

Loaner's Closet helps those in need of medical supplies

By Suzanne Laurent
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Derry Girl Scout Cadette Troop 2432 worked with the Community Caregivers of Greater Derry this summer cleaning and cataloguing various pieces of medical equipment that are now ready for loan to patients and families. The Loaner's Closet is located in the Masonic Temple Hall Building at 58 East Broadway, and supplies are available to the general public.

Troop 2432, under the lead-

ership of Robin Chater, organized the Loaner's Closet while working on their silver medal award. Scouts Chrissie Chater, Shannon Alderfer, Elizabeth Curtin, Jen Andrikidis, Jennifer Boirdelais and Crystal Boirdelais cleaned, catalogued and inventoried all of the equipment and are presently working on a computer program to keep track of the loans.

Community Caregivers Co-directors Martha Anderson and Donna Leitner also acknowledged caregiver volunteer Bill

Wheeler who coordinated with the Marion Gerrish Community Center Thrift Shop to obtain some of the medical supplies and who checks over items donated to the Closet to make sure they are in workable condition.

"It was really a joint community effort to get this up and running," said Anderson. "The Masons provided the space and ServiceLink of Southwestern

Rockingham County helped with the funding."

The Loaner's Closet is still in need of wheelchairs in good usable condition.

"The Closet is open to the community, not just to our clients," stressed Leitner. She explained that sometimes a person may need a wheelchair and a walker, but Medicare will only cover one item. The Loaner's Closet can then supply the other

item, and there is no time limit to the loan.

Walkers, canes, crutches and wheelchairs; as well as ancillary supplies such as bed rails and foot baths are just some of the items on hand. Those in need of an item may call the Caregiver's office at 432-0877 to see if it's available; then come down to the office to fill out and sign a waiver form.