



FOR IMMEDIATE
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**CONNECTIONS RECOGNIZES LOCAL QUILTERS
FOR DEDICATION TO POOR AND HOMELESS OF DELAWARE**
Area business donates material, quilters donate time, making quilts for those in need

Wilmington, DE – This chilly winter we are all bundling up more and adding an additional blanket to the bed at night. But for the individuals served by Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. (Connections), there are no extra blankets tucked away in a closet and no financial resources to buy a blanket. Fortunately, this is where the Quilter’s Hive and its volunteer quilters enter the scene. Last summer, the Quilter’s Hive chose Connections to receive inspired and whimsical quilts hand-crafted by volunteers, to be passed on to the poor and homeless individuals we serve in the community. Not only do these quilts keep the individuals we serve warm, they also brighten their day and make them feel special and valued. In a world in which they often feel rejected and abandoned by those around them, to receive a hand-made quilt, constructed with love and care, is a powerful thing.



Connections client, Jackie Johnson, was a recipient of one of the quilts made by the volunteer quilters.

To thank Quilter’s Hive and the volunteer quilters for their generosity, Connections honored them today with a special luncheon. Every year, Quilter’s Hive nominates a different nonprofit organization to receive its beautiful hand-made quilts. Previous years’ recipients have included the Ronald McDonald House and the Wilmington VA Medical Center. Recipient organizations are always local. Quilter’s Hive donates and pre-cuts the fabric and supplies the batting and the back of the quilt. Volunteers come in and bring their machines with them and construct quilts on-site, allowing them to visit and chat with one another as they work. There are approximately 40 volunteers who donate their time making quilts. Through this generosity, Connections has supplied colorful quilts to more than 32 poor and homeless men, women, and children since

October 2009 in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties.

“We are touched and moved that the Quilter’s Hive chose Connections and the individuals we serve to receive these beautiful quilts,” says Cathy McKay, President and CEO of Connections. “Many of the individuals we serve feel marginalized by the world around them and feel isolated and lost. To receive one of these bright, cheerful, and happy quilts, that someone has taken time to make by hand, can really make life look a whole lot brighter,” she adds.

Connections has been providing community-based housing and support services to poor and homeless individuals and families in the state of Delaware since 1985. Through our housing and support services, we will serve more than 9,000 people in 2010 at more than 40 locations throughout Delaware, including New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties. Connections is the largest provider of housing for persons with incomes at or below 30% of area median and special needs in Delaware, owning and operating more than 500 units, and we will provide more than 180,000 nights of safe, affordable housing this year.

Quilter’s Hive is located in Newark, Delaware, at 1800 Capital Trail Road. Owned by Joan Hobbs and Linda Ward, it is Delaware’s largest quilt shop and carries everything a quilter needs and offers classes for all skill levels of quilting.



Joan Hobbs, owner of Quilters Hive, introduces Jackie Johnson to the volunteer quilters during the luncheon.

Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been providing community-based housing and support services to poor and homeless individuals and families in the state of Delaware since 1985. The mission of Connections is to improve the lives of vulnerable and disenfranchised Delaware residents by providing a comprehensive array of affordable and accessible primary medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, employment, and housing opportunities to help them become accepted and productive members of their communities. In 2010, Connections will serve more than 9,000 unduplicated individuals in 40 locations throughout Delaware, including New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, and will provide more than 180,000 nights of safe, affordable housing.