

WCQG Community Outreach

Reaching Out

We are proud of our community outreach programs and are delighted that we are able to make a difference in the lives of others doing what we most love to do, with needle and thread.

In the following slides you will see a representative portion of what we currently do and what we have done over the years.

Guild Sponsored Programs

Smile Quilts

Smile Quilts are made for children facing serious illness. Since December 2001, WCQG has been donating Smile Quilts to the outpatient paediatric clinic at Grand River Hospital, to offer comfort to children with long-term medical conditions. Children receiving treatment in the Cystic Fibrosis, Juvenile Diabetes, emergency, special care nursery, emergency and in-patient clinics also began receiving Smile Quilts in June 2004.

As of September 2017, members of the WCQG have donated upwards of 2550 quilts to our Smile Quilt project!

Smile Quilt Workshops



April 2011



October 2011

Smile Quilt Workshops continue to be held.

A Smile Quilt Thank You

"I just wanted to reach out to say thank you so much for the beautiful quilt that was given to us while my 16 month old was in the hospital at Grand River. He was given a red quilt with trucks and airplanes on it & a beautiful design. This is something I know we will treasure forever.

My son was in the hospital for 4 days as he was severely bitten by a dog in his hand.

Thank you for the amazing talent and generosity your organization has. We are forever grateful!"

PAL Quilts



The original PAL Quilt Project was to make quilts for the two local hospice homes, Lissard and Innisfree. They were known as Palliative Quilts and were designed to provide comfort to patients and their families while they were in residence at hospice.



The quilts may be gifted to the loved one's family or kept by the home for future use at the discretion of the staff. However, the maker of the quilt may specify which residence should receive the quilt.

Photo credit - Judy Siegner

PAL Quilts Expanded



The current PAL Quilt Project includes Friendship Quilts, which are for the residents of Vera's Place, which offers a supportive home for women recovering from substance abuse, a place where they can restart their lives.

PAL Quilts on Display

During the May Quilt & Fibre Art Festival many of our PAL quilts were on display in St. Jacobs.



The Beginning of the Memory Quilt Program

November 25, 1992

Baby quilts give grieving parents an extra memory

By Margaret Mironowicz
Record staff

Baby-size quilts lovingly sewn by area quilters are ready to do their healing work with bereaved parents leaving hospital without their infants.

"These quilts will go into the K-W Hospital system, and some will go into St. Mary's and some to Cambridge Memorial," said Barbara Dyszuk, a local volunteer with the national office of the SIDS foundation.

(The Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), is a charitable organization based in Toronto with self-help chapters across Canada.)

Dyszuk, who lost her first child, a son, to SIDS five years ago, and who now does informal counselling with grieving parents, said, "One of the things that happens when you lose a baby is that you don't have a lot of mementoes or tangible things to hang onto, because they haven't been with you long or they've not even come home."

"We know from experience that having mementoes really helps. I treasure every little item our baby wore, all of his clothes, every photo we have of him. Everything that was a part of him is very important to me."

Having such items "helps a person to go through the grieving process at their own pace," she said. They help parents affirm that "their baby was real, that it did exist in the world. But many don't have anything. They come away from the hospital with nothing."

Dyszuk, an adult education consultant who now works as a freelancer, running workshops in leadership and human resource development, said the quilts will be used to wrap the bodies of babies who are stillborn or die from SIDS, or in the final moments of life for babies born prematurely or with congenital defects.

"They might keep that blanket forever, or bury their child with it. Whatever they do is their choice, but they have that memento," said Dyszuk, now the mother of a three-year-old daughter.

Dyszuk's mother helps make quilts for bereaved parents in the Kingston area, and in September, Dyszuk took the idea to members of the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild.

Penny Kraemer, program co-ordinator of the guild, said there were "a lot of tears and wiping of eyes" when Dyszuk made her presentation. Soon, about 15 women were sewing the small quilts in a back room of the Albert McCormick arena where the guild meets monthly.

"I call them memory quilts," Kraemer said. "This is something for the parents to hold on to once they leave the hospital without their babe."

More than 70 quilts were made and were to be on display for the guild's meeting today. A guild member who is a nurse was to present them later to the perinatal bereavement team at K-W hospital.

