

# Program takes library on the go

**BY SHANNON WATERS**

Every Wednesday, Richmond County Public Library Outreach and Programming Director Ruth Lynn hits the road visiting local nursing homes.

Each week she alternates between the Orchard's Garden which houses patients with Dementia and Alzheimer's and the Warsaw Manor to work with residents of the Adult Lifestyle Center of Bay Aging.

These aren't typical visits, however, since Lynn packs entertainment with her. Instead of just sitting around talking about the weather, Lynn reads short stories and poems to the patients in addition to doing easy crafts with them.

I read short stories, poems and also do easy crafts with them. They just enjoy someone just sitting and talking with them also, which I like to do as we do crafts.

"Most are not able to come to the library, so the library goes to them," says Lynn who also brings them books and magazines.

Lynn insists that The Nursing Home Outreach Program is a vital part of connecting the library with these residents who are unable to come to the library due to transportation and handicaps. She adds that the library should be available to everyone in the community and outreach provides that opportunity for the library to come to them.

Most Wednesdays, Lynn sees close to 12 elderly or handicapped residents at a time. She says they enjoy inspirational short stories and poems the most.

"This gives them the feeling that they are still important and can still be of assistance to others who may



Patients at Warsaw Manor's Bay Agency Adult Lifestyle Center enjoy making crafts and listening to poetry.

need help along the way," Lynn observes.

Of course, those warm feelings are not limited to the patients.

Lynn makes it known, "The most rewarding part of these visits are the smiles, laughter and feeling of happiness that comes from the residents when they get to be part of the library visit and create wonderful crafts are have a story read to them."