

Betty's mission of love: Turning 95 and still sewing for others

For MediaNews Group

At 95 years young this month, Keystone Villa at Fleetwood resident Betty Bleiler is a true inspiration, proving that age is no barrier to making a difference.

A lifelong volunteer, Bleiler remains deeply involved with Trinity Lutheran Church in Tipton and its ministry program, Compassionate Crafters, where her hands and heart work tirelessly to bring comfort and joy to others.

She has been sewing dresses for children overseas for the past two years, giving each garment a personal touch of care. Last year alone, Bleiler created 144 dresses, and this year she has already sewn more than 245 — a testament to her dedication and love.

"It makes me happy, and I'm honored to be doing something for children," she said. "I've been sewing for 47 years, and I feel my dresses give the children overseas God's protection and His love, as a fellow child of God, myself. It has given my life more purpose, and I don't feel as alone when I'm able to share God's love with others."

Bleiler is not one to let anything go to waste. She also repurposes scrap fabric, pairing it with soft fleece to create beautiful handmade blankets. These cozy creations are donated

to senior living communities across Pennsylvania, spreading warmth and kindness to those who need it most.

Her story is a powerful reminder of the impact one person can make, no matter their age. With every stitch, she weaves hope, love, and a sense of connection that stretches across generations and continents.

About Keystone Villa at Fleetwood: Keystone Villa at Fleetwood in Berks County offers an affordable and flexible month-to-month lease with no buy-in fees or hidden costs. Enjoy an abundance of social opportunities, deliciously prepared meals, housekeeping and so much more. Our retirement community provides Independent Living and Personal Care options with services and amenities that create a carefree and comfortable lifestyle. Keystone Villa at Fleetwood has spacious floor plan options to choose from, including studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments. Keystone Villa at Fleetwood is an award-winning community named 2025 Best of Senior Living by A Place for Mom's and Best Independent Living and Best Assisted Living by U.S. News & World Report. To learn more, visit www.keystonevillaatfleetwood.com or call 484-637-8200.