Kraemer said the hospital expects to use between 60 and 70 quilts a year, and the project will become an annual one for the guild. "We decided we should be doing more for our community," she said.

Quilters began their community service last year when the owner of Fibre Feats, a quilt store in Blair, donated gingham fabric which was used in about 20 quilts for handicapped residents of Sunbeam Lodge on Pinnacle Drive in Kitchener.

Bruce Menary, owner of Len's Mill Store, donated batting and broadcloth to back the memory quilts.

Kraemer said the guild's newsletter goes out to many other groups across Ontario and "we're really hoping others are going to pick up on this and go with it in their own community."

Dyszuk said there is no local chapter of the SIDS foundation, but since October, a support group for bereaved parents has been meeting at Erb Street Mennonite Church in Waterloo the first and third Thursdays of each month. It is co-ordinated by Marilyn Hollinger, a grief counsellor with Edward R. Good funeral home.



Quilters Penny Kraemer (left) and Emily Hunsberger (right) look over the baby quilts with Barbara Dyszuk.
Robert Wilson, Record staff

Memory Quilt Guidelines

Size

The size can vary from 20 to 30 inches square. More small ones are needed than large.

Fabric

Memory quilts are given for a special reason, and the fabric used should also be special. Ideally, these small quilts should be made with whites, pastels and baby print fabrics -- eyelet fabric is also very effective. Let your creativity flow in making these "special" memory quilts.

For the backing use any fabric suitable to the quilt top.

Construction

A suggested method is to cut 25 6-inch squares of fabric to produce a pleasant pattern and sewn together in rows of 5 blocks. This will produce a finished quilt of 28 inches square.

If the backing is cut 2 inches larger than the quilt all around the outside edge of the quilt top, the backing can be brought to the front to form the binding.

Quilt (machine or hand) or tie the quilt.

Sign

Please sign and date the quilt so the family of the recipient can attach a name to the "stranger" who cares about them. Below is a suggested label.

Memory Quilt
Waterloo County Quilters' Guild
P.O. Box 38044
Waterloo, ON N2J 4T9

Made by _____



Memory Quilts



Memory quilts are small, knotted quilts donated to Grand River Hospital. They are given to those who have lost an infant due to still birth, SIDS, or some other catastrophe.

The quilts provide something tangible for parents who are going home with empty arms. A few of the baby quilts are being directed to preemies and special cases in Emergency when staff identifies a need.

Touch Quilt Program



The *Touch Quilt Program* run by the Alzheimer Society of K-W provides, for persons with later-stage Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, an item of comfort to hold and touch with their hands.

Touch Quilts are made with a variety of fabrics to provide the sensory stimulation that may help reduce stress and anxiety as well as provide a warm covering.

Touch Quilts - Christmas 2015



Days for Girls



Days for Girls is dedicated to creating a more free, dignified, and educated world, through providing lasting access to feminine hygiene solutions and health education.

Members of the guild have joined the local teams making hygiene kits for girls in many countries. This enables them to attend school full time.



Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

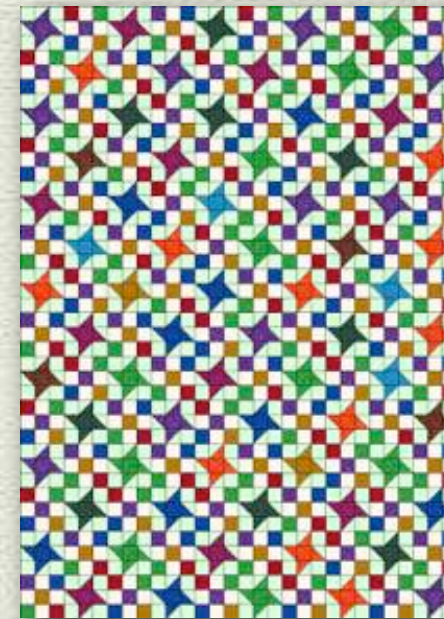
Empower girls & women worldwide to have access to sustainable quality feminine hygiene, health, education & dignity.



