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NWK helps WAU to empower women

The quilt project of the Women's Agricultural Union (WAU) in Delareyville can now achieve even greater heights thanks to the purchasing of 10 sewing machines and an overlocker by NWK's Corporate Marketing and Communication department.

Women of this WAU branch are teaching about 20 women of the local Atamelang community – of whom most are unemployed – sewing skills with which they can earn an additional income.

"It started as a mere WAU meeting. One of our study fields is community development and we invited a few local women to one of the meetings where we taught them how to make pancakes and make carrying bags with leftover pieces of fabric," Tillie Dupper, chairman of the WAU branch in Delareyville, said.

"Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and we were so inspired that we decided to continue. We asked fellow WAU members and girlfriends for leftover fabric and taught the women how to make quilts," she added.

The women get together about twice a month on a farm near Delareyville where Dupper and other members of the WAU Delareyville branch teach them sewing skills. Before NWK's donation, the women had to stitch everything by hand and Dupper and her team had big dreams of teaching them on sewing machines.

"The Verwes branch's conference took place in March and the Delareyville branch showcased some of the women's work. I was impressed and thought NWK could possibly get involved," Johan Bezuidenhout, group manager of Corporate Marketing and Communication at NWK, said.

Dupper compiled a wish list which consisted of the machines, scissors and cutting boards, among others, which NWK bought. The value of the donation totals R71 700.

NWK's involvement in NWWAU projects stretches back as far as 2007 and the company has been sponsoring the three regions' conferences as well as the annual provincial conference. "Women play a crucial role in any farming operation and are the farmer's pillar of strength. It is important for NWK to view women as partners in the business and we therefore invest in them," Bezuidenhout added.

"The project has big potential and women who are being trained here can earn a bigger income in future. The role that members of the WAU's Delareyville branch plays in the training of these women is massive and they do it for the love of it. These women are being empowered and have a purpose in life."

NWK visited the project this past Friday. "It proved that you don't necessarily need the newest, most modern building. Where there's a will, there's a way," Bezuidenhout continued.

“We cannot thank NWK enough for their involvement. It is taking our project to a new level,” Dupper said.

“Life is difficult, because work is scarce. We asked God for a way out. We never thought we would be able to sew, but God is good to us all and sent people along to help ensure a better future for us,” Elsie Selaledi said.

- Those who would like to contribute fabric or other material to the project, can contact Dupper on 083 384 1940.

Enquiries: Johan Bezuidenhout on 018 633 1368; email: jbezuidenhout@nwk.co.za

Captions:

VLU1

A participant in the project tries her hand at one of the sewing machines that NWK bought for the quilt project of the WAU's Delareyville branch.

VLU2

Sara Kashipolo and Constance Kashipolo.

VLU5

Refilwe Motolesi.

VLU9

Leah Vanrooi and Naledi Kashipolo.

VLU10

Abena Vanrooi.

VLU13

Sara Kashipolo and Naledi Kashipolo proudly show one of the quilts they have made.

VLU17

Constance Kashipolo.

VLU18

Trudie van der Merwe and Sara Kashipolo.

VLU19

Bokamoso Mona.

VLU20

F.l.t.r Constance Molefe, Geneva Kashipolo and Katriena Tsubane; (middle) Petro van der Merwe and Trudie van der Merwe; (back) Elsebe Ollewagen, Johan Bezuidenhout, Tillie Dupper and René van Rensburg.

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