

# Health

## SEWING CONNECTIONS

### Volunteers stitch bags for people who use walkers

By JULIE HUSS  
jhuss@derrynews.com

DERRY — They are stitching up the fabrics of many lives.

Volunteers at Community Caregivers of Greater Derry are spending time sewing some useful products for the organization's client list, mostly those who use a walker.

Special tote bags are being created as part of a project to aid those needing walkers. The bags use Velcro to wrap around the front of a walker

so people can carry items around with them while they walk.

The bags are part of a community effort to help people who use Caregivers' volunteer assistance network and also the many who borrow medical equipment from the Loaner's Closet at the Caregivers' office in the Masonic Lodge on East Broadway.

Three volunteers spent several hours last week stitching up the bags. Much of the material and other supplies have been donated.

Eileen Riley Thatcher,



Cindee Tanuma, executive director of Community Caregivers of Greater Derry, shows off one of the special tote bags being created by volunteers to use on clients' walkers.

Delores Lamson and Connie Toombs are all volunteers and all seasoned seamstresses.

Thatcher has volunteered for Caregivers for many years. She said spending time making the bags gives her a good feeling as she knows she is helping others.

"I did some charity quilting in Florida this winter,"

she said. "Being in a room, working, some cutting, some ironing, I came out of there so happy."

She wants the good feelings to continue.

Recently retired, Thatcher hopes to help those needing the walker bags.

"I believe in service and I love to sew," she said.

Caregivers' executive

director Cindee Tanuma said it's all about making connections in many ways to help each other.

"It's also building community, sharing a common goal," she said.

Tanuma said Caregivers' Loaner's Closet is filled to the brim with medical equipment and supplies anyone can borrow. In 2013, there were



Delores Lamson spends a morning sewing up specialized tote bags to hang on walkers used by Community Caregivers of Greater Derry clients.

about 1,100 items loaned out. Twenty-five percent of those items were walkers, she said.

Now when a walker is loaned out, a colorful hand-stitched bag can go along, too.

The next sewing session is scheduled for July 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Masonic Lodge, lower level. Anyone interested in helping can call Caregivers at 432-0877.