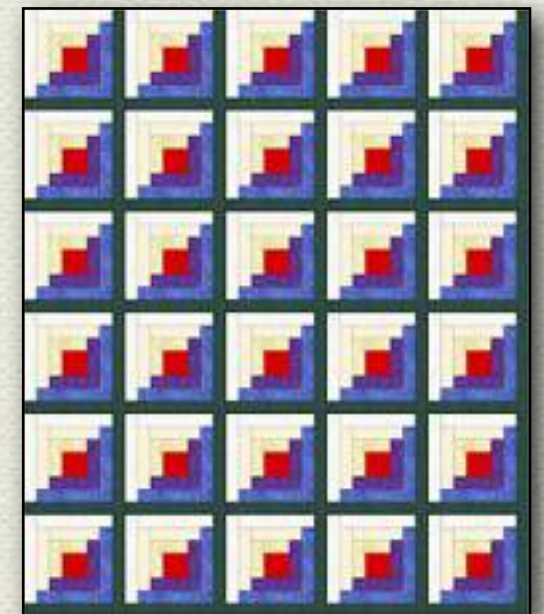
I'M POSSIBLE

A new project starting this month.

Victim's Services provides support for victims within our community. The WCQG has been provided a Community Grant specifically for the purpose of making quilts for victims in our community. *This project will start immediately after this exhibit.* We have called the project, I'M POSSIBLE, which is based on the quote, *"Nothing is Impossible"* by Audrey Hepburn. Our aim is to convey a positive and motivating message to the victims/recipients of our quilts. By using very identifiable, traditional quilt blocks, we hope to convey a comforting and perhaps nostalgic message.



Friendship Stars & Chains Quilt



Log Cabin Quilt

Guild Raffle Quilts

Raffle Quilts

For many years the guild produced and raffled quilts with proceeds going to local charities. Members participated in the design and construction of the quilts. Charities were nominated and selected by a vote by the membership.

Now the guild provides quilts to charitable organizations to use as they choose.

1989 Raffle Quilt



1991 Raffle Quilt

Raffle Quilt - Spring 1991 for
Jacob Hespeler Child Care Centre
designed & pieced by Grier Rennie



1995 Raffle Quilt



Basket Quilt

Created for the guild's 10th anniversary.

Coordinated by Bev Bechthold



1997 Raffle Quilt



Birds of a Feather

The bird block quilt was coordinated by Emily Hunsberger.

The proceeds went to:
ROOF (now known as oneROOF)
Safe Haven (Betty Thompson Youth Centre)
Paediatrics @ K-W Hospital

1999 Raffle Quilt



Galaxy of Stars

Three charities received the proceeds of this quilt:

- Anselma House
- Hopespring
- Mary's Place

2001 Raffle Quilt



A Walk in the Meadow

Eighty members participated in this quilt.

The proceeds went to two charities:

- Citizens Concerned with Crime Against Children
- Extend-a-Family Waterloo Region

2003 Raffle Quilt

Victorian Charms

The raffle quilt was coordinated by Renske Helmuth.

The proceeds went to the Parents of Technologically Dependent Children of Ontario



