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Headwaters gives handcrafted quilt to Frederick Place

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Reporter/Photographer

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A project idea has become a creative work of art, shared by participants at Headwaters, Inc. with the residents of Frederick Place.

Mary Freudenberg and Valerie LaBelle, Headwaters program assistants, facilitated the project, with some help.

"We were thinking of another activity we could do with our participants, so we came up with quilting. We went down to Sew Smart, and started talking to the ladies down there, asking them for ideas, and how to go about it," said Freudenberg. "They gave us some names of a couple of ladies that would volunteer to help us with it. We went out and bought some stencils. Some participants stenciled, and two of the participants did freehand drawing on the squares."

Meeting once a week, the quilt took two months to make. Headwaters participants John Elinger, Steve Butler, Nicole Gurskey, Carmen Lopez, Lucille Regni, Eric Tomlanavich, and Karleen Hopp helped to create the quilt.

"We met once a week, and when they were doing the artwork, I was working on sewing it together, and then, everybody helped to tie it," said LaBelle.

The full-size quilt features the creative ideas and artwork of the participants on individual blocks, bordered in blue fabric. Varied interests are represented, including sports, trees, flowers, and in the middle, a hodag. On Monday, several of the participants and representatives from Headwaters delivered the quilt to Frederick Place.

Headwaters, Inc. presents a handmade quilt to Frederick Place in Rhinelander. Headwaters participants created the artwork featured on the quilt. From left to right, Frederick Place Executive Director Tammy Modic, Headwaters participant Carmen Lopez, Headwaters program assistants Mary Freudenberg and Valerie LaBelle, and Headwaters participant Steve Butler. (Karla Wotruba/River News)

"It's a lot of different interests, but we tried to meld it together for you. Mary and Val and their group did a great job," said Katherine Garrison, a program supervisor at Headwaters.

"It is really neat how it has so many different themes to it," said Frederick Place Executive Director Tammy Modic. "It's got animals, it's got sports, it's got our Hodag in there."

Participant Carmen Lopez helped to display the quilt with pride.

"I helped too," she said.

Garrison said that Headwaters wanted to give the quilt to a community organization, recognizing the level of support that the community gives to Headwaters.

"We came up with the idea of giving it to Frederick Place, because the community gives back to us on so many different levels, and we wanted to give back," she said. "This was made with love, and wherever it goes here, we hope it takes love with it."

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