

Security Health Plan: Supports local organization providing children with a place to sleep

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MARSHFIELD – According to the non-profit organization Sleep in Heavenly Peace, about 2-3 percent of American children do not have a bed to sleep in. That’s why the local chapter is creating and delivering a safe, comfortable place for children to rest.

Marshfield Clinic Health System respiratory therapist Joleen Schade nominated Sleep in Heavenly Peace for Security Health Plan’s Employee-Driven Corporate Giving grant. Each month Security Health Plan awards a \$1,000 grant to a different charity or organization that is nominated by a Marshfield Clinic Health System employee. Employees are encouraged to nominate organizations making a positive difference in the community. Schade also serves as chapter president for Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Spencer Area Chapter.

“Sleep in Heavenly Peace builds beds for children age 3-17 that don’t have a proper bed to sleep in. Some may be sleeping on the couch, floor or with a parent or sibling,” she said.

Since the Spencer chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace was founded in August 2019, the group has built 230 beds and delivered 194 to local children in need. The cost to build and deliver a bed is \$250, which includes all lumber, materials and new bedding, delivered and set up in the child’s home.

Schade explains that her involvement in the organization has been rewarding beyond words.

“I have seen the relief on parents’ faces when we deliver beds,” Schade said. “Children light up with joy with the simple fact they have their own bed. I remember one child even saying, ‘Mom, this is better than Christmas!’”

The mission of Sleep in Heavenly Peace and Marshfield Clinic Healthy System are aligned in that they strive to enrich lives by creating healthy communities, Schade explained.

“Every child deserves a bed, their own place to rest and dream. Giving them a bed helps them to get good restful sleep. Children that get adequate sleep have less behavior issues, do better in school, and are healthier overall,” she said.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace relies completely on donations and volunteer support to continue its mission. They can always use extra bedding or volunteers to help build and/or deliver beds. To get involved, make a donation or learn more about Sleep in Heavenly Peace visit their website at www.shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-spencer-area or check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SHPSpencer/. You can also contact Schade for more information via email at Joleen.Schade@shpbeds.org. If you or someone you know needs a bed for a child, visit the Sleep in Heavenly Peace website and click on the “Request a Bed” button.