

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE IN:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Callie Calloway, Communications Specialist at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital at (828) 526-1313.

Photo caption: Auxiliary members pictured: L to R (Jolene Niblack, Jean Whitby, Patty Hutchins, Elaine Reynolds)
Sitting L to R (Polly Dean, Jean Shields)

HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS HOSPITAL'S AUXILIARY IS IN NEED OF NEW MEMBERS.

The HCH Auxiliary has been instrumental in funding various projects throughout the Hospital, Fidelia Eckerd Living Center, and community programs. Their fundraising efforts have enabled HCH to purchase Physical Therapy equipment, Radiology and mammogram equipment, wheelchairs, patient lifts, thermometers and ventilators, a blood bank refrigerator, computers, landscaping and outdoor furniture just to name a few. The items totaled over \$300,000.

The Auxiliary also raises funds for a "Healthcare Scholarship", used to provide financial support for area young people who wish to enter healthcare in such fields as nursing, medical technologies, or various kinds of therapy. The funds also help the hospital recruit and train skilled medical personnel of all types. Anyone wishing to pursue a career in the health care field, including those already in the field who wish to further their education, can apply for this scholarship.

The members also participate in an annual fundraising tradition by raffling a hand embroidered quilt that is displayed at the Highlands Arts and Craft Show each October. The members embroider native wildflowers on fabric panels which are then quilted together. Proceeds from the raffle are then donated to support the hospital.

The Auxiliary was established in 1953 by Ella B. Carter, R.N. Its primary purpose was to assist the hospital by sewing and mending linens, stitching layettes, and furnishing kitchen equipment as needed. To provide funding for these projects the Auxiliary rallied the churches and local organizations to hold a bazaar. The 1993 bazaar proceeds fulfilled the Auxiliary's five year pledge of \$120,000. The Auxiliary enlists volunteers to assist in all departments of the hospital and to staff the gift shop.

"The Hospital Auxiliary has been an important asset to the hospital for many years. Without dedicated members to carry on this tradition, all of this progress will not be possible in the future", said Frank Leslie, VP of Operations. The current Auxiliary Members are asking supportive residents to help in keeping the Hospital Auxiliary a thriving asset. Members include: Kitti Barber, Joanna Baumrucker, Betti Bunnell, Jeannelee Butt, Polly Dean, Ann Emerson, Patty

Hutchins, Thelma Jotcham, Jolene Niblack, Elaine Reynolds, Jean Shields, Marie Sharpe, Polly Touzalin, Jean Whitby, and Kate Raulerson.

The Auxiliary Club meets at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month. If you would like further information or if you would like to join this group of volunteers, please contact Earlene Bennett at 526-1345 or email erich@hchospital.org

Area residents will soon have the opportunity to enjoy the handiwork of as quilter Hazel Miller (above) and many local embroiders as the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary get ready to hold its 15th annual Wildflower Quilt raffle. These family heirloom quilts have proved highly popular over the past 14 years, and in every case it's been Hazel who has lovingly hand stitched the quilt together from 36 panels created by auxiliary members and friends. Each panel features hand embroidered depiction of a local wildflower. Tickets are already on sale for this year's quilt, which is currently on display at Bank of America in Highlands. It will be raffled off Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Highlands Own Craft Show, which is held each year at the Highlands Recreation Park. Tickets, which are \$1 each or six for \$5, can be purchased from auxiliary members in both Highlands and Cashiers, or at the hospital gift shop or Bank of America in Highlands. They will also be on sale at the craft show itself.

Proceeds will go to the Highlands-Cashiers Hospital Auxiliary Healthcare Scholarship fund, which is used to provide financial support for area young people who wish to enter healthcare in such fields as nursing, medical technologies, or various kinds of therapy.

In 1953, , arrived and the Hospital Auxiliary was organized. Also they staff a booth at the Highlands Craft Show in October to raise funds.