

Fort Harrod Area Homemakers' Report

Anderson County – The Anderson County homemakers had another busy year in the community. Once again we held Santa's Workshop with over 300 children shopping in a safe environment and able to surprise their family members with handmade gifts made by the homemakers. We raised \$885.00, of which some of this money will go towards our annual homemaker scholarship given to a high school senior majoring in family and consumer sciences or agriculture, and the rest of the money will go towards community service projects. This year the homemakers raised \$102.68 for Pennies for Friendship. The homemakers decided that they wanted their money to go specifically for the Kentucky Academy of Ghana to help with purchasing electricity or desks for the children. The homemakers also completed various projects throughout the year. One of these projects included making baby blankets for the Galilean's Children Home, (a home that houses 800 infants and children while their mothers are in prison). Each month meals are prepared and served to the Ruritan Club in Lawrenceburg, who performs various community projects throughout the year. Homemakers also adopted families from the community during the holiday season. Numerous scholarships are donated for children to attend 4-H Camp during the summer months.

Boyle County – Several of our clubs in Boyle are now sewing various projects for our local hospitals. We make pocketed bags that fit on the backs of wheelchairs and on the fronts of walkers. We also buy flannel and finish the edges for a project called "Linus" blankets, also for the hospital. These blankets go home with babies and pediatric patients. We still knit the little crib caps for newborns.

One of our clubs is involved in the barn quilt project here in Boyle County. They have completed—from start to finish—at least a dozen. They have several more on order and will begin on them again in the spring. One club has adopted the local cemetery and continues with at least one clean up day each year just before Memorial Day. Another club runs a closet in a local church. They also help in the same location to feed the needy.

Franklin County – The Franklin County Homemakers started the 2008-2009 Homemaker year by hosting an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort. The Library's Bookmobile service was initiated by the Homemakers in 1950. A reception for the public was held at the Extension Office during Homemaker Week in October. The County Educational Chairs provided posters and miscellaneous material to help educate the public about Homemakers. We again held our annual Children's Holiday Store in December for children ages 4-12. Mrs. Claus was available to have her picture taken with the children. Franklin County participates in the Ovarian Cancer Research Project; collects drink tabs for the Indian Summer Camp, which is held for children with cancer; awards a scholarship at the annual meeting to a graduating senior from a local high school and collects Pennies for Friendship. We look forward to our annual meeting in May. A speaker from the University of Kentucky will be at our meeting to inform us about the University Academy in Ghana, West Africa. We continue to have special lessons for our Homemakers and the public.

Jessamine County – Jessamine County Homemakers have been very busy with many activities over the past year. Some of the county activities include our School Supply Drive with the School Resource Centers. We also have a new cookbook out, moved into a new office, adopted a room at the Kentucky Leadership Center and continue to support God's Pantry each month. We are supporting the Kentucky Academy in Ghana as well as becoming affiliated with the Kentucky Rain Garden Alliance. All of our clubs stay very involved in many local projects. A number of families were adopted for Christmas and back to school needs. Several members teach knitting at the library for "Warm Up America", bunnies were made for patients at UK Children's Hospital, as well as making lap robes and shawls for patients in nursing homes and the Hospice patients. Some have been altering age appropriate clothes for a small special needs child. Several members were on the county committee for the Kentucky Quilt Trail. The clubs have also given over \$1,000 for 4-H

camp scholarships. We also turned in our volunteer hours a record number reported this year of 3,623 hours. We have really emphasized keeping good records of our volunteer work this past year.

Lincoln County – The Lincoln County Extension Homemakers Association continues to be very strong and actively involved in the club, county, area, and state levels. We have a men’s special interest club and a Pen & Ink special interest club. Members organized, planned, conducted, and evaluated the International Night Event, Tasting Party, Cultural Arts Events, Home Tours, Baskets, Fun Night Event, County Annual Meeting, and state meeting responsibilities. They also helped with many community service projects, including lap robes for nursing home patients, Habitat for Humanity, Ovarian Cancer Research Project, Scholarship for a graduating senior, and pop can tab collection with funds going to Indian Summer Camp. Members reported over 7,581 volunteer service hours with a value of \$147,915 given to the community.

Mercer County – Although we are small, we are mighty. Our six clubs meet monthly and we started a new tradition in the spring of 2008 by having a tea at our new Extension Office building. We had displays of fiber arts, quilting, and ribbon winners from the County Fair, a demonstration of tatting, our business meeting, and a delicious tea. We were happy to award a scholarship that day.

We have helped in every step of the Floral Hall at our local County Fair, sponsored classes for each month’s lesson, gave officer training to our clubs, attended district and state meetings, and encouraged clubs to recruit more members.

Our special interest groups for quilting and fiber arts are thriving, and we wish that we could incorporate them into Homemakers. Short-term lessons and activities seem to interest women who aren’t able to attend monthly meetings.

Woodford County – We are constantly making our presence in Woodford County known with projects like our “Backpack Project.” Our program always starts before our homemaker year begins, but this fact does not stop our members from pitching in during July and August to collect, sort and distribute to the Woodford County Family Resource Centers school supplies for 300+ less fortunate children in Woodford County. Our project has been valued at \$20,000. We have involved the entire community (commercial and private) in providing these supplies.

Following the Backpack Project, we gear up for our Secret Santa Craft Sale where homemade crafts are sold the first Saturday of December to children between 4-12 years of age. No item is priced higher than \$3.00 with the majority being between \$0.25 and \$2.00. The gifts are wrapped with labels already attached ready for the children to take home and put under their tree. This year we had 275 children shop at Secret Santa. We are aided by school and church youth to help the children shop in secret. The funds from this project go to each club represented to use in the community as they see fit.

Woodford County also offers scholarship dollars to graduating Woodford County seniors attending a university with a Family and Consumer Sciences or related major. Scholarship dollars depends upon available funds, but we have given as much as \$5,000 in one year. This year we are planning fundraisers for this project.

During the entire year the Woodford County Homemakers support the Food Pantry, who provides supplemental foods to over 3,000 county residents. There are 12 clubs in Woodford County and we rotate monthly through the 12 clubs.