

BERRYTOWN

A close-knit group

Seniors, KCD students team to make caps for needy

By Melissa Gagliardi
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The Courier-Journal

Guy Dorsey said his parents raised him to help others, so he has enjoyed working alongside Kentucky Country Day students on a project to serve infants in poor and developing countries.

At 85 years old, he's got a few years on the students involved in "Stitch for a Cause," an effort to knit hats for newborns in places where infants sometimes die from a lack of warmth.

While his hands may not be as fast as the students', he said he has enjoyed learning from them and getting to know them.

"These old fingers are stiff. They work all right for a while then after a while they don't act right," Dorsey said as he wrapped brown yarn around a knitting needle.

Students at Kentucky



Guy Dorsey worked with Nick Medley, 11, center, and Charlie Nuss, 11, on his knitting. Kentucky Country Day students and senior at the Berrytown YMCA are working together to knit hats for infants in poor and developing countries.

By Pam Spaulding,
The Courier-Journal

Country Day have knitted caps for the project for several years, and this year they began partnering with seniors from Berrytown to help them reach their goal of making 500 hats. The hat project — called Knit One,

Save One — is part of a national effort through the Save the Children organization. The hats will be sent to countries such as Afghanistan, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malawi and Nepal.

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Melanie Cox, director of the Berrytown YMCA, said a partnership with Kentucky Country Day to coordinate intergenerational outreach efforts began three years ago. In the past, the seniors have helped students with homework, and students have played bingo with them. This is the first time the two groups have joined forces to help an outside cause.

And it has been an opportunity for two different generations to find common ground. When Dorsey mentioned that he retired from General Electric, fifth-grader Charlie Nuss, 11, exclaimed, "Hey, my mom works for GE!"

Rose Hayden, 67, said she comes to the senior center regularly and has participated in health fairs and exercise programs there. The knitting project has been fun, although it's a skill she has found challenging.

"I think I've got two left thumbs," she said, adding: "It's a good idea to try to teach us old folks something new." Hayden was starting over for the fourth time on one hat, and said the students have been good teachers. "They're definitely patient, and it takes a lot of that with us."

Reagan Bouchillon, 11, has been impressed by the seniors — and not just by their ability to knit. One woman she met has 22 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. "She had arthritis but she did really good," said Reagan, a fifth-grader.

English teacher Lisa Stringfellow sponsored the project. She mailed more than 600 hats from the group and is looking forward to other projects the seniors might help her students accomplish, such as making baby blankets for local hospitals.

"There's a never-ending supply of causes to pick up," she said.

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