

VILLAGE CONNECTOR Community News

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Light House Shelter Receives over 50 Hand-Made Quilts

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Last Fall, Leanne Tirpak, a Light House shelter volunteer, had a dream and this past weekend her dream came true. It was her dream to collect hand-made quilts for all the beds in the Light House shelter's new location opening later this year.

Ladies from as far away as New Jersey came to deliver their hand-made quilts to Ms. Tirpak's home in Annapolis during an open house in April. The purpose of the open house was to not only drop-off the hand-made quilts but also to view the quilts and personally meet and thank the many wonderful people who have participated in the project.

With other volunteer quilters of all ages from churches, schools, individuals, Ms. Tirpak lead a quilt-making program to get local residents and companies involved in hand-making blankets for the residents of the Light House shelter. She knew in her heart that the shelter could do more than just provide a twin-sized mattress, some sheets and a pillow for Light House clients.

Also involved was committee member Cathy Astrom, an extremely talented quilter, who formed a mentor group for interested people who had never quilted but had a great desire to help out. She has had them meeting at her home on a weekly basis and they also delivered some beautiful quilts. And the project received tremendous support from the Annapolis Quilt Guild with the leadership of Ilene Croom, who brought 16 quilts to the open house that she will be borrowing back for their annual quilt show at Annapolis High School in early June



"it was a way to turn the standard-issued shelter bed into something much more homey" said Ms. Tirpak. "with the opening of the new shelter later this year, we knew there would be a real need to make the beds more comfortable for the residents. Our goal is 70 quilts."



Each quilter was asked to fill out a “My Quilt Story” form which would also include a photo of them and their quilt. These histories will be kept in an on-going album to preserve the history of the Light House shelter quilts.

The new shelter is scheduled to open in the fall with over 70 beds. The **Emergency Shelter** will have beds for 30 men and 15 women for 90 days as long as they remain employed, remain alcohol & drug free, and work toward self-sufficiency. The **Transitional Housing** will have family apartments for 5 adults and 20 children.

Being homeless can destroy people, tear families apart and wreck communities. Of those homeless clients who work with the Light House program, 75% leave empowered with a job or income, a place to live, and the hope of an independent life.

For more information on the quilt project, please contact Leanne Tirpak at lighthousequilts@gmail.com. To learn more about the Light House quilt project, visit the group’s blog lighthousequilts.blogspot.com