



CZU LIGHTNING FIRE QUILTS UPDATE

Helen Klee, Co-Chair

The Pajaro Valley Quilt Association want to thank the members of SCCQG for your generous donations of quilts and quilting tools for our fire survivors. I want to share a funny moment at our last Give Away Event. We keep a tally of quilts going out the door at noon, our count was 40 quilts. Karen from the San Francisco Quilters Guild dropped off 80 quilts! We took home more quilts than we had brought to the event--quilters are so generous--to date, we have received over 1,400 quilts!!

Because of the generosity of quilters from all over the United States, we **DO NOT** need anymore small quilts (baby, toddler, and small lap-48x60 as originally requested). **WE NEED ONLY BED SIZE QUILTS (twin, double, queen and king)**. If you wish to donate bed size quilt tops, please include the batting, and backings, but finished quilts are preferred.

It has been five months since the fires. Our survivors are still experiencing hardship, last week was stressful with Phase 2 cleanup. This is like a funeral and opening wounds, watching their remaining burnt stuff get scooped up, erasing their "home"! Most of the survivors are scattered all over the county and some have moved out of state. Some come to our event and get to see their neighbors for the first time after the fires.

As of January 16, 2021, after our 4th Give Away Event, we have given out 563 quilts to 250 families. There were 925 homes destroyed and 90 homes damaged in the August fires. Our biggest issue is locating our survivors. We are fortunate that we do get a surge of requests right after a Give Away Event.

We have another Give Away Event scheduled for February 19, 2021 and will be scheduling more events for March through June or until most of our quilts are gone. Any quilts that are remaining will be donated towards the next fire area.

We have connected with 27 survivors who wanted sewing machines, 10 of those were quilters! We were donated a few rulers, rotary cutters, and mat but could use a few more of these items, as well as some irons. If you donate a sewing machine, make sure it is in working order, test all the stitches, include any bobbins, machine needles, and if you can find it include the manual.

If you have any questions, please contact me at czulightningfirequilts@gmail.com

Thank you for your donations.