



Christ Lutheran Church, Hellertown member Anna Mae Gutshall has been helping American soldiers by creating adaptive clothing for injured servicemen and servicewomen to wear.

Photo courtesy of Anna Mae Gutshall

A Comfort to Sew Many Soldiers

By Kara Getsko
Of The Valley Voice

Anna Mae Gutshall has always loved to sew. Thus, when her son informed her of a feature he saw on ABC News honoring an organization devoted to providing clothing for wounded troops, she found it fitting to put her needle and thread to work for a good cause.

According to Gutshall, a Quakertown resident, Sew Much Comfort is the only non-profit organization filling the adaptive need of the wounded troops by making and altering customized clothing. This clothing can accommodate their medical devices, provide independence and minimize the appearance of their medical condition.

"Doing this makes me feel worthwhile," Gutshall said. "It gives me a great feeling to put my talents to good use."

When Gutshall first learned of the organization, she contacted its warehouse and distribution facility in Ohio for a starter packet and immediately turned to her fellow Christ Lutheran Church of Hellertown members for support.

"I held a presentation during church to explain what I was doing, and the church set up a fund to reimburse me for supplies," she said. "People have been generous."

Gutshall has now been sewing for Sew Much Comfort for a year and a half. The organization, which was founded in 2005, uses donations for their operation, as they ship to over 100 hospitals and field hospitals all over the world.

"Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown members, family and friends have kept me supplied with material and postage money," Gutshall said. "The CLC quilters have sent many lap robes and small bed quilts."

Gutshall keeps abreast of what clothing is needed by keeping in contact with the organization's regional manager and reading the newsletter. While Sew Much Comfort sends her basic supplies such as Velcro, snaps and elastic, Gutshall said she greatly appreciates monetary donations and gift cards to stores such as Jo-ann's Fabric and Craft Store and

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Kohl's Department Store.

"I have been doing the shopping because I know what items are needed and can be altered to fit the needs of the wounded service men and women," she said.

Gutshall explained the organization is especially meaningful to her because her late husband, Jack, was a Marine, and both his and her brothers served in World War II.

"Because of my personal ties

to the troops, I am sympathetic to their plights," she said.

Gutshall said the best way people can help locally is by sending their monetary donations to Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown in care of her name, and she will in turn send back a receipt for tax purposes. Donations in excess of \$50 are forwarded to Sew Much Comfort.

While she loves to contribute to this good cause, Gutshall said she wishes the troops did not become wounded in the first place.

"Hopefully there will be less of a need for these clothing items for our warriors in the future," she said.

For more information on Sew Much Comfort, visit www.sewmuchcomfort.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAUCON VALLEY COMPOST CENTER

2011 Springtown Hill Road, Lower Saucon Township

The public is advised that the Saucon Valley Compost Center will be closed on Friday, Nov. 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

It will be open for one day on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and then will be closed for the remainder of 2008.

The Compost Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on all five Saturdays in January 2009, accepting both yard waste and Christmas trees. Note that all dates listed are subject to change based on weather.

The Borough of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township extend our thanks to everyone that has made our second year of operation an outstanding success. Please look for further announcements in the spring as we reopen the Compost Center for our third year of service.

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