

**Mothers Matter at Cooper Hospital  
May, 2009**

**Gifts brighten Mother's Day  
Group donates bags for families in need**

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**CAMDEN**

Receiving a Mother's Day gift from a stranger was one of the nicest things to happen to Kathy Dillon recently.

The New Bern, N.C., woman has been staying in South Jersey for more than two months while her husband receives treatment at Cooper University Hospital in Camden. On Thursday, volun-

teers from a local charity presented Dillon, 65, with a gift bag brimming with shampoos, soaps, lotions and health and beauty products.

"It was a pleasant surprise," Dillon said of the gift from the Lauren Rose Albert Foundation's

Mothers Matter program. "It has some very nice things in it, but I'm going to save them for Mother's Day."

Because her three children are grown and her husband is in the hospital, Dillon wasn't sure she would get anything for Mother's Day this year.

"Delivery of the Mother's Day gifts is the most emotional part," said Susan Rose, the foundation's

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Susan Rose (second from right) and other Mothers Matter volunteers present Mother's Day gifts for those in need to Jeffrey N. Yarmel, Cooper University Hospital's chief operating officer, on Thursday.

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**Mothers/Delivery of gifts lift spirits**

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president and founder who helped present the gifts. "It makes me feel good to brighten a mother's day with our gifts."

The organization prepared about 2,500 gift bags for mothers in need.

Volunteers began passing out the gifts Tuesday, and Cooper was one of their many stops.

"It's a wonderful expression of thanks to mothers," said Jeffrey N. Yarmel, chief operating officer at Cooper. "It means so much to the staff, patients and the children who are able to give them to their mothers and grandmothers."

Scouts, businesses, community organizations and individuals have worked since March to prepare the gift bags for the Mothers Matter program, which began in 2001.

More than 50 gift bags were presented to Cooper University Hospital and will be dispersed by the nurses there.

"They're for someone who needs something special for Mother's Day," said Lisa Moriarty, a nurse and clinical educator at Cooper.

Onaisha Fisher, 27, of Camden, was able to make it to the hospital's lobby with her daughter, Amirah Rodriguez, 10, to receive a gift.

that for mothers," Fisher said. "She also gave me two cards she made in her after-school program. I'm going to wait until she feels better to go through the bag with her."

Although she didn't feel well, Amirah was glad she could give her mother something for Mother's Day. The family is hoping for good health and good weather for Sunday as well.

"We should be able to do something," Fisher said. "I hope to be home, cook dinner and just be together."

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"It's nice of them to do



As part of the Mothers Matter program, Susan Rose (second from left) of the Lauren Rose Albert Foundation presents a gift to a woman in a wheelchair.

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