

For Immediate Release

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Orchard Cove's Residents Stitch 60 Quilts Together with Hope and Love for Local Children in Need



OC quilters and knitters have an open house on January 12 at 11am to display their work before it is sent to local Boston hospitals, shelters and other locations that serve children. This group photo shows the quilters laying out their next quilt design.

(Canton, Mass.)—One of the leading causes of death among children ages 1-4 years is cancer according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. During the holiday season there are numerous groups who show support and generosity and there are groups who make it their duty to bring love and hope to children who may not otherwise experience it.

The Orchard Cove Quilters and Knitters hand make quilts and knitted goods for children through the organization Project Linus and are then distributed to Boston area hospitals, pediatric centers, shelters and other locations who serve infants and children.

The group's elaborate quilts and hand knit items will be on exhibit Monday January 12, 2009 beginning at 11am. Everyone in the community is welcome to view the quilts and knit items before they are distributed to the children. Show your support for the work these 50 women do for suffering children. Become a part of a child's happiness by donating your washable cotton, such as tablecloths, bed sheets, or clothes. All the quilts are made with donated fabrics.

Annually the Orchard Cove group donates 50 to 60 handmade quilts to Project Linus, a nationally recognized organization for providing blankets to children in need through volunteers across the country. The project is responsible for donating over 2 million blankets to children since their inception in 1995.

Six years ago, Orchard Cove resident Betsy Sterman decided to bring her love of quilting to seriously ill children and formed a group called the Orchard Cove Quilters. With her co-founder, resident Betty Daskin, the duo began recruiting members of the community to join their quilting group. "Most didn't

have a clue as to how to make a quilt,” said Betty Daskin, “but they were all willing to learn. We’ve had women participate in this group who have never participated in any other group.”

The group flourished and soon had grown to include knitters who use their craft to create booties, leggings and chemo caps, for children who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy. Leading the knitters are Orchard Cove residents Clara Friedman and Ruth Lief

“I believe that quilting brings out the best in people” says Betsy Sterman, “Every quilt is a collaborative effort. Every finished quilt has a least five or six people who have worked on it. It is the spirit of cooperation that makes this such a special activity.”

Barbara Selwyn, Director of Marketing for Orchard Cove said, “It’s always heartwarming to know that people in need are being thought of. In addition the Orchard Cove members’ involvement in Project Linus brings tremendous satisfaction to our members and builds a strong sense of community.”

The Orchard Cove Quilters and Knitters dedication has not gone unnoticed. For all their hardwork they received the 2007 Community Service Award from the Massachusetts Aging Services Association (MassAging). The Community Service Award is given for participation in voluntary outreach to the greater community beyond the organization’s own walls or core mission of service to residents and/or clients. The award is presented to a group for participating in efforts that measurably meet a community need.

For information about the Quilt and Knit items exhibit call 781-821-1730

For more information about Orchard Cove visit www.OrchardCove.org

To become involved in your local chapter of Project Linus visit their website at www.ProjectLinus.org

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