

Undercover Quilters

Kids Quilts Task Force Final Report 2023-2024

Committee Members:

**Chris Hagendorf, Deneen Toal, Marjorie Aronson, Debbie
Chlouber, Donna Deal, Chris Prout, Nancy Walls**

Background:

At the June 2023 Executive Board zoom meeting, Kathy Martell announced she would be retiring in June of 2024 from the leadership position of our Kids Quilts community outreach program. Kathy has been leading this program for the last 20 years. Most prep and finishing activities were performed at Kathy's home. The fabric/batting and finished quilts were also stored at her house. Approximately 150 quilts were distributed per year to non-profit organizations.

At our September Executive Board meeting, we organized a task force to develop solutions to continue providing quilts to the community. The members of the task force include Christine Hagendorf (President) and Deneen Toal (Vice – President), Marjorie Aronson, Debbie Chlouber, Donna Deal, Chris Prout and Nancy Walls.

The team met once a month via zoom from November 2023 to April 2024. We first obtained information from other guilds to determine how they organized their community outreach programs.

Goals

Our first goal was to determine how many quilts were requested by the local organizations. The task force contacted all organizations and obtained a count of quilts needed, specific sizes requested and any special instructions i.e. washing/bagging the quilt. This information is in the Recipient Organizations data base. The organizations are divided into 2 (A or B) groups in case we have a shortage or surplus of quilts to distribute. (See page 11 & 12 of this report)

Our second goal was to poll the guild members to determine their participation in making quilts and gather their ideas regarding re-

organizing Comfort Quilts. Guild members were contacted by phone by task force members. (see page 6 for results)

Our third goal was to reorganize our Community Outreach Program. We determined that Kids Quilts and Veterans Quilts should be combined under “Comfort Quilts” to best serve all the recipient organizations. We came up with a new leadership structure and plan to have frequent Comfort Quilt Sew Ins (or Sit N Sew) to provide an opportunity to keep Guild members sewing and involved in our Community Outreach program.

Leadership Organization of Comfort Quilts

Leadership Structure:

There will be two Executive Community Outreach Chairs. There will be a 2-year term, but this can be extended if so desired.

Responsibilities of the Executive Co-Chairs:

- A. Fabric and batting will be purchased by the Executive Chair or UCQG Treasurer utilizing our PA tax exempt letter.
- B. Responsible for communicating info to guild.
 - 1. Newsletter updates- “Comfort and Kindness” section.
 - 2. Website – communicate any changes to webmaster.
 - 3. Monthly meeting updates.
- C. Distributes the quilts w/ volunteers and provides a letter of receipt to the organization receiving the quilts.
- D. Organizes Comfort Quilts Sit-N-Sew and addresses education needs.
- E. Supports the Prep/Kit/Finishing teams.
- F. Tracks the quilt from kit to completion and distribution in the Comfort Quilt database.

- G. Oversees storage of fabric/batting/quilts.
- H. Tracks expenses and has input into the yearly budget.
- I. Checks with Recipient Organizations on a yearly basis regarding need for quilts and updates the Community Outreach database.
- J. Completes annual report.

Prep Team (2 coordinators)-

- A. Guides a group of volunteers to receive donated fabric.
- B. Washes and irons fabric if needed, including flannel.
- C. Measure and mark fabric yardage (blue tape).
- D. Gives fabric to the Kit Team.
- E. Precuts the batting for quilts and labels the size.
- F. A member from the Prep and Kit team distributes kits and receives quilt tops and completed quilts at Monthly Guild meetings.

Kit Team- (2 coordinators) –

- A. Guides a group of volunteers to make kits,
- B. Piece the back as needed.
- C. Distributes kits.
 - 1. The kits include all components of the quilt- top and backing, binding (if available) and a label.
 - 2. Kits will include a checklist – this will have contents of kit and any special sewing instructions. Checklist will remain with kit thru out the sewing and finishing process.
- D. A member from the Prep and Kit team distributes kits and receive quilt tops and completed quilts at Monthly Guild meetings.

- E. The Kit Team Coordinator updates the Comfort Quilt database. All kits are entered into database and given a number. All kits will be signed out and in for tracking and inventory purposes.