2005 Raffle Quilts



Celebrating Tradition



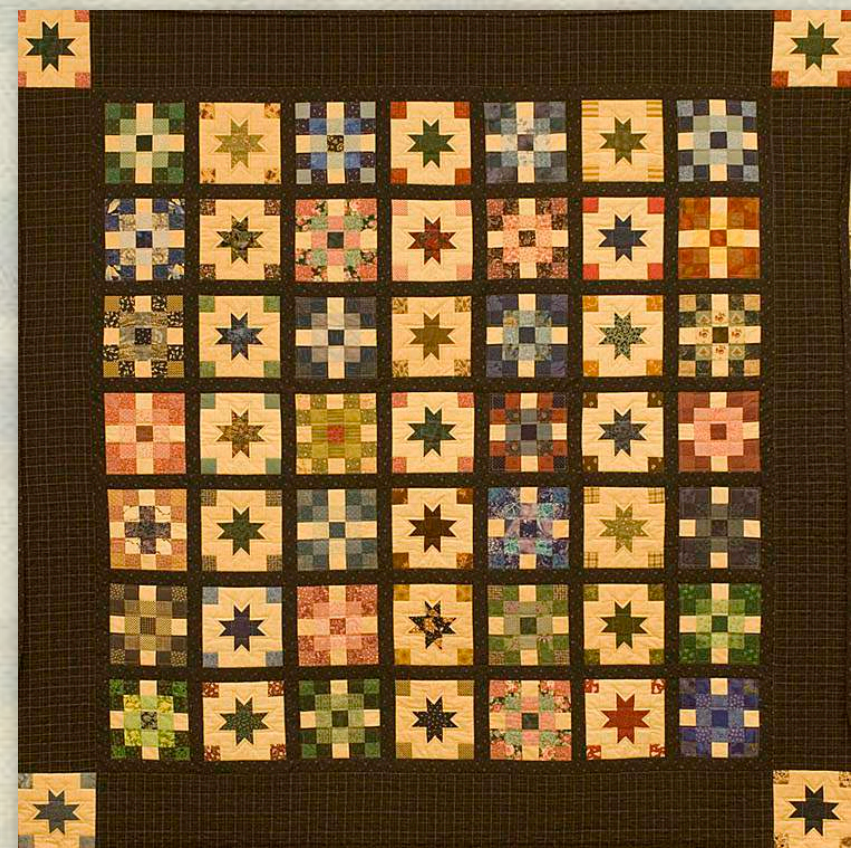
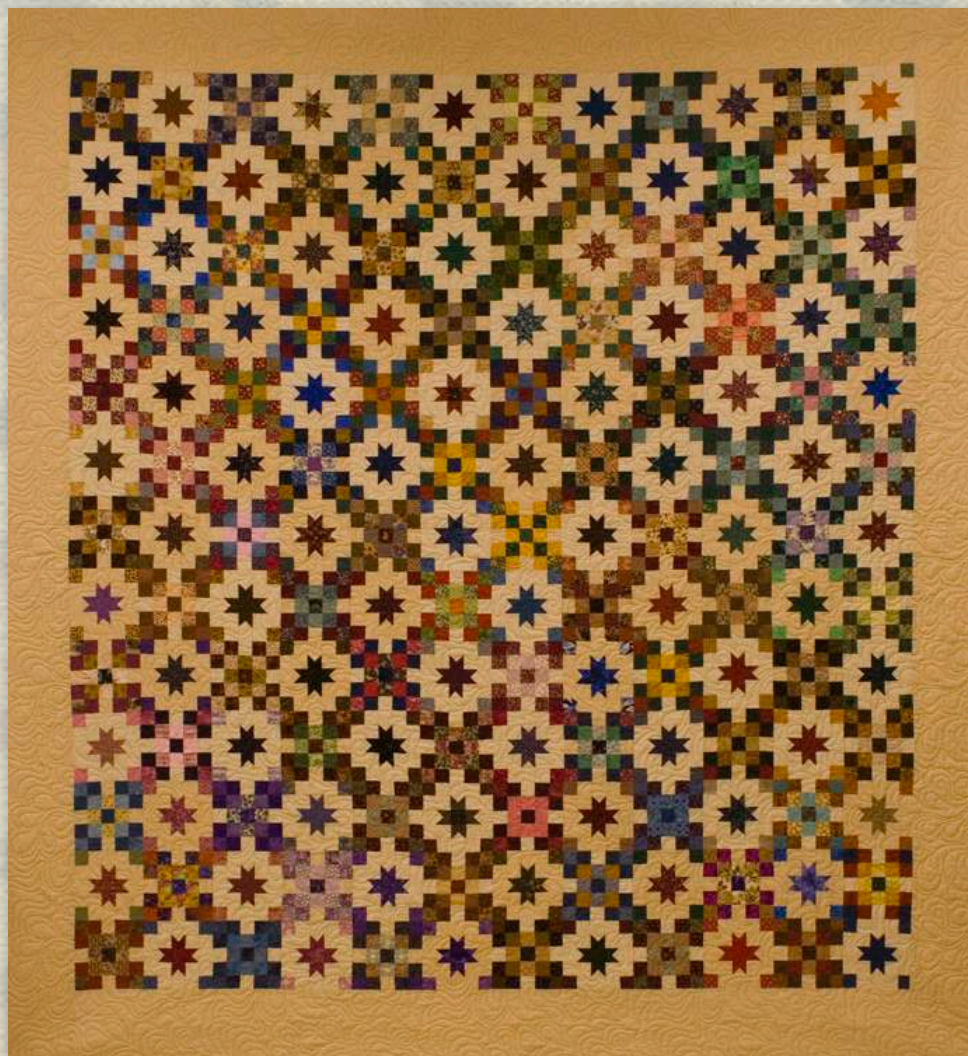
Embracing Change

