

Immediate Release
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Photo Caption:
St. Joseph's OB nurses Jessica Yost and Robyn Rice receive another batch of handmade baby caps from knitters Lillian Dinos and Alice Dix

1000th Baby Cap Donated

- Athens knitters provide handmade baby cap for newborns at St. Joseph's Hospital -

Parkersburg, W.Va. – Through the good works and talented knitting skills of a wonderful group of women from Athens, newborn babies at St. Joseph's Hospital over the past six years have received handmade baby caps. The group of knitters was founded by Lillian Dinos in 2003, who was inspired to start this group in memory of her good friend, the late Eloise Sperati, who passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital.

"Eloise was a fine knitter, and in appreciation for the good care that she received at St. Joseph's Hospital I wanted to give something back," said Dinos. "I came up with the idea of giving something tangible in Eloise's honor." Dinos explained that she had friends in a knitting group in Athens who made baby caps for newborns at O'Bleness Hospital and thought this would be something she could do for the newborns at St. Joseph's. "I called the OB unit at St. Joseph's for permission to make the baby caps and they were delighted!"

On Tuesday, December 15, 2009 Mrs. Dinos and fellow knitter Alice Dix delivered more baby caps to the SJH Nursery to bring the total donated over the past six years to a whopping 1,047. A special plaque hangs outside the Newborn Nursery commemorating the 1,000th cap donated in memory of Eloise Sperati.

"We are honored to receive the beautiful baby caps from Lillian and her group of knitters," said Jill Parsons, Vice President at St. Joseph's Hospital. "The nurses and families delight in picking out a handmade cap for their new addition. During this time of the year the red and green caps are certainly most popular."

According to Alice Dix, a knitter from the group, "It takes about an evening to knit a baby cap. I like to do different styles to make them unique." As the coordinator for the group, Dinos collects the caps from the knitters, washes them in baby shampoo, and delivers them to the hospital. "St. Joseph's Hospital needs about 30 each month, so our goal is to recruit more volunteer knitters in Parkersburg to join us in providing caps for the newborns. We like to spread joy and make a connection with the new generation that is coming along," stated Dinos. "We will continue to knit for as long as we can for the newborns here at St. Joseph's Hospital. This is a nice way to stay in touch with people and a happy reason to visit the hospital."