

ALL SHADES OF PINK DONATES BLANKETS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER



Figure 1: Bobbie Pearson and Mary Lingeback of the Doctors Community Hospital Women's Health Center receive first blanket of many.

On Thursday, February 21, 2008, representatives from **All Shades of Pink (ASOP)** presented the Women's Health Center at Doctors Community Hospital with a comfort blanket to be provided to breast cancer patients. Founder **Denice Whalen-White**, Director of Programs **Phyllis Slade Martin** and volunteer **Carolyn Barnes** met with Women Health Specialists **Mary Lingeback** and **Bobbie Pearson** to introduce them to their Comfort Blanket program. Volunteers of the organization crocheted various colors of pink and white afghan blankets that are to be given freely to breast cancer patients of the hospital shortly after surgery.

These blankets are simply small acts of kindness that **All Shades of Pink** wishes to bestow to women who are battling breast cancer as a sign of encouragement and hope that they are not alone in their battle. The blankets are provided free of charge to the patient as a symbol and reminder of **ASOP's** unity with them during their fight with breast cancer. The blankets are meant to be:

- 🧶 a healing balm in times of pain;
- 🧶 a soothing comfort in times of distress, and
- 🧶 a gentle embrace in times of loneliness.

Each blanket is handmade and fashioned by a volunteer of the organization. Every blanket is as unique as the person who creates it. Beginning in March 2008, **ASOP** will begin delivering to the Health Center on a monthly basis a dozen or more blankets.

Founder Denice Whalen-White believes that after surgery many women, particularly after a mastectomy, may need additional encouragement outside of the family. Providing these beautiful blankets as a sign of their support to the patient may lift their spirits in moments during which they become depressed or feel down from the surgery and follow-up radiation and/or chemotherapy. "We simply want to do what we can to alleviate any stress and aid in their progress to full recovery," stated Ms. Whalen-White.

All Shades of Pink is a Maryland non-profit organization that was founded in September 2007. Its mission is to assist women (and their families) diagnosed with breast cancer with resource referrals, non-medical advice and/or emergency financial assistance during the treatment period. Along with the Comfort Blanket Program, ASOP is establishing an Emergency Assistance Fund to be used as a stop-gap resource to breast cancer families in need of emergency help in payment of a bill for utility services about to be cutoff or suspended. Its first annual P.I.N.K Tea and



Figure 2: (L-R) Founder Denice Whalen-White, Carolyn Barnes, Bobbi Pearson, Mary Lingeback and Phyllis Slade Martin

Silent Auction will be held at the Camelot of Upper Marlboro on April 26, 2008. All proceeds from this event will benefit ASOP's Emergency Assistance Fund.

Phyllis Slade Martin, Director of Programs, says that "there are many breast cancer families in need of kindness and that is what the P.I.N.K stands for "people in need of kindness." To find out more about **All Shades of Pink** and their programs please visit www.allshadesofpink.org.