The proceeds of these quilts went to the following charities:

- House of Friendship Live and Learn Program
- Open Sesame Headstart Program
- Planned Lifetime Networks

2007 Raffle Quilts

Star and Chains



Proceeds went to Marillac Place,

2009 Raffle Quilts



Ruby Raffle Quilt



Emerald Raffle Quilt

The project was coordinated by Bev Bechthold.

The proceeds went to Hospice of Waterloo Region .

2011 Raffle Quilts



In 2011, the proceeds of our two raffle quilts went to the Lisaard House in Cambridge.

Again, the project was coordinated by Bev Bechthold.

Emily Hunsberger's pattern, "Quilt-As-You-Go Stash-Busters!" was used with Emily's permission. All proceeds of Emily's pattern go to Mennonite Central Committee.

2013 Raffle Quilt



Marilyn Farquhar and Marsha Clarke designed and directed the construction of our 2013 Raffle Quilt, *Selvaging Together* (62" x 76.5").

The proceeds of the raffle went to Parents for Community Living.

2015 Raffle Quilt



The *True North* (96" x 96"), is an original quilt design by Jacqueline Tate, based on the block called *Canada Star* from Carol Doak's book, *Mariner's Compass Stars*, published by C&T Publishing.

Jacqueline organized the quilt, which was pieced by numerous members of the WCQG. It was assembled by Jacqueline along with Cecelia Smith and Audrey Vrooman. The quilt was custom quilted with original quilting designs by Peggy Nagle. Jean Carberry bound the quilt and Audrey Vrooman provided the wool batting.

Proceeds of \$4700 went to support Innisfree House, a residential hospice facility near Conestoga College in Doon.

Annual Relief Sale

Relief Sale Quilts

Many of our members make and donate quilts to the Ontario Mennonite Relief Sale each May. Sometimes these quilts are the “Feature Quilts” of the year. The next few images are of “Feature” in which our members participated.

Relief Sale 2003



The Kaleidoscope of Nations (84"x84")

Coordinated by Renske Helmuth and made by members of the Waterloo County Quilters Guild and Listowel Mennonite Church. Auctioned for: \$44,000 in May 2003.

Relief Sale 2006



A Bird's Eye View:

*Interpreting the Aerial Photography
of Carl Hiebert*

(84" x 92")

Group Quilt by members of the
Waterloo County Quilter's Guild and
the Listowel Mennonite Church.

Coordinated by Renske Helmuth.

Based on photographs by Carl
Heibert.

Auctioned for: \$11,100 in May 2006

Relief Sale 2009



The Postcard Quilt
(82" x 66") was created by members of the Waterloo County Quilters' Guild. It was coordinated by Renske Helmuth.

It was auctioned for \$7,200 in May 2009

Relief Sale 2013

Straightening the Rose Garden

At the 2010 Relief Sale, quilt # 125 was a lovely appliqué bed quilt called "*Rose Garden*" donated by the Breslau Mennonite Church Creative Hands group.

"Straightening the Rose Garden" was inspired by a photograph taken of this quilt from behind the stage as it was being readied for the auction.

It was auctioned for \$10,000 in May 2013.



Relief Sale 2015



Threads of Africa

Coordinated by Renske Helmuth.

Made by members of the Waterloo County Quilters Guild.

Auctioned for: \$43,000 in May 2015

Relief Sale 2016



The 50th Annual Relief Sale was an event to celebrate. Local quilter Emily Hunsberger designed a quilt to commemorate this milestone. It is significant that it was a group effort. For 50 years the auction has been a cooperative event with generous contributions from donors, organization by quilt committees, many volunteers at each auction, and enthusiastic auctioneers. The quilt was auctioned for \$3,100.

