



## The Art Guild

### **Administrator:**

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### **Glenwood Center**

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The Art Guild was established a few years ago to promote additional involvement in the life of the facility, spark creativity with new ideas, provide an avenue for residents to "give back" to the community, and enhance the quality of life for the residents. Art-focused activities are offered routinely, however, The Art Guild has facilitated additional interest and excitement for higher functioning residents. The group has provided the perfect opportunity for philanthropy and pride!

The residents involved in The Art Guild meet frequently, discuss ideas, plan events, and create masterpieces. The Recreations, Dietary, Housekeeping, and Maintenance Departments are all involved.

The Art Guild was initially established as a committee from a Resident Council meeting when the Recreation Director solicited ideas for new activity interests. A few ladies who had some quilting experience began talking and sparked interest for other residents. A committee was formed and ideas began to flow. The group decided to make tie-blankets as their first project. They requested having a jewelry sale to raise money for materials. The facility's staff members and resident's families also donated materials. Staff, families, and volunteers assisted the residents with putting the blankets together. Dietary staff served refreshments during each meeting and work session.

The Guild has made well over 200 blankets which have been donated to the St. Jude's Children's Wing of Huntsville Hospital, The United Methodist Conference for tornado victims in Phil Campbell, Safe Place, and the children's floor of Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital. In addition to blankets, The Guild made prayer tie-pillows to sell as a fundraiser for St. Jude's donations, and door decorations for bedfast residents within the facility.

The Art Guild is open to all residents. Male residents are active at times. They select different types of materials and prints for blankets, assist with fundraisers, etc. Even residents with limited physical abilities participate by recommending colors and patterns, and giving verbal encouragement as others work on the projects. Cognitively impairment residents are also able to assist with cues and supervision from staff and other cognitively intact residents. Over time, there have been many participants in the work sessions but there has always been a core group of ladies involved in The Art Guild. The charity shown to the community has caught the eye of the media. The Art Guild was featured on WAFF 48 News Program called "Bobby's Bama" with Bobby Shuttleworth. The Art Guild has been a success because it offers the committee members a purpose and an avenue to serve others.