

Andrews Chapel United Methodist Women Conducts A Little Dresses for Africa Project



On a cool, sunny Saturday, the United Methodist Women of Andrews Chapel, located in Jonesboro, hosted its first sewing class of making dresses for little girls in Africa. This workshop was inspired by the experiences of Rachel Alexander O'Neill, the founder of Little Dresses for Africa. While some ladies were busy setting up their sewing machines, and laying out beautiful bright colors of fabric for sewing, others were making sure that there were plenty of fruit, treats and drinks ready to be served. Our sewing consisted of two patterns, Nancy's Notions and the tee shirt dress. The Nancy Notion pattern had been downloaded and printed on thick sheet paper for each lady to use at her machine. The video was also downloaded and played throughout the entire time of the class for visual instruction. The tee shirt dress pattern was a familiar one to those ladies who chose to use it, so they sewed the



tee shirt dresses by memory.



The day started out by each lady doing her own measuring, cutting and then sewing her own dress. Soon it became apparent that if one person measured, while another cut and press, and still

another sewed, more dresses could be made in less time. So we did, working together in an assemble line fashion we were able to make more dresses.





Still some ladies knew that this wouldn't be a day they could set a side for sewing, so they took their machines out and made lovely dresses before hand. Others donated newly bought dresses and some even donated fabric. At the end of the class, each lady left knowing that this was time well spent, and the colorful dresses would bring hope to the little girls of Africa.



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