

WILDERNESS TRAIL AREA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2016

It is my honor to present to you the 2016 President's report for the Wilderness Trail Area which is comprised of counties: Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Rockcastle and Whitley. When I was reviewing the county reports to put this together, I was struck by the universal giving spirit across the Area. Homemakers across the Area have given their time, their money and themselves to make a better place in which to live.

The Ovarian Cancer Research Fund received 100% support from our counties. The counties also provided 4-H scholarship funds and academic scholarships to worthy students. A concerted effort was made to identify and capture volunteer service hours completely and uniformly across the Area. Many cultural arts classes were offered to try to continue to keep the skill alive and engender new membership. I have highlighted several activities for each county below to give you a flavor of the skills and knowledge of our Area.

Bell: Donated food and other items to the Homeless Shelter, local churches, local hospital nursing home unit and a local school. Collected pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House and hosted a Quilt Show for the Mountain Laurel Festival.

Clay: Hosted a Photography Show and organized two new specialty clubs, a Baking Club and a Mother and Daughter Club. Hosted a Quilt Show.

Harlan County: Made and donated grooming kits and t-shirts to the VA Hospital, made and donated quilts to the county baby shower, local veterans and the nursing home, sponsored book giveaways to children and adults, collected and donated school supplies, paper products, cleaning supplies, water and food to different organizations.

Jackson: Participated in community yard/bake sale, sewed caddies for nursing home residents, provided registration services for the Jackson County Fair and the Grand Opening of the Farmer's Market.

Knox: Held and All-day Work Camp that produced caps and baby blankets that were donated, conducted the annual 25E Yard Sale fundraiser.

Laurel: Provided 192 "blankets" and 97 pillow cases to 5 organizations that work directly with disadvantaged children, held a quilt show that raised funds for the Emma Lou Cissell Scholarship Fund, held week long quilt camps for adults and children.

Rockcastle: Donated funds to the community Thanksgiving meal, and the Pat Bradley Scholarship Fund at ECU. Pat had been a member of both quilt clubs. Pillow case dresses and Quilts of Valor were made and donated.

Whitley: Made and donated 126 lap throws for elders in nursing homes, make and donate bags for police to give to kids as they are taken from their homes, make and donate food baskets to needy families, provide care giving for elders with no families, such as rides to doctors' appointments, grocery store or just out of the house for a while.

So, this is a sampling of the activities in the Wilderness Trail Area in 2016. We are committed to our communities and to making them better for everyone.