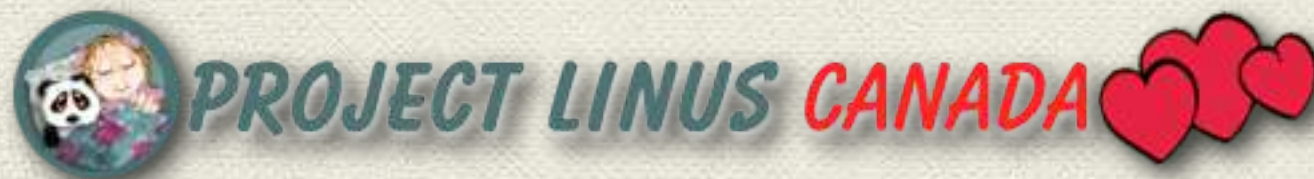
Past & Continuing Special Projects



It has become a tradition for the guild to collect items and funds for *oneROOF* at our November meetings. *oneROOF* Youth Services assist youth (12-25) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Waterloo Region.

For a number of years guild members made placemats for our local *Meals on Wheels*. Often those placemats are reversible, celebrating a special holiday or two.

Additional causes in which members of the guild often participate are *Project Linus*, *Quilts of Valour* and *Victoria Quilts*.



Books & Quilts Project



The Books and Quilts Project was a joint project of the Waterloo County Quilter's Guild and the Waterloo Public Library. The Guild chose several children's story books with quilt themes and made small quilts to go with them. These quilts, along with the books that inspired them, are loaned by the Library to other libraries, schools, community groups and child care organizations. Being able to see and touch the

quilts that are described in these books makes the stories come alive for the children.

Photo credit: Bernice Gammy

Books with Quilts

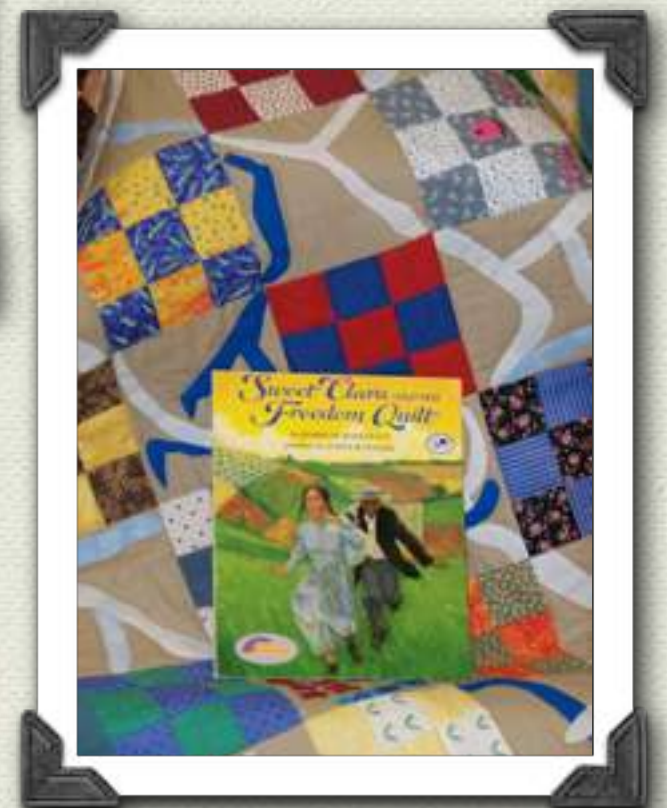


Photo credits: Marney Heatley

Quilting Bee at JSH

Each May during the Joseph Schneider Haus National Historic Site's annual quilting bee, guild members gather around the quilting frame. In this image working on one of the 2015 JSH quilt block contest quilts.



Culture Days at JSH



The guild participates in culture days at the Joseph Schneider Haus National Historic Site.



End of Life Quilt

2012



Sunnyside Home's Palliative Care Committee contacted us to see if we would be willing to help them out by the making an "End of Life" quilt. They asked if we would be able to incorporate butterflies in the quilt, as it is the symbol used at Sunnyside for those residents who enter End of Life care. The design we used incorporated butterflies into the log cabin pattern. The end result was a quilt 84" by 96" that would cover the resident and stretcher during their final journey out of Sunnyside Home's front door.



