

Church members remake drapes into 'Jubilee' bags

By Amy Hubbell
Of The Enterprise staff

Nearly three dozen homeless people will have something to help them carry their load, thanks to three women from a Glen Arbor church.

The trio of Diane Elmer, Laurel Peterson and Karin Olson from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Glen Arbor took a page from "Gone with the Wind" when they repurposed drapes from their church to make tote bags for the homeless.

"We were redecorating our Fellowship Hall, giving it a fresh look," said Elmer, who spearheaded the project. "The drapes were still in pretty good shape and we had a lot of discussion about what to do with them."

Initially, the women thought about donating the drapes to Goodwill in Traverse City. But their attention then turned to Jubilee House, a daytime shelter based at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City. The House is run in conjunction with Safe Harbor, Grand Traverse.

"The people there carry everything they own in a bag," Elmer said. "So we thought, 'Why don't we make bags?'"

The women had 25 yards of fabric from Greenfield Village Collection called "Tree of Life" with which to work.

Elmer, who in her spare time sews dresses for young girls in Africa, went right to work, dissecting a tote bag of her own to come up with a design.

"I took it apart and made a few adjustments," she said. "It's about the size of a grocery sack."

The chores of cutting and sewing were spread among the women, who worked an accumulative 50-plus hours to complete the project.

The finished products, 30 bags in muted floral tones with rose highlights, has pockets. As an added feature, they added a panel on one side to write their name.

Not one to let anything go to waste, Elmer has put the scraps to good use.

"I made potholders for our kitchen area in the fellowship hall," she said.

Likewise, Elmer fashioned towels to use in the church's high tea events.

"You wet the towel and put it over the sandwiches to keep them moist," she said.

All 30 of the colorful tote bags are expected to be delivered at Jubilee House later this month.



THESE THREE women from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Glen Arbor recycled the drapes in the church fellowship hall and transformed the fabric into tote bags for the homeless. Pictured, from left, are Karin Olson, Diane Elmer and Laurel Peterson.

'Leelanau' hits halfway mark in Leader training

A special visitor walked in the Enterprise office Tuesday on four legs.

Leelanau, a puppy being trained to be a guide dog for Leader Dogs for the Blind, stopped in with his trainers Steve and Mary Landry.

The Landrys and Leelanau were featured in an Enterprise story in May about Leader Dogs for the Blind. Regular visitors to the area, the Landrys named the dog Leelanau as an homage to one of their favorite places in Michigan.

How is the German Shepard puppy coming along with his training? "He's still working," Steve said. "It's hard. That's why only about half the dogs make it to work with a client."

Now at six months of age, Leelanau is about halfway through his primary training with the Landrys before heading to Leader Dog for more intensive training at Leader Dog school in Rochester, Mich.

As previously reported, there is no charge for any of the programs and services offered by Leader Dogs for the Blind, including the leader dog, equipment, training, transportation to and from the Leader Dog Campus, and room and board for the 26 days a client spends on campus training with their dog.

It costs Leader Dogs about \$45,000 to get a highly-trained dog into the hands of a client. To date, close to 15,000 dogs have been placed in all 50 states, as well 39 different countries.

Funding comes from individual gifts, endowment interest and service organizations, such as their largest donor, The Lions Clubs. Leader Dog relies on the generosity and dedication of their donors as they do not receive state, federal or United Way funding.

All three Leelanau County Lions Clubs support the program's efforts with annual donations.



STEVE AND MARY LANDRY smile on a sunny Tuesday with their dog-in-training, "Future Leader Dog" Leelanau. The six month-old German Shepard puppy is about halfway through his training time to become a Leader Dog.

Clark to choose between new car and \$25,000 cash

Irene Clark of Suttons Bay was the top winner of the St. Mary Key Campaign Car Raffle.

Clark's ticket, sold to her by church family Jeff and Shelly Grant, was drawn by the Rev. Bryan Medlin Sunday after 11 a.m. Mass.

As of presstime Clark had yet to decide whether to take the 2018 Ford Escape or \$25,000 in cash. As the top winner, she had her choice.

"We were sold out of our tickets before 9 a.m. Mass," said event coordinator Lori Schaub. "We had a number of disappointed people looking to purchase tickets before the drawing and we didn't have any left to sell."

"We are especially grateful for all the ticket buyers. We appreciate all of the support for this very important fundraiser for our students."

Three \$1,000 prizes were awarded for second, third and fourth prizes. They went to Michelle Mikowski of Suttons

Bay; Kevin Kelsch of Broomfield, Colo.; and Peggy Kolarik of Lake Leelanau.

Mikowski was the grand prize winner in 2010. Kelsch purchased his ticket through the mail.

Also celebrating with fifth and sixth-place prizes of \$500 are Ben LaCross of Lake Leelanau and Jozell Rexroat of Lake Leelanau.

Proceeds from the raffle, limited to 2,000 tickets, provide funding for annual operations at the Lake Leelanau school.

The event was organized and executed by a team consisting of coordinator Dan and Sue Boss, Alissa Bunek, Paula Korson, Mary Kuzincki, Greta Pawlowicz, Lori Schaub, Carol Tondreau and Tina VanderWulp.

"We are so very grateful for all of the ticket sellers who helped us sell out again this year," Schaub said.

Top ticket sellers were Jean LaCross, Stephen Tarsa, Janet Priest, Rachel Plamondon and Korson.

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Soul Patch / 4:30-5:30pm



Grupo Aye / 6:00-8:00pm