

Hat Ladies mix community service with social fun

By Joan Durbin

North Fulton Neighbor Staff Writer

Until last May, Kim Adamson had never thought of herself as a hat person.

"I have always been a bit of a tomboy, and I never had one single hat," she said. "But I had just moved to Roswell and wanted to meet people, so when I picked up a Neighbor [newspaper] and saw an announcement about the Hat Ladies, I went right out and bought a hat and went to their luncheon the next day."

Today, Ms. Adamson is the happy owner of "tons" of hats, all of them vintage, and she is the Hat Ladies' chapter coordinator.

Later this month, she and other group members will be journeying to Rome for the Atlanta Steeplechase, in addition to volunteering as greeters, the Ladies will be showing off their chapeaux in the Steeplechase parade.

It's typical of the blend of community service and social fun that characterizes the Hat Ladies, an organization that had its start in Charleston, S.C., in 2001 and has engendered chapters in California, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

The Roswell chapter was formed in February 2005 by Diane Worley, who heard about the organization during a visit with her Charleston relatives.

"We started with just me and my daughter, and now we're at eight members," Ms. Worley said.

Hat Ladies have no affiliation with the Red Hat Society, Ms. Worley said. All



Mike Jacoby/Staff

From left, Roswell Hat Ladies Vernell Washington, Diane Worley, Smith Plantation House Program Coordinator Kathy Baker, Vicky Fox and Kim Adamson show off some of their fashionable head wear.

ladies who enjoy wearing hats and are over the age of 18 are welcome.

The group meets once a month for lunch in a public place, all sporting a hat, one of the chapter requirements.

"You can wear whatever makes you happy. It doesn't have to be elaborate or expensive," Ms. Worley said.

During a Habitat for Humanity build last year, members wore ball caps or hard hats adorned with flowers.

Members also have visited with children hospitalized at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, bringing hats for them to decorate. A chapter goal for next year is to

select a girl who's a senior in a local high school and give her a small endowment for her future.

"It wouldn't really be a scholarship. It would be more like some funds to help furnish her dorm room if she's going on to college, or to buy a good suit for job interviews if she's not," Ms. Worley said.

To accomplish this, the chapter will need more members, she added.

The Roswell Hat Ladies also are looking for more volunteer opportunities in the community.

Information: Kim Adamson, (404) 723-6891, visit www.hatladies.org.