The women of the Chattanooga Zone LWML were richly blessed as they joined together to make throws for homeless children at Room in the Inn during the zone Christian Life Workshop. Hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 25 LWML women joined zone president Louise Nelson in assembling, cutting, and tying 35 cheerful fleece throws, which were a welcome donation of warmth and comfort to the children who received them.

Room in the Inn is a refuge for homeless women and children. This local shelter helps empower women to become self-sufficient by offering a temporary home, while providing programs and services necessary to meet their needs.

A bounty of beautiful dresses was created by the Women of Concordia in Chula Vista, California, for members of Southbay Community Services Preschool. Inspired by an article in the Winter 2012 LWQ, these generous ladies got to work in the creation of many lovely dresses for young girls. Yards of donated material, pillowcases, and notions were converted into blessings for people in need. Beautiful!

Southbay Community Services is a preschool for children affected by family violence and provides specialized services for 3- to 5-year old children and their families.

RoAnn North (left), active LWML member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, was recently awarded the Distinguished Woman of Service Award for 2012–13. RoAnn has faithfully served the Lord through many years by being involved in her church’s bazaars, workshops, and altar guild. She has even used her creative skills to touch up the lectern in her church’s sanctuary. RoAnn has devoted many hours of service as chairwoman of her circle, co-chair of the kitchen/reception committee, and co-chair of the German Dinner. Congratulations RoAnn on this wonderful award!

Every February, the LWML of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville, New York, gathers to complete baby quilts. These quilts are distributed locally through Lutheran Social Services and a care center on Long Island. This year they were able to complete a record-breaking 72 quilts! All the ladies enjoyed wonderful fellowship and food as they blessed many with warmth. Congratulations, Hicksville!

Hope Lutheran Church’s Ruth Circle blessed Lutheran World Relief with 208 school kits filled with pencils, notebooks, scissors, and other needed school supplies. Hope Lutheran, located in Shawnee, Kansas, purchased school bags in memory of one of their members, Shirley Youngberg. Shirley loved to assist with church dinners and kept a basement stash of supplies for this annual event. We thank God for Shirley and for the generosity of the women of Hope’s Ruth Circle.
Cheri Generotzke and Marlene Rieck helped to organize the Martha Society, Vacation Bible School students, and various members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Eagle River, Wisconsin, to complete 75 pillowcase dresses that will be sent to Little Dresses for Africa!

Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit Christian organization that provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses, made out of pillowcases, are distributed throughout orphanages, churches, and schools in Africa to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. To date, over two million dresses have been distributed. For further information on the project, visit www.littledressesforafrica.org.

The beautiful women of St. Paul Lutheran Church's Ladies Aid in Fairmont, Minnesota, joined together to have their picture taken for their church's pictorial directory. The Ladies Aid of St. Paul was established on January 31, 1904, and chartered in August 1945. Their society has sub-committees including Mite Box Chairman, Wedding Advisory, Altar Guild, New Member Calling, Kitchen Care, Funeral Service Committee, Devotions at Lakeview Methodist Nursing Home, Calling on Shut-ins, College Student Coordinators, and Meals on Wheels. This list looks like they have all areas of the congregation covered!

What happens when you mix together donated fabric, funds from Thrivent, and dedicated LWML quilting women of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flemington, New Jersey? You wind up with 65 beautiful quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief and local homeless women. Since 2000, this society has donated 668 quilts!
The LWML in **Bronxville, New York**, gathered 77 Personal Care Kits for the 2013 Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Donation. Kits included soap, towels, toothbrushes, and other personal hygiene products to be distributed to various parts of the world to those in need. LWML member Sharon Petersen [right] said, “In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush … and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world. The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew, starting with a bath.”

For information on how to donate goods for a relief kit, go to lwr.org/getinvolved/personalcarekits.

The members of **Trinity LWML of Auburn, Nebraska**, invited all the women and young ladies of the congregation to join them for an afternoon of sewing and Christian fellowship. These wonderful women made beautiful dresses from pillowcases as well as diapers from used T-shirts. Twenty-one ladies made 48 dresses and 6 dozen diapers that will be sent to needy children in distant countries. Fantastic!

Past LWML President **Ida Mall** is a featured speaker for the biennial conference of the Women’s Leadership Institute of Concordia University Wisconsin on May 14–16, 2014. Under the theme “Christ-Connected Women,” other speakers include Monique Nunes and Sharla Fritz, Bible study leader. [See Sharla’s article on pages 10–11 of this issue.]

Prior to the conference, the WLI will offer a School for Speakers and a School for Writers on May 12–14, to educate, equip, and encourage women to use their God-given gifts in public speaking and professional writing. The Clarion Hotel, near the Milwaukee airport, will host the events.

For more information, visit the WLI website at www.acui.org/wli/.

**NEWS!** Please send LWML news (and photos!) to News Editor Pam Knepper at newseditor@lwml.org or 997 NE Hood Street, Hillsboro, OR 97124 by January 15, 2014. Include name, address, phone, and email address. PHOTO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES at www.lwml.org/resources/quarterly can provide you with help when taking and submitting photos for the Quarterly. **SUMMER 2014 THEME: LIFE OUT OF CONTROL**

**Iconic, inspiring, and inviting!**

That sums up our time spent at the LWML Convention in Pittsburgh.

**Thankful for opportunities to:**

• **speak** to the entire assembly about the vital partnership of your Gift Planners, Pat Bilow (part-time) and Linda Gage, along with the LCMS Foundation

• **lead** an interest session on charitable planning for 127 people

• **introduce** 12 of our Gifts of Love Advocates and Supporters serving in 9 of our 40 LWML Districts

• **explain** about our Gifts of Love ministry and how it helps LWML women and their husbands understand the benefits of including the Lord’s work in well-planned, prayerfully considered charitable gift plans

• **staff** the Gifts of Love booth throughout the convention, offering ways to connect with individuals about their desire to bless their family and the Lord’s ongoing work

• **participate** in the Friday night Block Party, transforming the Gifts of Love booth into a carnival-style game area, where people stood 4 to 6 people deep in line! In two hours, 245 people came through, resulting in 22 people who requested additional information or a personal contact, 50 who self-identified as remembering LWML in their will, and 75 who are in need of a will.

We give thanks to God for the abundant opportunities He provides — through the Gifts of Love ministry — to serve Him and His people in practical and important ways that make an eternal difference!

For more information about Gifts of Love Ministry or charitable estate planning, go to www.lwmlgiftplan.org, call 1(800) 741-4138, or email lwmlgiftplanner@lwml.org. Please consider naming LWML in your estate plan. Our legal name is Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.