

“Warming Hearts of Rockland”

Cathy DeVisser of New City founded the Warming Hearts of Rockland in October 2011 as a grassroots community service project. Their mission was to provide bags filled with thoughtful and much-needed items to patients starting chemotherapy treatment at Hematology and Oncology Associates and Nyack Hospital Outpatient Infusion Department. The idea for Warming Hearts of Rockland came about when Cathy observed a woman struggling to stay warm during her chemotherapy treatment. Witnessing her discomfort inspired Cathy to brainstorm ideas on how she could help people feel more comfortable during their chemotherapy journey. Cathy began this project by making bags filled with comforting and helpful items. Patricia Beutel of West Nyack joined Cathy in December 2011, and they began to include additional items such as throw blankets, unscented lip balm, unscented hand cream, small planners and travel size tissues. Their objective was to let their neighbors know that people in the community were thinking of them during a difficult time. Patricia, the current coordinator of this wonderful organization, said, “Warming Hearts of Rockland truly is a community project which is only able to continue thanks to continuous support from the public and a few companies.” To date, Warming Hearts of Rockland has gifted over 800 bags to chemotherapy patients. In May of 2012, they introduced the "Cradle of Kindness" project at the Raso Hospice House in New City. The Cradle of Kindness project is committed to making sure that there are bowls of comforting and delicious non-perishable snacks and other helpful items available for patients, their family members and visitors.

The outpouring of local support has been tremendous. The Warming Hearts of Rockland has received support from many groups and individuals including the Clarkstown South High School staff and students, the Clarkstown North High School Art Honor Society Members, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Youth for Hospice, the Rockland County Oncology Nursing Society and the Rockland County Nurses Association. Individuals who have benefited from the project in the past, as well as others who just want to show that they care, continue to support Warming Hearts of Rockland. Countless lives have been touched by Warming Hearts of Rockland. Through this organization, scores of people have experienced the compassion and goodwill of the community firsthand. In order for Warming Hearts of Rockland to continue to thrive and bring joy to those in need, it depends on the generous and kindhearted support of its neighbors. If you would like to make a physical or monetary donation to Warming Hearts of Rockland, please contact Patricia Beutel at 845-627-7514. Their email address is warminghearts@rocklandny.org. Please visit their Facebook page ‘Warming Hearts of Rockland’ to see some of their recent posts and photos.