



THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL/BRENT LINTON

Terri Kannegiesser, a Hospice Northwest volunteer, left, presents Pinewood Court resident Dorothy Kushner with a gift on Tuesday. Also giving out gifts at Pinewood were Shanna Kannegiesser, Katherine Poulin, Ruth McParland and Curtis Hakala.

Ray of sunshine shared

Hospice Northwest delivers gifts to Pinewood Court

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Hospice Northwest is helping the residents of Pinewood Court get in the Christmas spirit.

Hospice Northwest volunteers spent much of Tuesday morning handing out small crafts called suncatchers as gifts to the 128 residents of Thunder Bay's Pinewood Court.

The residents there, said Terri Kannegiesser, Hospice Northwest's volunteer co-ordinator, are in palliative care, and often don't have many family members left to share the Christmas season with.

So the Hospice Northwest volunteers wanted to do something to help out, she said.

"We thought it would be nice to bring that care and compassion to all the residents," she said Tuesday morning.

The suncatchers boast beads and crystals hanging on a string affixed to a suction cup, allowing them to be hung in residents' windows, Kannegiesser said.

Money to create them was raised through donations, she said, adding they were all put together by volunteers.

Ideally, she said, the program will expand in future years so that every resident

of a long-term care facility in Thunder Bay will receive a gift from Hospice Northwest's volunteers.

They started at Pinewood due to the strong working relationship they have with the facility.

"They provide regular volunteer services to us all year-round," said Cheryl Grant, Pinewood Court executive director. "This was a really nice added touch at Christmas time."

"It was amazing that they went to the trouble to make 128 of these things, and hand-deliver them to each resident. It was so amazing that they did that."