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Quilt auction benefits CCND Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption program

Amy Overby

What do quilts and the services of Catholic Charities Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption program have in common? Larry Bernhardt, executive director of Catholic Charities North Dakota, said he believes both are intended to help you feel safe and provide you with a better quality of life. As a mom with three children who were brought into my life through adoption, I know that our lives were beautifully created and stitched together by God. Much like a quilt maker, the design and material were chosen with care and every stitch tells a story.

The second Heirloom Quilt Auction was held May 11 at the Fargo Country Club. This event, entitled "Every Stitch Tells a Story," raised \$4,720 for the Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption program.

The quilts for the event were donated by people from across the state. Quilts were received from Walhalla, Rolla, Dickinson, Wahpeton and many other towns. Of the 50 quilts that were donated, there were no two quilts alike and the stories of the people making the quilts were varied as well. One quilt was made by an adoptive mom, while another quilt was made by a young woman using her confirmation hours for this project.

The event included a live auction of the heirloom quilts and a silent auction of quilts, wall hangings and other items. Table tents displayed pictures and stories of people whose lives were affected by the Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption program.

Rachelle Sauvageau, director of the Diocese of Fargo Respect Life Office who attended the event, said, "It was great fun. The auctioneer did a great job and it is good for people who share the same vision to come together in a fun way for camaraderie and fellowship."

Joan Schaefer was drawn to the event because it "was an interesting and fun way to support life. In addition to praying to end abortion, it is also important to support the lives of the children out there," she said.

Msgr. Dennis Skonseng is very thankful for the Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption services provided by Catholic Charities North Dakota. "As priests, we preach the Gospel of life. When a woman is pregnant, we need to be there to support them throughout that time. As priests, we can provide this support by referring people to Catholic Charities, where there is help and hope for them," he said.

The services provided by this program include free and confidential counseling to those facing an unintended pregnancy, and empowering women and their families to make a confident decision about the future of their child, whether it includes parenting or adoption. Adoption services are also provided, allowing women who choose an adoption plan for their child to receive support from the same social worker throughout their pregnancy.

To learn more about CCND services or to find out how you can be involved with the 3rd Annual Quilt Auction, call Colleen Hardy at (701) 235-4457.