Finishing Team (2 coordinators) –

- A. Guides a group of volunteers to layer/quilt/apply binding and labels.
(Safety pin baste)
- B. Wash/bag quilts when needed.
- C. Pieces back if needed.
- D. Makes bindings.
- E. Quilts will be quilted, tacked. (not tied)
- F. Packages quilts as per recipient organization's needs

Other:

- A. 2 people- an Executive Chair member/Coordinator or 2 Coordinators should attend each Sew In to provide instruction and direct guild members as needed.
- B. Quality control is the responsibility of all Teams.
- C. Any guild member can join any of the 3 committees. They can help in more than one committee at a time.
- D. Create email for Executive coordinators with our domain name. EG: communityoutreach@undercoverquilters.com to encourage communication with guild members and responds to questions promptly.
- E. Storage of all supplies and finished quilts is TBD.

UCQG Survey Results of Comfort Quilts Questionnaire 2024

Excellent response from 90 out of 95 members/members appreciated the calls.

Question 1-Are you willing to make a quilt top?

Majority of guild members will make quilt tops for charity. (77%.)

Question 2- Do you prefer to make your own comfort quilt top or use a kit? Majority like to use a kit (58%) some will make their own top (13%) or both (18%).

Question 3- How many quilt tops do you think you will make is FY 2024/25? 39 members will make 1-3 quilt tops (41%), 26 members will make 4-5 quilt tops (27%). 10 members will make 6 or more quilt tops. (11%). As a result of the questionnaire the committee estimates we may receive up to 200 quilt tops in one year.

Question 4- Which process would you be willing to do for Comfort Quilts?

- A. Buy and donate fabric- 40%
- B. Make Kits- 37%
- C. Sew the quilt top- 77%
- D. Layer the top w/ backing and batting- 25%
- E. Quilt or tack the quilt- 34%
- F. Bind the quilt/attach label- 32%
- G. Wash the quilt- 33%

Question 5- Would you attend a Sew In for Comfort Quilts?

Yes- 68%, No- 15%

Question 6- Any comments/suggestions?

- A. No enveloping or tying of the quilts.
- B. No objections to binding the quilts or making some larger sizes.
- C. Quality control is important.
- D. Kits are preferred.
- E. Members enjoy making pillowcases as they are quick and easy.
- F. Member suggested starting a charity quilting bee.
- G. Members asked for training i.e. fabric cutting/making kits.

New Website information for UNDERCOVER QUILT GUILD COMFORT QUILTS

As a 501(c)(3) organization we are proud of the quilts we donate to local organizations to provide comfort to others. We make quilts for children, teens, and adults throughout the Delaware County community.

We welcome quilt donations from members and non-members alike. Quilts can be made as group effort or by individual makers. We provide FREE donation kits with simple instructions that are perfect for sewers of all levels.

You are welcome to donate quilts of your own design made with your fabrics if you prefer. You can find additional patterns on our website Undercoverquilters.com.

We also make and donate pillowcases, supporting Ryan's Case for Smiles organization. They are distributed to sick children in local hospitals. Pillowcase directions are located on our website Undercoverquilters.com. Kits for both quilts and pillowcases are available for pick up and finished items can be dropped off at our monthly meetings held on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Brookhaven Municipal building.

You can also contact the Community Outreach Chairs with any questions by emailing(communityoutreach@undercoverquilters.com). We appreciate any help given to provide quilts and pillowcases to those who need comfort!!

Suggested Donation Quilt Sizes

Kids Quilts- Minimum size of 40" x 52"

Teen Quilts (age 11 and above) - Minimum size of 45" x 62"

Adult Quilts- Minimum size of 40" x 54"

Veterans Quilts – Minimum size of 40"x 54"

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. I'm a beginner quilter, what if my work isn't good enough?

Our kits are designed with you in mind. The piecing is simple, and we ask only that you do your best work. Please use a ¼ inch seam for piecing the quilt top and a ½ inch seam when piecing the quilt back. There are many resources within the guild to help you if you have questions or need some assistance. Simply email the Community Outreach Chairs @ (Email address)

2. Where can I learn how to make a quilt?

Come to one of our Comfort Quilt Sew Ins. There will be guild volunteer resources to demonstrate and walk you through the steps of making a Comfort Quilt.

3. If I take home a quilt kit from the guild meeting, how long do I have to finish it?

Suggested turnaround time is 2-3 months. Life happens so if you need more time to finish then take as long as you need. We ask that you return the kit by our June meeting if you cannot finish it.

