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Three Pillars Residents Turn Plastic Shopping Bags into Mats for Those in Need

Dousman, Wis. January 21, 2019 — Three Pillars Senior Living Communities resident Lois Bergmann had been knitting for years as a hobby and never considered how much her skill would benefit the community. After reading an article in early 2018 about how to make mats for people in need out of plastic bags, Lois became interested and learned everything she could about how to create them herself.

Lois called on her friend and fellow resident, Judi Wright, to get the project kicked off at Three Pillars, and together, the two created something incredibly special.

It takes approximately 48 hours and 700 plastic bags to complete one mat. The completed mats are 2 ½ feet wide and 6 feet long, with two carrying straps and one more strap to keep it rolled up. In total, they weigh less than five pounds each.

Three Pillars senior living consultant, Lauri Eckmann, mentioned this project to her daughter, Rachel Eckmann, who wanted to help Lois as well. Rachel, a student at UW-Platteville, brought this project to her school and put up flyers and buckets around campus to collect plastic bags. Another employee, executive chef David Simms, worked with Oconomowoc area businesses like Pick 'n Save to collect donations of unused bags.

Lois is overjoyed at the response, “The community made these, not just myself or Judi. Without everybody helping us, we wouldn’t be able to do it. We just couldn’t.”

To date, more than 95 mats have been distributed to St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Milwaukee for guests in need through the Capuchin Community Services program.



Three Pillars residents Judi Wright (left) and Lois Bergmann (right) couldn’t be happier to crochet plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats for people in need.

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Three Pillars Senior Living Communities is a not-for-profit organization located in Dousman, WI and is sponsored by the Masonic Fraternity. Three Pillars Senior Living Communities takes pride in meeting the social, physical, and spiritual needs of older adults by providing high quality senior housing and services.

For more information about this story or Three Pillars Senior Living Communities please contact Josh Van Den Berg, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer at 262.965.7391 or jvandenber@threepillars.org

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