

## Extension Trains Leaders Who Give Back to Their Community

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



## Norton Children's Hospital Adolescent Cancer Patients Benefit from 4-H Sewing Project and Extension Master Clothing Volunteers

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*It starts with us*



**4-H Sewing Star members shared "We are sending our love with these gowns."**

Staff from the Adolescent and Youth Adult Cancer Unit of Norton Children's Hospital invited the Jefferson County Extension leaders and volunteers to create gowns for their patients. The gown design needed to cleverly hide the opening for Port or PICC lines used

during chemotherapy and have pouch pockets as seen on popular hooded sweatshirts.

Louisville Area Master Clothing Volunteers (MCV) accepted the invitation with the Ascension School 4-H Sewing Stars. The Cooperative Extension professionals train MCV in advanced sewing techniques, new technology, and teaching methods. In return, the volunteers commit to serving others in their community.

Over 8 months, the MCV and 4-H members used their expertise to design and construct the 36 gowns for the teen cancer patients took. The 4-H members researched the design elements of hospital gowns for function and discussed ideas that are important to teen patients such as storing their cell phone and keeping their hands warm. MCV assisted in creating pattern templates and 4-H members selected fabric with colorful, fun designs that would be appealing to teens. The 4-H members used intermediate and advanced sewing skills to construct the gowns.

The Norton Children's Hospital staff was so pleased with the 4-H sewing project that they displayed some of the gowns at the Frazier History Museum as part of the hospital's 125th anniversary celebration. The Louisville Area MCV received the Community Service Award at the 2018 Kentucky 4-H Volunteer Forum. They have conducted workshops for other MCV who plan to replicated the project with other Kentucky youth and adult community organizations who serve youth and adults battling cancer.

**The Louisville Area Master Clothing Volunteers (MCV) have twenty-two active members. During 2018, they volunteered over 2,700 hours teaching over 5,700 people and completing almost 900 community service items.**