



Kyle Offermann, a nurse at Northside Hospital-Forsyth, makes quilts out of T-shirts. "I can turn them into something both practical and artistic," she said. Photos by LEITA COWART / SPECIAL

Stitching memories together

Nurse turns old T-shirts into keepsake quilts.

By Laura Raines
Pulse editor

When she's not taking care of medical/surgical patients at Northside Hospital-Forsyth, Kyle Offermann can be found sewing in her home studio. A nurse for almost seven years, she also owns a new business, Just T-shirt Quilts.

Working at a hospital and running a business at the same time can get hectic. Last Christmas Eve, for example, Offermann delivered a quilt to a customer

at 3 p.m. and then rushed out to buy gifts for her family. Then she worked at the hospital on Christmas Day.

Offermann says she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been sewing all my life, but had never tried quilting until I took a class about the same time I started nursing," said Offermann, RN/BSN. "While traditional piece-quilting didn't appeal to me, I really had fun making T-shirt quilts, which have fewer pieces and more meaning for customers. I started out making quilts for myself and my friends and even had one accepted into a quilting show."

Offermann enjoys turning T-shirts into treasured keepsakes.

"Everyone has a stash of old T-shirts from sports teams, college, concerts, events or places they've visited," she said. "They don't wear them anymore, but they don't throw them away either, because of the memories. I can turn them into something both practical and artistic."

She describes her work of turning old clothing into something useful as "up-cycling."

"I began marketing my talent at craft shows and tennis tournaments, since I'm an avid tennis player," Offermann said. "I spent so much time explaining the process to people through e-mail that I

Quilts continued on Page 23



Offermann, owner of Just T-shirt Quilts, irons a quilt made from AJC Peachtree Road Race shirts.