4. What kind of quilting is required for the quilts?

We are not picky about quilting. We always have finished quilt tops that need quilting. If you are beginning to learn machine quilting, we are happy for you to practice on our quilts. You can stipple, stitch diagonal lines, stitch in the ditch, tack or use a design with a motif.

5. I don't do quilting, is it ok if I take a kit and only complete the quilt top?

Absolutely! Simply return the finished quilt top to us and we will enlist other guild volunteers to do the quilting and binding.

6. Do I have to hand stitch the binding?

No, machine binding is fine. You can use a straight stitch. Come to a Comfort Quilt Sew In to learn how to apply a machine binding.

7. Do I need to hand sew the Undercover Quilters label on the quilt?

No, it's fine to machine sew the quilt label on the back of the quilt.

8. I don't have time to sew a quilt. How can I help?

There are many ways to help! You can wash fabric or completed quilts, donate, or buy fabric for our quilt kits and pillowcases. You can also help to distribute the quilts. Pillowcases can be completed in less than one hour and may be a great option also.

Undercover Quilters Recipient Organizations

RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS	Contact information	# of Quilts Requested	Timing of distribution	Sizes of quilts needed	Washing required Yes or No	Restrictions on types of fabric used	Accepting Afghans (Vets and Nursing Homes only)
Catesville VA Medical Center, Catesville PA. Center for Development and Civic Engagement 1400 Black Horse Hill Rd, Catesville, PA 19320	Dale Miller - 610-384-7711 ext 4228	20 to 25	In the fall, prior to Veterans Day	Would like some larger (Lap size) and ask if there are any women vets	No	No	Yes
Brian Conley Veterans Residency Center (Warriors Helping Warriors), 104 S Broad St, Middleton DE	Marsha Conley marshac1948@verizon.net	20	In the fall, prior to Veterans Day and may need more at other times	40 x 56 works as well a few larger ones	No	No	No
Wilmington VA Medical Center Center for Development and Civic Engagement 1601 Kirkwood Highway Wilmington , DE 19805	James Coty 302-994-2511 ext 5545	10 to 15	In the fall, prior to Veterans Day	40 x 56 works well and ask if there are any women vets	No	No	No
American Legion Brookhaven PA 3633 N Clearwater St, Brookhaven PA 19015	Harry Seth 610-872-8201	10 to 15	In the fall, prior to Veterans Day	40 x 56 works well and ask if there are any women vets	No	No	Yes
Media VFW Post 3460. 11 Hilltop Rd, Media, PA 19063	610-566-9980	5 to 10	In the fall, prior to Veterans Day	40 x 56 works well and ask if there are any women vets	No	No	No
Pathways PA, Media PA 519 Station Rd, Media PA 19063	Lenora Pope 610-459-9177	30	Continue as in the past ??	40 x 56 work well	Yes and bagged	No	
Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County, 14 W 2nd St, Media PA 19063	Executive Director	40	20 quilts now , then another 20 in 6 months	Assortment of sizes for ages 2 to 17	No		
GEMMA Services, 512 W. Township Line Rd. Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462	Amanda Bryant 610-825-4440 ext 307	None needed at this time Contact them in the spring	** 20 a year to adoptees				
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) 3401 Civic Center Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19014	Ashley Williams - CHOP ENT 267-975-5637 ashley.damian@gmail.com	30	3 x a year (Sept - June) Contact Ashley 527 Strathmere Road, Havertown	40 x 56 works well equal # for boys and girls	Yes and bagged	No restriction on licensed fabric, (no Christmas)	

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Nemours Dupont Hospital for Children, 1600 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, PA 19803	Sara Narmanian Delivery to Ed Woomer	None needed at this time Contact them in the spring			No		
Every Child Counts, Media Pediatrics 401 Moore Road, Wallingford PA	DAnetta Green - Director 445-233-0741 everychildcounts10@gmail.com	15	2 x a year with one before Christmas	40 x 56 works well equal # for boys and girls (no infants)	Yes	No restriction on licensed fabric, (no Christmas)	
Westgate Hills Rehabilitation and Nursing 2050 Old West Chester Pike, Havertown, Pa 19083	Carmella Kane Guild member	20	Before Christmas	Wheelchair or 40 x 56	No	No	Yes
Chester Eastside Inc 301 East 9th St Chester, PA 19013	Joann Lomas Guild member						
Total Vets/Nursing/Other		85 to 105					
Total Kids/Teens		115					