

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Annual Patuxent Quilt Show Gives Women Inmates A Chance to Give Back to Society

20-30 Quilts to be Donated Wednesday, November 18 at 1 p.m.

TOWSON, MD (November 16, 2009)---Inmates often say they want to pay society back, at least in some small way, for the crimes they have committed. This ***Wednesday, November 18 at 1 p.m.***, female inmates at the renowned Patuxent Institution in Jessup will do just that, when they donate handmade quilts and baby items at the tenth annual Patuxent Institution Quilt Show.

Patuxent, a maximum-security prison operating on a highly-structured graded tier system, gives its 860 inmates a chance to participate in a wide variety of educational, behavioral modification, and treatment programs. The facility's population includes approximately 80 women.

Volunteer quilters come in regularly to teach the women inmates the fine art of quilting and crocheting. Materials are all donated; the program costs state taxpayers nothing. Most of the inmates have no prior experience, yet manage to produce spectacular intricate quilts.

The quilts and baby items will be donated to a charity: This year, the recipient will be Hyattsville's St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, whose director will be present on Wednesday to accept the gifts and thank the staff and inmates.

Twelve inmates participated in the program. Patuxent is very grateful to the volunteer quilters and staff who have donated their time to make the annual show such a huge success. Since 1999, Patuxent's women have made and donated more than 450 quilts, dolls, pillows, and other items. Past recipients include House of Ruth, Villa Maria, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, and Sarah's House.

Patuxent Institution is located on Md. Route 175 less than one mile east of U.S. 1 and I-95 in Jessup.

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The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.