

May 2023 Newsletter

Volume 2 | Issue 5 | Quilts for Survivors



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for more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

A Message from our CEO & Founder

This month at the studio had several milestones for us. We have sent out our 2,900th quilt. WOW! That is a long way from the 18 quilts I was hoping to make. That means that on the day of sending out the 2,900th quilt, we averaged 4.5 quilts being sent out per day. Just amazing! Another milestone for us is we quilted, bound, and shipped our 400th quilt on our longarm. Another amazing accomplishment.

We have been working hard to ensure that quilts are finished as quickly as possible. We are working hard to quilt at least 10 quilts each week. This can be a challenge as we rely heavily on volunteers. We are extremely grateful to all of you both near and far for your continued support. The binding marathons have been a great hit. The volunteers enjoy coming in, socializing, and working on binding together. We have had 4 marathons so far in which we have completed a total of 72 quilts during this time. It is also great to share and sew with so many of you that join us via Zoom. Many wonderful stories have been shared during this time too. One of those stories is featured in this month's newsletter.

I want to again say Kitchi Meegwetch to all of you for your time, support, and dedication. We cannot do this alone. We need all of you both near and far. It takes a community and that is what we are as a community.

See you at our next binding marathon in person or over Zoom. Happy Quilting,

Vanessa
CEO & Founder
The Quilter with a heart of gold



Class Quilt 2023/2024 Online Classes

Third quilt

With fall just around the corner, we will once again be having our Zoom quilting classes. We will be making a new quilt called "the bliss quilt along" by Fig Tree Quilts.

Classes will be held every third Sunday of the month from September to June.

The second Class is October 16th, 2023, from 2 pm-4 pm EST.

To register please fill out the form

<https://forms.gle/tSoAiSdpmtpCidyq8>



Look back at April

April 15th – Monthly Binding Marathon

At our Monthly Binding Marathon we had 4 people in the studio and got 11 Quilts bound and some other things trimmed and put away.

April 16th – QFS Class Quilt Blocks

Our last class for this year went great, we were able to complete the corner blocks and have sent o a video on how to add the borders. Classes start up again in September 2023, registration is open now.

April 19th – Monthly Block Making Marathon

We did not have very many people in on Wednesday, one of the volunteers came in and bound 4 quilts!! We also put together some chairs! Hopefully, we have a better turnout next month!

April 22nd-23rd – Northern College Powwow

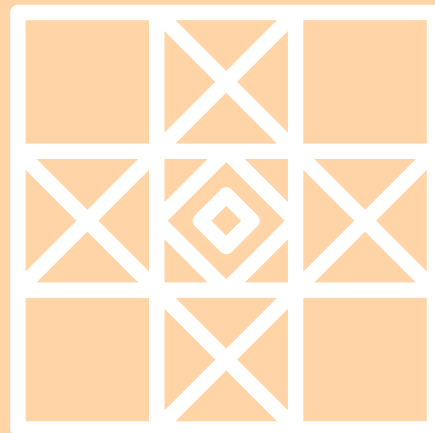
We had a booth set up at the powwow, and handed out information.



Upcoming Events

May 17th

Make a block marathon, join us in the studio, and make a block! Learn how to read a pattern, cut, and piece.



May 27th

Binding marathon & potluck lunch - join us in person or over Zoom, for our last binding marathon till the fall!

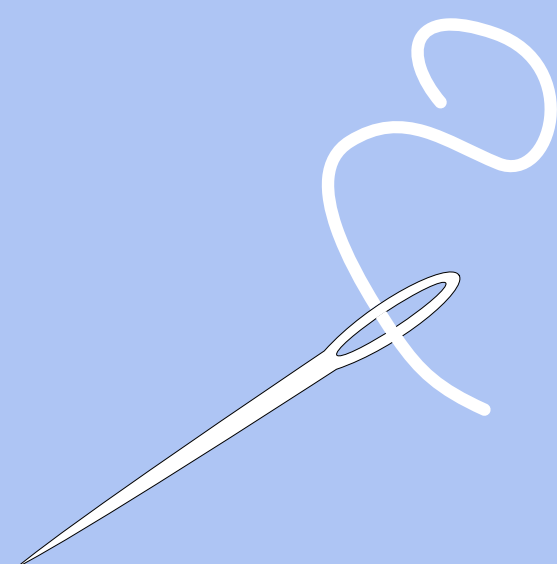
June 7-10th

Quilts Canada Halifax Nova Scotia!
To find out more please visit
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/423573136415569/>

**Quilts for Survivors
2nd Anniversary**

June 2023 - stay tuned for more information!

