

## WILDERNESS TRAIL AREA PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

It is my honor to present to you the 2017 President's report for the Wilderness Trail Area which is comprised of counties: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitley. I am especially proud of the universal giving spirit across the Area. Homemakers across the Area have given their time, their money and themselves to make a better place in which to live.

The Ovarian Cancer Research Fund received 100% support from our counties. The counties also provided 4-H scholarship funds and academic scholarships to worthy students. A concerted effort was made to identify and capture volunteer service hours completely and uniformly across the Area. Many craft classes were offered to try to continue to keep the skill alive and engender new membership. I have highlighted several activities for each county below to give you a flavor of the skills and knowledge of our Area.

Bell: Donated food and other items to the Homeless Shelter, local churches, local hospital nursing home unit and a local school. Collected pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House and hosted a Quilt Show for the Mountain Laurel Festival..

Clay: Hosted a Photography Show donating half the profits to the Ovarian Cancer Fund. Donated turbans to Clay County Cancer Coalition and London Doctor's Office. Made and presented a quilt to the local Veterans organization.

Harlan County: Made and donated Fidget Quilts to Alzheimer's patients. Collected clothing, school supplies, snacks, food and water for several distribution groups in the region. Made and donated quilts to the county baby shower, local veterans and the nursing home, sponsored book give aways to children and adults,.

Jackson: Supported Appalachian Days at local schools, providing demonstrations on quilting, embroidery, canning, drying, lye soap and

butter making. Provided registration services for the Jackson County Fair and the Grand Opening of the Farmer's Market.

Knox: "Broke into jail" and delivered personal products and clothing to women detainees. Participated in Operation Christmas Child, collected and delivered cans of soup to the local homeless shelter, made personal backpacks for foster children, sewed lap quilts, large bibs and walker bags for hospice patients and sewed weighted quilts for autistic children. .

Laurel: Provided 380 "blankets" and over 90 pillow cases to 5 organizations that work directly with disadvantaged children, held a March Madness themed chicken and dumplings fundraiser for the Emma Lou Cissell Scholarship Fund, held week long quilt camps for adults and children. Participated in Operation Christmas Child, Quilter's Day Out and the Million Pillow Case Challenge.

Rockcastle: Donated funds the Pat Bradley Scholarship Fund at ECU. Pat had been a member of both quilt clubs. Actively supported the elementary school backpack clubs, worked concession at the Farm Machinery Show to support the Quail Community Park and the Community building at the Park..

Whitley: Made and donated teddy bears and tote bags for police to give to kids as they are taken from their homes, held a White Elephant sale with proceeds going to the family resource center, made scarves for the homeless and donated toiletries to the Springs of Life Mission

So, this is a sampling of the activities in the Wilderness Trail Area in 2017. We are committed to our communities and to making them better for everyone.