

North Country Quilters donate to North Country Hospital

By **CHRISTOPHER ROY**
Staff Writer

NEWPORT CITY – Just in time for the cold weather, North Country Hospital patients receiving outpatient care have something warm to cuddle with while receiving treatment, and it's all thanks to members of the North Country Quilters Guild.

Sherry Greenwood, chair of the quilt show that was held at the Newport City Municipal Building over the weekend, said their group makes a lot of donations to nursing homes, the Veterans Home in Bennington, the Department for Children and Families, the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington, and Camp Ta-Kum-Ta in South Hero, which is a special camp for kids with cancer. The group agrees the kids cherish the quilts they receive every year they attend the camp. Valerie Rittershausen, president for the North Country Quilters Guild, noted they also mean it's another year the kids overcame cancer.

Noreen Hinton, vice-president of the guild, added that they donated four quilts Saturday. Two will go to the hospital's sleep center, one will be raffled off during a silent auction at the hospital's Moonlight Ball next year, and the fourth will probably go to the dialysis center at the hospital.

Hinton explained that Greenwood came up with the pattern and fabric scraps for the "community quilt." Greenwood said members came to her home to make the quilts, and others worked on their section at home. The members are not quite sure how many people were involved with sewing the sections that were eventually all put together. They believe

that the quilts were a good use of their scrap pieces of fabric.

"Many people don't understand how much goes into every one of these quilts," Rittershausen said of the cost, time, and effort. "Just the top alone has five yards of fabric. Then you have the matting and backing. There are also hours of time and love to cut the squares, sew the pieces together, and quilt them. A lot of love goes into a quilt, and us quilters love to create them to give them away."

Wendy Franklin, Director of Development and Community Relations at North Country Hospital, called the donation wonderful. She recalled that it was interesting to hear about the other organizations that receive quilts and their impact.

"Kids at Camp Ta-Kum-Ta cherish the quilts they receive," she said. "The hospital has various uses for quilts."

Kay Courson from Country Thyme Vermont and guild member who donated some of the material for the quilts, said their effort supports the community.

"Quilters are very generous people, and if we can support them in any way, which in turn helps the community, is what it's all about," she said. "It's also social. You can get together and work on a project. Any quilting project is therapeutic. You're dealing with the fabric, and you're touching the fabric. When you sit down at the sewing machine, the rest of the world goes away."

The North Country Quilters encourage new members, and if you are interested, you contact them through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/northcountryquilters> for more information.