



April 2, 2009

## Quilters receive recognition from Child and Family Services Authority

***Athabasca's "Quilting for Humanity" lends a helping hand to families and children in need***



North Central Alberta... Quilts. They are sometimes called comforters and in this instance nothing could be closer to the truth. A group of more than 40 quilters from the Athabasca area were presented with an award in recognition of the positive impact they have made in the region. The award was presented by Dr. David Rideout, CEO of North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Athabasca Agricultural Society Building.

"Each quilt reflects the many hours of labour and care put into helping others who are less fortunate," says Rideout. "Helping others is a virtue that is becoming less common."

For the last four years the people of this organization have been hauling personal sewing machines back and forth from the Agricultural Society Building in the cold months between October and April, working with only donations from the community and fundraising efforts to create beautiful works of art that are shared with the less fortunate in regional communities.

“The dedication of these women, men and even children is commendable. It was an honour to be here to convey thanks on behalf of the North Central Alberta CFSA Board of Directors,” said Claudette Sheremata, CFSA Board Member from the Athabasca region, “This was a wonderful opportunity to thank them for their efforts and to see some of the great work that is being done.”

This group has more than achieved its goals averaging 200 quilts a year for the last four years. Each quilt, as unique as a snowflake, have been donated to groups not only in Athabasca but also Lac La Biche, Slave Lake, Westlock, Wabasca and Smith. Children and Youth Services, Santa’s Anonymous, Good Samaritan Mission, Women’s Shelters, Victim’s Services and Healthy Families organizations from across the region have received a donation from the group to help those in need.

“We were looking for ways to bring the community together to benefit society as a whole,” says Yvonne Doroshenko who has been a leader with *Quilting for Humanity* since its conception in 2005. “We wanted to get seniors involved to bolster their sense of self worth and to benefit those in our community in need.”

The group will be embarking on their fifth year and their new goal is to bring more young people into their folds and share with them the importance of community involvement. With a great idea and a lot of hard work, communities will be seeing the benefits of these quilts for many years to come.

- 30 -

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