-coordinator Cassandra Mitchell, who organized the project with Nicole Curyk. "They're the perfect size to wrap around yourself to keep warm."

As the students enthusiastically hand-stitched their blankets together, many commented on how colorful and pretty the patterns were, Mitchell said.

"It was remarkable how quickly and well everyone worked," she said. "Instead of taking the squares back to their dorms, they stayed and made friends while they sewed. It was like an old-fashioned quilting bee."

She expects to have 20 blankets ready to donate around Thanksgiving time.

This is the second year the college has done this project, Mitchell said. Although they originally planned to donate the blankets to area AIDS patients, she and Curyk decided to include clients of the soup kitchen and Hospice St. John.

"We got the idea from a story late last summer in a Sunday newspaper about a boy from Hazleton who has AIDS and



PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOUEY/COLLEGE MISERICORDIA

Gretchen Hoffman, co-coordinator Nicole Curyk, Father Michael Bryant and co-coordinator Cassandra Mitchell stitched together blankets from knitted and crocheted blocks made by senior citizens for Hospice St. John patients and clients of the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. The project was coordinated by College Misericordia's Salt and Light Ministry, a division of the campus ministry.

hemophilia," she said.

A Back Mountain woman who wishes to remain anonymous helped enlist the aid of nearly 40 area senior citizens who could knit or crochet blanket squares for the students to sew together.

"I want the focus to remain on the students," she said. "It's unique for them to team up on a project with senior citizens, who are only too glad to help someone in need."

The people who make the squares are very creative and adapt the size to the need, from baby blankets on up, she added.

Mrs. Marion Stookey of The High Meadows Apartments knitted several bags of the squares. She also crochets, but decided to knit them using a plain stitch because she's done more knitting.

"I hadn't knitted in a long time," she said. "Working on and off, I can make a 14-inch square in about 24 hours."

Arthritis in her hands hasn't stopped her.

"I'll do it as long as they want them and my hands will stand it," she said.

Dallas resident Mrs. Louise Lamaroux, who volunteers at The

"I'll do it as long as they want them and my hands will stand it."

Mrs. Marion Stookey
Knitted blanket squares

Meadows Nursing Center, also donated many squares to the project.

The Salt and Light Ministry, named for a statement by Christ that "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world," was formed to raise awareness of controversial social peace and justice issues.

In addition to making the blankets, it also plans to collect Teddy bears for children with AIDS for the Christmas season and will work next semester with other campus ministry groups on a local version of the Clothesline Project, a display of T-shirts made by abused women as part of their healing therapy.

Curyk and Mitchell are also on the Campus Ministry board. "When I was asked to be co-coordinator for Salt and Light this year, I was very happy," Mitchell

said. "To know I'm doing something to help someone in the area makes me feel really good."

Both young women are seniors, Mitchell majoring in elementary education and minoring in child welfare and Curyk majoring in social work.

They also led children's story hours last year at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, helped build a house for Habitat for Humanity, participated in the college's hunger and homeless awareness week, raised money for a homeless shelter and have participated in the college's spring break service projects. Nicole also went to Guyana to work with a service project last summer.

"The great part is meeting the families," Mitchell said.

Making blankets for AIDS patients is an offshoot of the AIDS Quilt, a traveling living memorial to AIDS patients, with squares made by families and friends. It grew and spread across the country by word of mouth, eventually including the needs of homeless people and clients of women's shelters.

Dallas, Lake-Lehman bands in championships

By MICHAEL TWICHELL
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The Dallas and Lake-Lehman high school bands, after stellar performances at Sunday's Tournament of Bands Chapter 7 Championships, advanced to the Atlantic Coast Championships, to be held Saturday and Sunday November 11-12 at Lackawanna County Stadium.

Dallas, under the direction of Todd L. Hunter, finished second in Group I competition, with an overall score of 87.05, pulling ahead of group rivals Nanticoke and Lackawanna Trail, whom they have been finishing behind recently. "I was very pleasantly surprised, and very happy for our students," said Hunter.

Lake-Lehman band director

Ed Richards reported that his students took first place in Group II, with an overall score of 95. They also won Best Percussion, Best Color-Guard, and Best Marching in Group II. They are playing for their ninth first-place finish in Atlantic Coasts, against heavy competition, including Pittston Area and New Jersey's Governor Livingston. "It's going to be a tough battle," said Richards.

Atlantic Coast Championships is a two-day event, involving 25 bands from several states in each group. Group I, in which Dallas will compete, begins at 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Group II, featuring Lake-Lehman, starts at 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 at the gate.



Dallas Kiwanis elects officers

Newly elected officers of the Dallas Lions Club were recently installed by Paul McCue at a meeting held at the Victoria Inn, attended by Lions, spouses and friends. Officers for the 1995-96 year are: Bruce Pitts, president; David Spring, D.D.S., vice president; Jack Williams, secretary; Dave Keating, treasurer; John Frantz, Tail Twister and Art Menichillo, Lion Tamer. President Gary Hozempa handed the gavel to President Bruce Pittst at the installation.

Budget

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planned for 1995 and \$1,000 for 1996 to the volunteer ambulance and fire departments.

Residents also wanted to know the status of Zoning Officer John Krupa's investigation into the American Asphalt mining operations. Krupa said he is still in the process of continuing the investigation. The supervisors recommended that the zoning officer and township engineer inspect the area to determine if American Asphalt is committing any mining

district violations.

In other business, the supervisors voted to hire Hall & Mihalics and Co. to audit the recreation area project. The audit will cost between \$850 and \$1,000 according to Secretary Henry Zbiek.

In personnel matters, the supervisors approved hiring Barry Stubeda as a part-time police officer at a rate of \$6 per hour. Mary Reddy was also hired to fill a vacated sewer authority post.

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