



# COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road  
PO Box 188  
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885  
252-926-4400  
252-926-3701 Fax

## Hyde County, NC News Release

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CONTACT: Sarah Johnson, Public Information Officer  
252-542-0842, sarah.johnson@hydecountync.gov

### Hyde County Senior Center Gives The Gift Of Warmth This Holiday Season

The Mattamuskeet Senior Center is a hive of creativity. Glue guns, fabric, and paint abound especially this time of year as the Center prepares for its Annual Craft Fair. Over the past several months a small group of women have been crocheting hats, not with the intention to sell but with a mission of warming the hearts and heads of chemoradiation patients in Greenville.



Left to right: Pinkie Mann, Rosemary Williams, Tammy Blake, Barbara O'Neal. Photo credit: Sarah Johnson

It all started with Gloria Spencer, Hyde County's Department of Social Services Director.

Last year Mrs. Spencer underwent seven weeks of chemoradiation at Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center and Eastern Radiology. One chilly evening she walked out of the medical center to the sight of an elderly patient clearly cold as she waited for the bus. Gloria immediately handed the woman her own hat and scarf.

After speaking with Gloria about the experience, Hyde County's Human Resources Director Tammy Blake, offered to crochet a few hats. Then they got the Senior Center involved and the project really took off.

With yarn donated by the Center and some coaching from Mrs. Blake, the women were soon crocheting hats rapidly with no need for patterns. “I’ll turn on the TV and just stitch and stitch”, said Barbara O’Neal. Looking down at their handiwork, the women picked up the hats and remembered each creation like they had individual personalities.

On Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Spencer delivered the 64 handmade hats to Leo Jenkins and Eastern Radiology where they will be provided to patients in need. “We don’t realize how something so small can make such a big difference”, she remarked looking at the beautiful gifts.

The crafty women to applaud for the crocheted hats include Rosemary Williams of Swan Quarter, Barbara O’Neal of Engelhard, Pinkie Mann of Engelhard, and Tammy Blake of Belhaven, with donations by Lou Ann Gaskins of Washington.



Crocheted hats made by Mattamuskeet Senior Center. Photo credit: Sarah Johnson

Mattamuskeet Senior Center is located at 160 Juniper Bay Rd, Swan Quarter, NC 27885. To make donations or learn more about services provided, please contact Darlene Berry by phone at (252) 926-1956 or email [dberry@hydecourtnc.gov](mailto:dberry@hydecourtnc.gov).

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