**Orange you glad were sewing
retreat signup.**



Limited spots available
\$175 Fee includes Lunches, Snacks and One Feast
Does not include accommodations
Fee Must be paid in full upon registration.
Click the Link below to register.
<https://forms.gle/ujTiApcgnNDzJJ1z9>

for more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Updates

Donations



Donations can be made by
EMT to Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
or through buy me a coffee

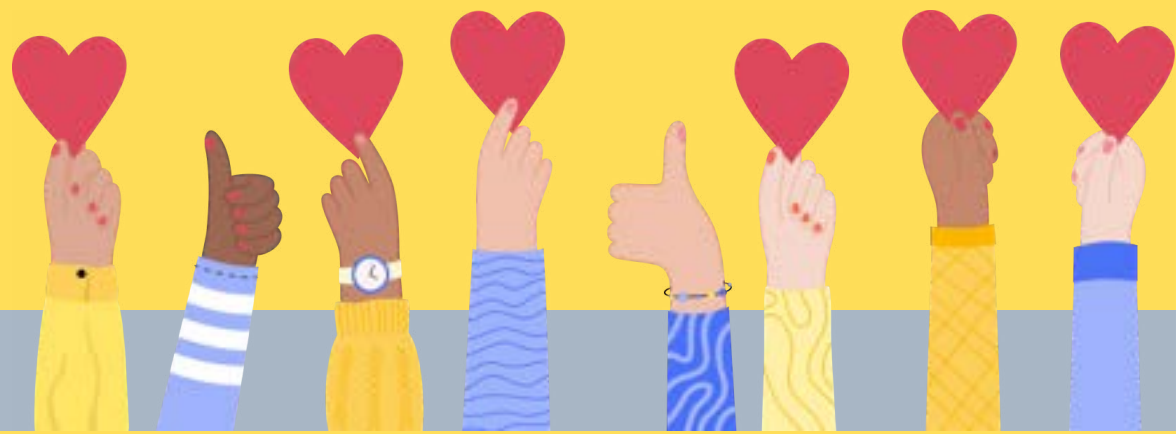
Linktree*



Check out our Linktree!
It has all our links such as our website, the sew along
registration, Buy me a coffee, Our Wishlist ETC.
<https://linktr.ee/Quiltsforsurvivors>

Volunteering

it is our hope that you will take some time once a
week or even once a month to come in and work a
few hours or spend the whole day with us at our
studio. See page 7 for full details.



