

The Thread That Binds

By Patty Kruszewski

At the Ronald McDonald House in Richmond, guests are enjoying cheery pillowcases.

At MCV, premature infants wear gowns sized to fit their tiny forms. At local animal shelters, dogs and cats rest in special pet beds; at nursing homes, residents enjoy personalized, decorative caddies for their walkers.

And soon, area foster children will enjoy the use of unique, colorful duffel bags for toting their clothing and gear. All thanks to members of the Central Virginia Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, and their 21st-century inter-



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Rose Ravia (left) and Judy Sutter display duffel bags.

pretation of an 18th-century sewing bee.

On March 14, a dozen members of the chapter's Fashion Focus Group spent seven hours at Morningside Assisted Living on

Skipwith Road, intent on their goal of finishing 75 duffel bags.

One of the women, Carol McCue, knew of the need for the bags through her work with juvenile services. "With these," says McCue of the totes, "[foster children] have something for their possessions so they don't have to use garbage bags."

"They move from place to place," adds Rose Ravia, "and it's something they can call their own."

The Fashion Focus Group, like other ASG neighborhood groups in Richmond, periodically sets aside a Saturday meeting to sew for charity causes. Among other projects members have sewed for the community are lap throws

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