Butterfly Log Cabin

Each butterfly in the Butterfly Log Cabin is created with that log cabin blocks themselves only. Two include the butterfly wings and the remaining two are background. The background log cabin are mostly squares, while the butterfly wings to each butterfly are pointed and identical. There are 16 different butterflies throughout the quilt.

Place the four wings using one of the two recommended methods, and then register the butterfly, and combine with them in the block. The butterfly wings will be identical using both on you go methods.

TWO METHODS ARE RECOMMENDED:

Method 1: Pre-cut Logs: In this method all the logs are cut to size before assembly. They will be sewn with a seam 1/4 inch from the center.

In the center of the logs for the logs are all cut 1/2" wide, resulting in wing logs that measure 1" wide. The centers are cut 1/4". Each block should measure 4 1/2" including the outside seam allowance (1/4" seam).

- Place the logs in sewing sequence.
- Using a true wide aperture each make allowance, sew the logs in sequence.
- Align across the logs away from the center as you go along.
- Press the completed block with an iron.

Butterfly Wing Blocks			Background Blocks		
Background Log	Butterfly Wing Log	Seam (1/4")	Background Log	Butterfly Wing Log	Seam (1/4")
42	2 1/2"	1/4"	42	2 1/2"	1/4"
44	2 1/2"	1/4"	44	2 1/2"	1/4"
46	2 1/2"	1/4"	46	2 1/2"	1/4"
48	2 1/2"	1/4"	48	2 1/2"	1/4"
50	2 1/2"	1/4"	50	2 1/2"	1/4"
52	2 1/2"	1/4"	52	2 1/2"	1/4"
54	2 1/2"	1/4"	54	2 1/2"	1/4"
56	2 1/2"	1/4"	56	2 1/2"	1/4"
58	2 1/2"	1/4"	58	2 1/2"	1/4"
60	2 1/2"	1/4"	60	2 1/2"	1/4"
62	2 1/2"	1/4"	62	2 1/2"	1/4"

FOR EACH BLOCK YOU WILL NEED:

Method 1: Paper Piecing: The pattern is supplied, but since it is not a block the final seam allowance is not given.

THE SEWING SEQUENCE FOR EACH BLOCK:
This sequence is the same regardless of the method used.

Note:
If borders are to be added, they will be added separately on standing on after construction of the butterfly wings.

