

Niceville seamstress uses skills to aid injured military members

From <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/local/niceville-seamstress-uses-skills-to-aid-injured-military-members-1.163298>



Sally Dryden smiles while removing the seam from a piece of clothing recently at Niceville United Methodist Church, where she leads a group of women in making clothing useable for injured service members. The name of the group is Sew Much Comfort. *NICK TOMCEK / Daily News*

By [KARI C. BARLOW / Daily News](#) *Published: Monday, June 24, 2013 at 18:36 PM.*

Sally Dryden loves ripping up a good pair of athletic shorts or pajama pants.

For the past six years, the Niceville woman has headed a local chapter of Sew Much Comfort, a national organization that specializes in creating adaptive clothing for severely injured military members across the country.

“I feel very strongly about these young people who go to war to defend us,” said Dryden, whose husband is a retired Air Force jet pilot. “We’re sorry that they’ve been hurt, but they’re amazing. They have such amazing attitudes of recovery.”

The group meets monthly to sew garments at Niceville United Methodist Church and also completes outfits on their own. Under Dryden’s guidance, they have become proficient at opening up the legs of pants, shorts and boxers to accommodate those with casts, braces and prosthetics.

They ship about three dozen pieces to the group’s Colorado headquarters each month.

“(Sally) is the glue that holds everything together,” said Jolene Hamilton, a group member who nominated Dryden to be recognized. “She gets the supplies and buys the shorts. She emails everyone. ... She’s amazing.”

Dryden estimates she has sewn almost 1,000 garments for injured service members.

“They say that wearing real clothes after wearing a backward hospital gown for so long helps them so much,” she said. “We hear that all the time from wives and mothers and girlfriends. We’re told that we make a difference.”