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Hickory Daily Record

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Catawba Crafters warm hearts

The Catawba Crafters are warming hearts one blanket at a time. The group recently delivered several dozen homemade wheelchair shawls, lap afghans and palm protectors to Cambridge House, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Hildebran.

Members of the Catawba Crafters visiting Cambridge House included co-founder Jo Boone, Carmilla Isenhour, Quilla Mayo, Cecil Riley, Darlene Wooten, Diane Riley, Betty Price and Carol Mcvean.

"When we took the donation to Cambridge House, we came out of there feeling all warm and fuzzy on the inside because everyone is so appreciative," Boone said.

In the early 1990s, Boone and her mother, Earlene Propst, began crocheting hats and blankets for area homeless people. For almost 30 years, the two made and donated approximately 300 hats each year.

When Boone's mother passed away, she and a friend, Deedee



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cambridge House resident Nina Lingerfelt displays a lap blanket.

Griffis, formed the Catawba Crafters to continue helping those in need. The group meets twice a week and has crocheted and donated more than 5,000 items since its inception.

Cambridge House activities direc-

tor Cheri Hahn said the residents loved receiving handmade lap blankets, wheelchair shawls and palm protectors.

According to Boone, the palm protectors are made out of cotton yarn to absorb sweat and are stuffed with batting. A strap allows the palm protector to be strapped onto the hand to prevent people whose hands are protracting from digging their nails into their palms. They are easy to wash in the sink and dry. The shawls and lap blankets are specially designed to not get caught in the wheels of a wheelchair or walker.

As much as the recipients enjoy receiving the homemade items, Boone said she gets more joy from giving.

"I'm selfish," she said. "I enjoy the feeling we get from doing this, so I do it for me."

To donate supplies to the Catawba Crafters, visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/group/316663435117225/>.