

The Village Quilters

Special project volunteers are very often the unsung heroes of the volunteer world. They work in the background often unseen spreading joy with items they provide for the patients and families. The Lenoir City office is blessed to have wonderful special project volunteers. One of the groups that counts as one special project volunteer, but has many members, is located in Tellico Village Tennessee.

The members come together to make quilts for our hospice patients as well as for other groups including ill children. These quilts are given to our patients and truly make a difference in the lives of the patients and families.

The volunteer coordinator has been blessed to witness a non-communicative patient begin to communicate when presented with a quilt. Often this is either the last or one of the last gifts the patient receives in their lifetime. Patients have said they want the quilt on or in their casket. For facility patients, the quilts provide a bright splash of color in an otherwise sterile looking room. It is also a keepsake item for the families. Many, many, smiles from terminally ill patients have been witnessed when a patient receives a quilt.

The quilts are not just four sides sewn together. They have intricate stitching and designs and are larger than a lap quilt. One can see that loving care is put into every stitch.

Volunteer hours are not counted until a quilt is given to a patient. The quilters have been a Caris special project volunteer since 2013 and have provided 2,172.50 special project hours. Approximately, 218 quilts have been given to Caris patients and families. Many, many thanks from the entire Caris Healthcare Team and especially from the Lenoir City team for truly being a part of our patient care promise. Congratulations to the *The Village Quilters* for being chosen as Volunteer of the Year.