Wishlist

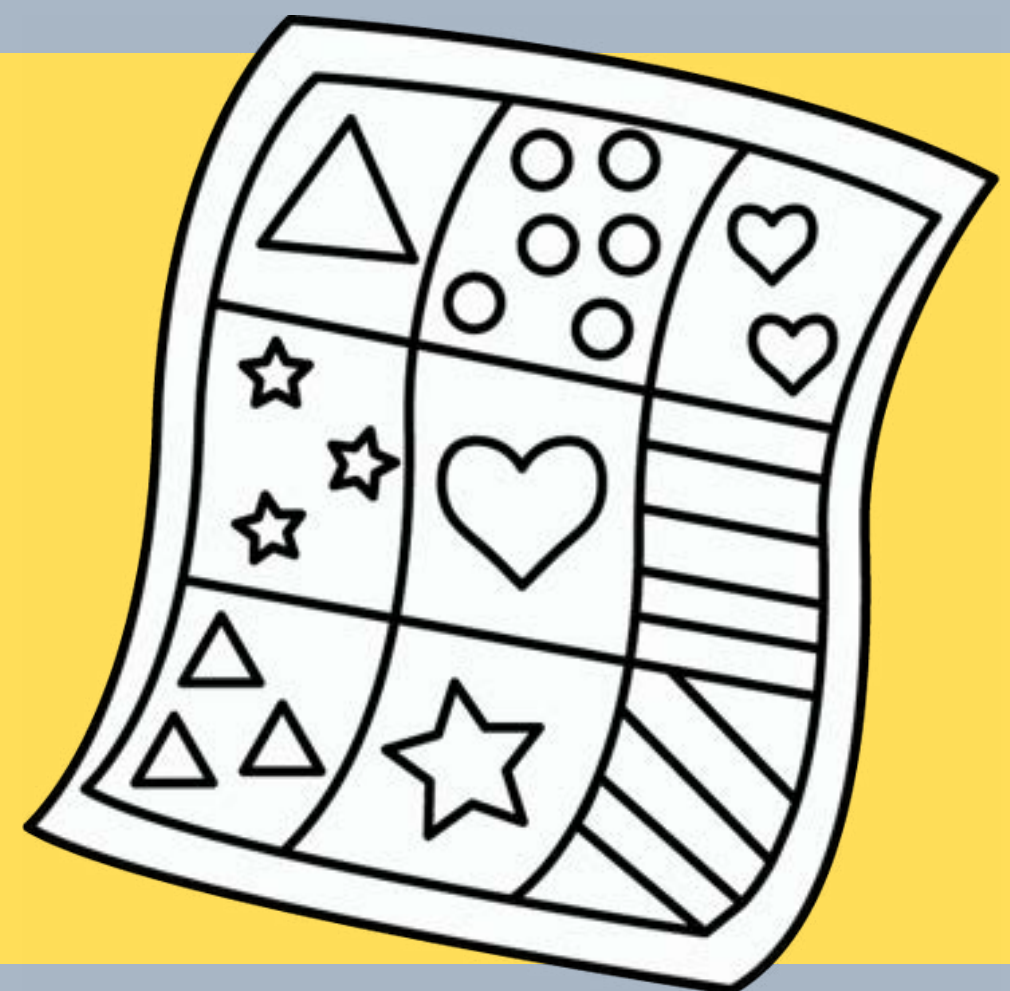


I've also been asked about our Wishlist,
how does that help QFS?
Purchasing items off our Wishlist helps us
get things we need for the studio or would
help make things easier for us in the studio.

If you would like to purchase something please visit our
Wishlist, thank you!
<https://mywishlist.online/w/5pxebt/quiltss-wishlist>

Quilts Quilts and More Quilts

In case you didn't hear we have now sent over
2,939 quilts. That's amazing! Thank you everyone
for your continued support!



for more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Stories from Survivors & Volunteers

Vanessa,

I wanted to let you know about a lifelong quilter who during the pandemic's lockdown period, lost her energy to quilt and in fact talked about giving her lifelong collection of fabric away. She stopped joining in on guild activities even over Zoom. Her melancholy (depression) also started to impact her health and other activities she used to love to do.

About 18 months ago, I visited her and told her what I was doing and the quilts I was making with the 'Journey Home Panel,' I spent some time talking about the Quilts for Survivors project. She looked at the panels and heard the stories about how the quilts were helping to heal survivors. She took 2 of the panels that I had brought with me.

A little while later, I heard from the family of the quilter that she was sewing up a storm creating quilts. She found a long armer that was a 3-hour drive from her home and has now mailed a number of quilts together to Survivors.

In fact, she has now organized her guild to create over 35 quilts for a local band of Survivors.

I wanted to share this story so everyone realizes that the quilts we are making don't just start to heal Survivors, but they also heal the quilt makers.

The project Quilts for Survivors made a real difference for this quilter and allowed her to get her passion for life back.

Miigwetch – Pat

Hi Everyone!

I'm Eileen from Nova Scotia. I've been volunteering with QFS since 2021. I had gone down that wormhole called Facebook one evening when this woman appeared with a couple of kids. It was shortly after the 215 small souls had been discovered in Kamloops and my heart was heavy. This woman was speaking about how this discovery had impacted her. She indicated she had been a long time quilter, and she felt the Creator was guiding her to help survivors in some tangible way. She asked for fellow quilters across Turtle Island to send her 215+1 quilt blocks, one for each of the small souls found. She would then sew these blocks together to make 18 quilts for presentation to survivors of the residential school system. That woman was Vanessa Genier.

