



# Quilters Have Big Hearts

Timeless Stitches — Quilt Capital of Kansas

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Have you ever noticed how quilters are reluctant to part with scraps of fabric? They just know that they can use those scraps to make something for someone, something that the other person needs or a gift that the other person will cherish. Sometimes they know the other person, other times they do not. Have you seen the t-shirt that proclaims, “When life gives you scraps, make quilts”? Some of those scraps of fabric come together in gifts for birthdays, graduations, weddings and holidays. Quilters seem to really enjoy making quilts for others, an indication of a big heart and a delight in sharing their creative endeavors.

There are numerous opportunities for quilters to make donation quilts that help or comfort someone. Project Linus is a very popular program. Volunteers make small quilts, minimum size 36” x 36” but larger quilts up to twin size, which are the most useful, are accepted. The quilts are distributed to children who are experiencing a crisis or trauma. Quilts should be made from new materials (but those pieces of fabric left over from other projects work just great!) in a smoke-free environment and should be washed with scent-free laundry products.

Some quilt volunteers provide quilts to first responders to be distributed at accident scenes or to the victims of a house fire. Not only does the quilt provide warmth, but it provides comfort when it seems that things can’t get any worse.

Children’s Mercy Hospital is accepting quilts once again for their young patients. This is my sister’s pet project. I share fabric scraps that I think will work into her quilts with her. Occasionally I find a larger piece in my stash that she can use for a quilt back.

The internet is full of opportunities to donate quilts to individuals who need them. One of the batting companies that I order from, Quilters Dream Batting, sponsors a quilt challenge that benefits ALS. As October approaches, there is news about more and more quilts for cancer survivors. From my observation a lot of quilts for cancer patients are a personal gift. The scene is “My friend or relative has cancer. I want to make them a quilt!” That is a prime example of a big-hearted quilter.

Quilt Guilds often make Opportunity Quilts to partially fund their budgets. Members volunteer their time, and sometimes some of the materials to make the quilts. Then they accept donations in return for a chance to win the finished quilt. The Maple Leaf Quilt Guild has been showing this year’s Opportunity Quilt at the Farmers and Makers Markets the third Friday evening of each month this summer. They can help you get a chance to win the quilt.

My favorite project to make quilts for is our local Quilts for Veterans project. We started the group in 2015 and have presented over 100 quilts to veterans who are part of our community. As we approach Veterans Day on November 11, some of the open sew days at the Lumberyard Arts Center will be devoted to making red,

white and blue quilts. We have received fabric and cash donations from quilters and other community members who all have big hearts. We appreciate their support and we appreciate our veterans and want them to know it. If you want to help make quilts, talk to Sharon at Quilters' Paradise and she will have more information about sewing times soon. Also if you know a veteran who has not already received a veteran's quilt, please give Sharon his/her contact information and we will get him/her on the list. Stay tuned for information about when and where the presentations will be.

Each charity or donation quilt is stitched together somewhere by a quilter who cares a whole lot about others. Their goal is to show care or comfort with the gift of a quilt made by a big-hearted quilter.