

## Springfield Seamstress Shares Needle-Craft with Children



In mid-summer, Noble John Blondell, President of the Ainad Shriners Hospital Unit (right in photo left, with Murat Noble Gordon Husk and Board Chairman Bill Kuehn), delivered more than 50 lap quilts to SHC – Chicago. The lap quilts, a donation to members of the Road Runners of Ainad Shriners, were created by Bettye Smith of Edwardsville, IL.

Bettye, known as the “Quilt Lady in the Metro East,” has been quilting since she retired from Ralston Purina in September 2001. When she started quilting, Bettye delivered red, white, and blue quilts to men and women veterans in nursing homes. In addition, she donated her quilts to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Special Olympics, and

Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, St. Louis.

On average it costs Bettye \$16,000 each year for the materials, and that does not include her time--which is priceless. Since she began quilting, she has delivered over 2,000 quilts to SHC. Bettye is not able to travel long distances since she is on oxygen 24/7. Over the years, she has enjoyed making quilts for the kids. According to Bettye, “My kids always come first and I enjoy what I do.” Members of Ainad Shriners Hospital Unit and Road Runners are making her wish come true by delivering her lap quilts to the SHC - Chicago and SHC - Cincinnati this summer. We are grateful to be beneficiary of the hard work and devotion of Bettye Smith. Thank you, Betty, and Ainad Nobles for your kindness!

## On a Hot Day in Chicago, a 9.3-Mile Walk for Kids to Wrigley Field

An Iraq vet, Mario Colantonio has a passion for helping kids in great need. Battling leukemia himself, he saw a wheelchair-bound child in an elevator a while back and vowed to do something to help children in need. So he began his annual “Walk to Wrigley Field for Kids,” raising funds from friends, acquaintances, and corporations for our hospital. In the photo right, with the Chicago temperature at 94 degrees, he completes his 9.3-mile hike from Cumberland and Addison, to Wrigley Field, to watch the Cubs beat the Mets 6-2 in an afternoon game. Mario’s daughter, his pride and joy, a student at Roosevelt University, bought his ticket to Wrigley.



We are so pleased to have this vet, this urban hiker, committed to children and the well-being of our hospital. You never know what walker along city streets has his heart set on charity and is fulfilling his personal vision of philanthropy. In these turbulent days, that’s a nice thought! Thank you, Mario, for this year’s gift!

## Imperial First Lady’s Program for 2016 Is Announced



“The Sky’s The Limit,” Imperial First Lady Ethel Smith’s program for 2016, is a mission to benefit hospital camps through the sale of Gentleman’s Tie - \$30; Lady’s Bead & Bracelet - \$40; Lady’s Scarf - \$40. Order from the Lady of the Divan in your Temple.

