

DUPLIN TIMES

DaySpring of Wallace residents knit hats for newborn infants, cancer patients

Abby Cavanaugh
News Editor

WALLACE — DaySpring of Wallace residents have put their fingers to work in order to help newborn babies and cancer patients around the region.

Maria Iadonisi, DaySpring's activities director, recently appeared on WWAY-TV 3 in Wilmington to talk about the project she introduced to residents of the assisted living facility. The residents began crocheting hats for newborns in June.

"This started so I could show them that at their age they make a difference and one small act of kindness matters," Iadonisi said. "It is one of our community service projects."

Not only do the residents love it, so do area hospitals. They started out making 30

hats and as other organizations found out what they were doing, requests came in from nearby hospitals, New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Vidant Duplin and Sampson Regional.

"We are currently being asked for more than 200 hats a month," Iadonisi said.

Sampson Regional also requested adult hats for cancer patients, and Dayspring residents did not hesitate to honor the request.

"They want to do it all the time and we have them doing different things as well to keep them engaged," said Dayspring of Wallace director Angela Eckerd.

Depending on a resident's skill level, it can take between five and eight hours to crochet a single hat. So far, reaction from the community has been overwhelming.

"It's nice to know that some people have done something for babies they will never meet," Iadonisi said.

The residents personalize each hat with a single button, many of which are heart-shaped.

Currently, about a dozen residents are involved in the hat-making initiative.

Dayspring of Wallace will accept donations of yarn and heart-shaped buttons. They also welcome volunteers who are willing to assist with events and projects involving the facility's residents.

DaySpring of Wallace may be reached at 910-285-9050.

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Submitted photo courtesy of Maria Iadonisi

DaySpring residents (l-r) Lucille Rooks, Velma Jenkins and Linda Porter work on knitting hats for newborns, which are distributed at Vidant Duplin Hospital, New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Sampson Regional.