Northern Michigan Chapter Basic Needs

Blanket Brigade Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Monthly through most of the year. Nine group workshops in people’s homes.

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $4,000

**Partnerships** None

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 420

Age range of clients served: 4-16

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working) 50

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? They make blankets

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: to provide blankets for children in the Head Start program and in neighboring communities.

The Chair purchases 100 to 150 1 ½ yard cuts of blizzard fleece from JoAnn Fabrics three to four times per year. Purchases are made during 50% off sales with the assistance of other members.

The process of purchasing the fabric usually takes about four hours to select the fabrics, have them cut, bagged in groups of five with a set of directions. Bags include five labels to be hand stitched on each blanket when it is completed. The bags are taken to the Christ Child Society house to be signed out and taken home for the member to work on. The Chair also tries to have a once monthly workshop at the CCS house. Many of the members like working on the blankets while visiting with other members and enjoying some ''treats" and some tea or coffee.

The blankets are normally distributed in late summer to the various Head Start programs, as well as throughout the year as additional requests are received.