Vanessa mobilized a nation of quilters, and I'm happy and honoured to be one of them. I've been a quilter for over a decade, mostly making quilts for family, friends, and charity organizations. I love putting the "puzzle pieces" of the quilt together, sometimes with great results, sometimes not so great. Since retiring from my job as an ICU/PACU nurse I had a little time on my hands so I jumped right in. My first quilt was made for a local elder who was having some health challenges at the time. Since then I've continued to make quilts for this group. I

love watching the "lives" and seeing the donations come in. It feels like Christmas morning each and every time this incredible generosity pours in. I love seeing the posts on Facebook of survivors with their quilts. If it's one of mine it's even more special. Hearing the survivor's stories is both heartbreaking and inspirational. It really makes us want to keep going. Vanessa's message touched my heart and I knew I wanted to be part of this very special initiative. This group is so supportive and encouraging. It's a positive experience with a ton of feel good moments. Watching the growth of this group, far surpassing Vanessa's initial goal, has been truly wonderful. We still have one or two quilts to make to fulfill all our requests but we shall get there. The sky's the limit.

Thank you Vanessa for your hard work and dedication. Thank you to my fellow quilters, near and far, you are sew wonderful. Thank you to those who are not quilters but contribute in their own special way. I truly appreciate each and every one of you. We are making a difference, one and all.

YIKES!!! I have mailed out over fifty quilts to survivors!! How did THAT happen?

I guess it's a slippery slope. I have been sewing since I was a child. When I retired in 2016, I decided to learn to quilt. When Covid hit, the local community was in dire need of masks so I spent every waking moment making them. It was a full-time occupation. When the mask crisis was over, I was used to sewing full-time, so I went back to quilt making with a vengeance. I rapidly ran out of people to give them to!

I saw an article in the Canadian Quilters' Association newsletter that Vanessa was looking for blocks. I checked out the Facebook group and the 'lives'. I realized that Vanessa was receiving more blocks than she could deal with, and that her house had a pile of 75 tops waiting to be quilted. Yikes! [The pile is now over 300, but at least it is in the studio.]

The photos of recipients with their quilts often bring me a smile or tears. Their stories are so touching! It is obvious that these quilts are really appreciated. As Vanessa says, each quilt seems to go to the right person.

So back to the fifty quilts... some are ones that I have made from scratch, some are from tops that other people have made. I have contacted a few people in the group that live not too far away, and offered to finish their tops into quilts rather than having them added to Vanessa's pile. I have met some great people this way - Terry Woodrow, Alyson Driedger, and Jo-Anne Twamley. Kat has sent me a few boxes of tops from the pile in the studio to finish off.

Alyson even came to my place for a few days and we had our own mini-retreat where she learned to quilt her own quilts on her domestic machine. The standard QFS are the perfect size for this!! If anyone else would like to learn, contact me!

So, in summary, sewing for QFS is a good fit for me - lap quilts are the perfect size for trying out an idea and you can quilt them on a domestic machine, there is a long list of very deserving people who would love to receive a quilt, the recipients are so appreciative, and the other volunteers are great people to get to know!

Barbara Jordan

To read Helen's story please click here

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1163361047509182/permalink/1484827738695843/>

To have your story featured in our newsletter please email Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS STUDIO SCHEDULE MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1 ADMIN	2 OPEN 3PM-9PM	3 OPEN 10AM-9PM	4 OPEN 10AM-3PM	5 ADMIN	6
7	8 ADMIN	9 OPEN 3PM-9PM	10 OPEN 10AM-9PM	11 OPEN 10AM-3PM	12 CLOSED	13
14	15 ADMIN	16 OPEN 3PM-9PM	17 OPEN 10AM-9PM MAKE A BLOCK MARATHON	18 OPEN 10AM-3PM	19 ADMIN	20
21	22 CLOSED	23 OPEN 3PM-9PM	24 OPEN 10AM-9PM	25 OPEN 10AM-3PM	26 ADMIN	27 BINDING MARATHON* 11AM-3PM
28	29 ADMIN	30 OPEN 3PM-9PM	31 OPEN 10AM-9PM	1	2	3