Butterfly Log Cabin © 2013 Barbara Brackley

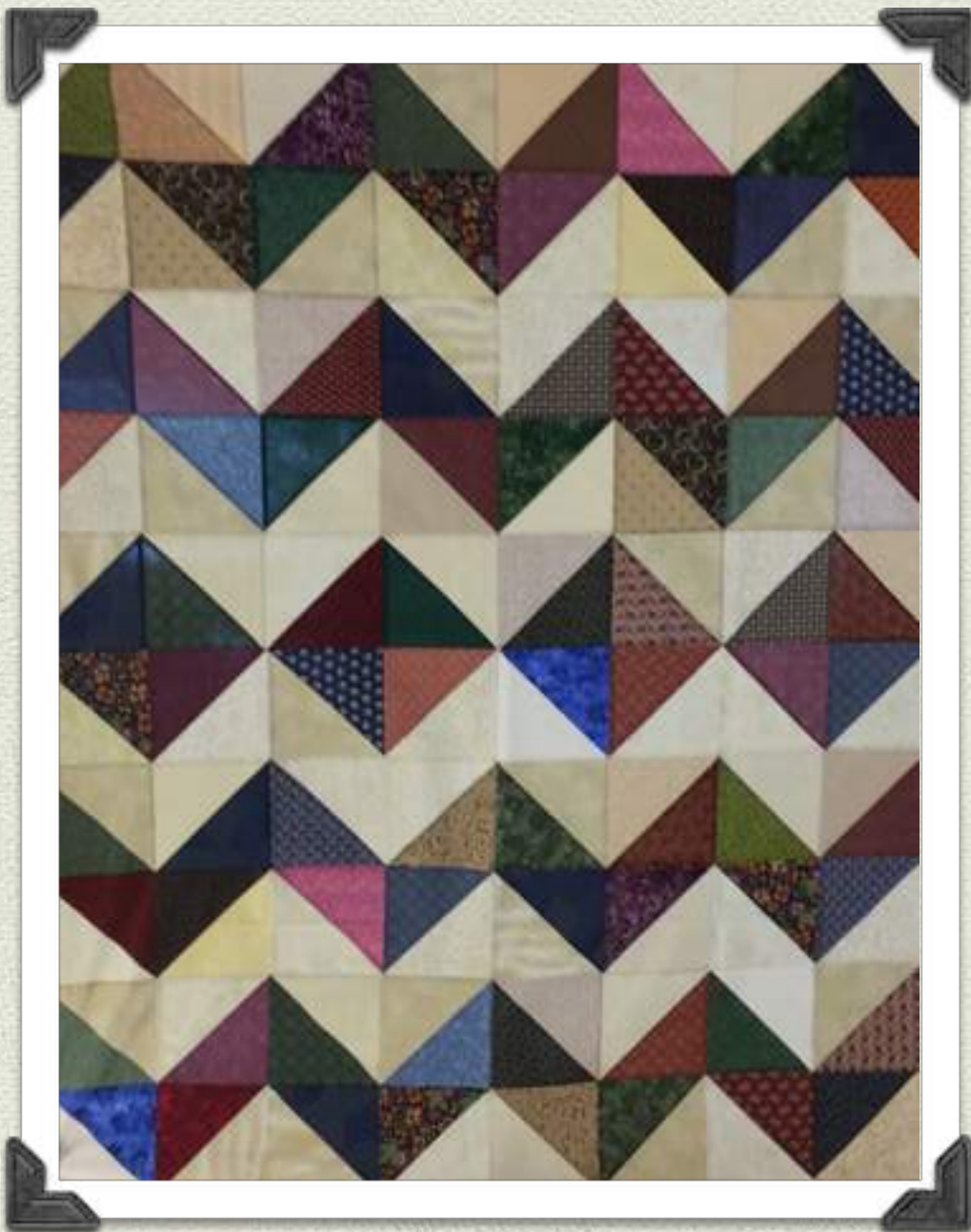


Sheila Vaughn accepting the Sunnyside Quilt.



2017 Special Projects

At Mannheim...



One Wednesday a month, a group of WCQG members meet at the Mannheim Community Centre for a day of friendship and sewing. Last year, the group decided to make a charity quilt using scrappy half-square triangle blocks. So many blocks were contributed that 3 quilts were made, altogether!

This quilt is called "Country Rows". We are grateful to Trudy Dey, who generously quilted it for us. "Country Rows" will be donated to PAL Quilts -- an outreach program that provides comfort quilts to patients in palliative care.

Two more charity quilts from the Mannheim Group!



Bluebird Quilt - 2017



The *Arthritis Society Bluebird Quilt* is a project the WCQG constructed at the request of the society. Funds raised by the WCQG/Arthritis Society project will directly support high-impact research by scientists and clinicians searching for the causes of, and cure for, arthritis. They will also support the researchers doing transformative work uncovering the best ways to treat and manage arthritis right now.



2017 CQA / ACC Big Quilt Bee



**Waterloo County Quilters' Guild Slab Days March 24 & 25, 2017
for Canada's Big Quilt Bee to support Ronald McDonald Houses across Canada**

To celebrate Canada's 150th birthday the Canadian Quilters' Association is hosted *Canada's Big Quilt Bee*. Their was to make and donate 1,000 quilts for kids at Ronald MacDonald Houses across Canada. They surpassed their goal by over 1000. The WCQG completed 76 quilts and had additional ones to donate to other charities.



In Summary...

During the last two years guild members made and donated 558 quilts.

◆ PAL Quilts	50
◆ Vera's Place	15
◆ Smile Quilts	200
◆ Memory Quilts	150
◆ Touch Quilts	50
◆ CQA/ACC for RMH	76
◆ MMC Quilts	17

*and these are only the
quilts we know
about...*