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Sewing Circles Scrap Together Face Masks

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Juanita Campbell is part of a group of ladies sewing masks for area workers on the front lines of fighting COVID-19. The ladies are in their second week of meeting every day to sew at New Life Christian Church & World Outreach, 744 S. CR 325E, Warsaw. Photo by Amanda Bridgman, Times-Union.

A group of 10 or so ladies have been getting together everyday to sew masks for local healthcare workers.

Kathy Snell founded Liberty Sewing Circle in 2015, whose goal of the group is to make quilts for veterans. The members of the sewing circle usually sewed at the senior center in Warsaw, but coronavirus restrictions closed the center's doors.

"I think this is great," Snell said, standing among tables full of sewing machines and fabric scraps – and ladies practicing social distancing – in the dining room at New Life Christian Church & World Outreach. "We had to take time out from making quilts for the veterans, and with our time and our talent, what better way to help serve our community."

The ladies started meeting at the church last week and plan to continue meeting "until someone tells us they don't need anymore," Snell said. The ladies are either members of the Liberty Sewing Circle or the North Central Indiana American Sewing Guilds – most of them belong to both.

Marsha Huffman attends New Life Christian & World Outreach church, 744 S. CR 325E, Warsaw, and reached out to Pastor John Lowe after the senior center had to close.

"He usually does our prayers and stuff for our Liberty group, and he's very veteran-oriented and community-oriented, so he goes, 'Sure, absolutely anything you need, just let us know,' so we came in and started sewing last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday," Huffman said.

The idea all started when Huffman's niece, who works in a nursing home in Elkhart, called her up and asked if Huffman would be willing to sew some face masks.

"I said sure, so I started working on them, and then I called some of my friends and we took the first 50 to East Lake (Nursing and Rehabilitation Center) in Elkhart," Huffman said.

She said a friend of hers then said she knows Cardinal Services could use some. In total, the ladies have given 150 face masks for Cardinal Services.

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They have also given 50 masks to Mason Health and Rehabilitation Center, Warsaw; Warsaw Meadows Care Center; and Lake City Place, Warsaw; and 25 to the Warsaw post office.

"We've probably done about 350 that we've already dispersed," Huffman said.

The batch the ladies were making Monday are headed for Grace Village.

When they deliver the masks, the response everywhere has been, "oh, thank you, thank you thank you, God bless you," Huffman said. The group added little notes with the last round of masks with messages of prayer and thanking them.

"We're continuing to pray for each and every one of them in the healthcare field, and they're on the front lines taking care of people, and that's what God has commanded to do is love people," Huffman said.

Snell echoed the same sentiment: "I'm glad that we're doing this project and serving those on the front lines."