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers *Binding Marathon - Potluck lunch



40 Spruce St S,
Kitchener, ON N4N 2M9
(705) 262-1853
quiltsforsurvivors.ca



source: google images

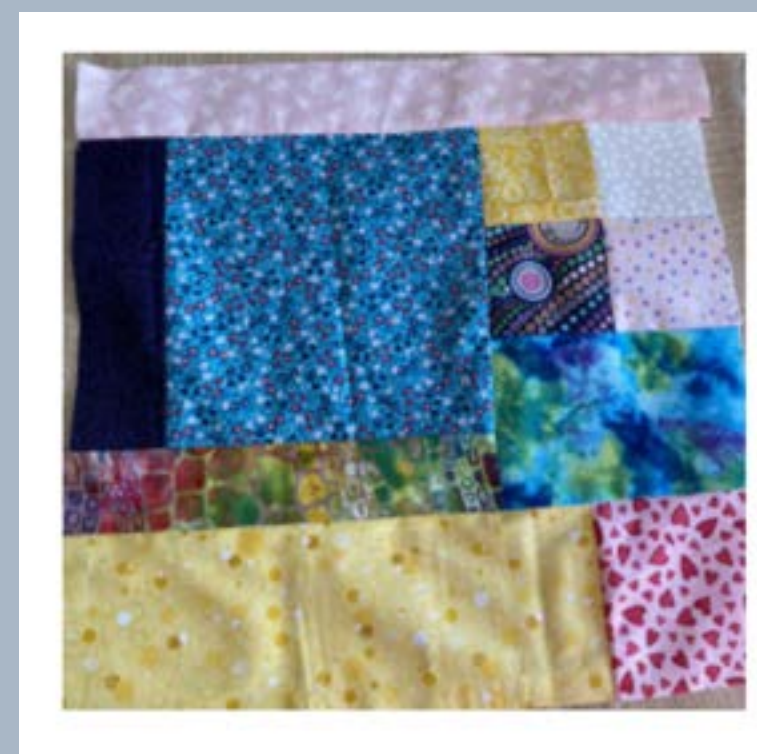


Colour in the feather

Block size: 16.5 inches

Cut: 2.5 x 16.5 (2x16 finished)			
Cut: 2.5 x 8.5 (2x8 finished)	Cut: 8.5 x 8.5 (8x8 finished)	Cut (4): 3.5 x 3.5	(3x3 finished)
Cut: 2.5 x 10.5 (2x10 finished)		Cut: 6.5 x 4.5 (6x4 finished)	
Cut: 12.5 x 4.5 (12x4 finished)		Cut 4.5 x 4.5 (4x4 finished)	

Our block from our Block Marathon!
If you have a pattern for a block that is 16.5" x16.5" and would like to feature it in the newsletter please feel free to email me!
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca





Quilts For Survivors

MERCH

BUY NOW!

- Hoodies
- Shirts
- Phone cases
- Stickers

PURCHASE MERCH HERE

<https://www.redbubble.com/people/Quilts4Survivor/shop>



WE NEED YOU

JOIN OUR TEAM AT
QUILTS CANADA 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers needed
June 8th, 9th and 10th
from opening to close

- no entry fee
- free merch
- meet Vanessa

FOR MORE INFO

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

CONTACT US

705-262-1853



JOIN US FOR OUR
BLOCK MAKING MARATHON

IN PERSON

340 Spruce St S
Apt B
Timmins Ontario
P4N2M9

ON ZOOM

Check link in comments

QUESTIONS?

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

CONTACT US

705-262-1853



JOIN US FOR OUR
BINDING MARATHON

IN PERSON

340 Spruce St S
Apt B
Timmins Ontario
P4N2M9

ON ZOOM

Check link in comments

QUESTIONS?

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

CONTACT US

705-262-1853



SENDING OUT A QUILT?

HOW TO SEND A QUILT TO A SURVIVOR

- Make a quilt
- Put a QFS Label on the quilt
- Print out letter and poem
- Email us for a name and address

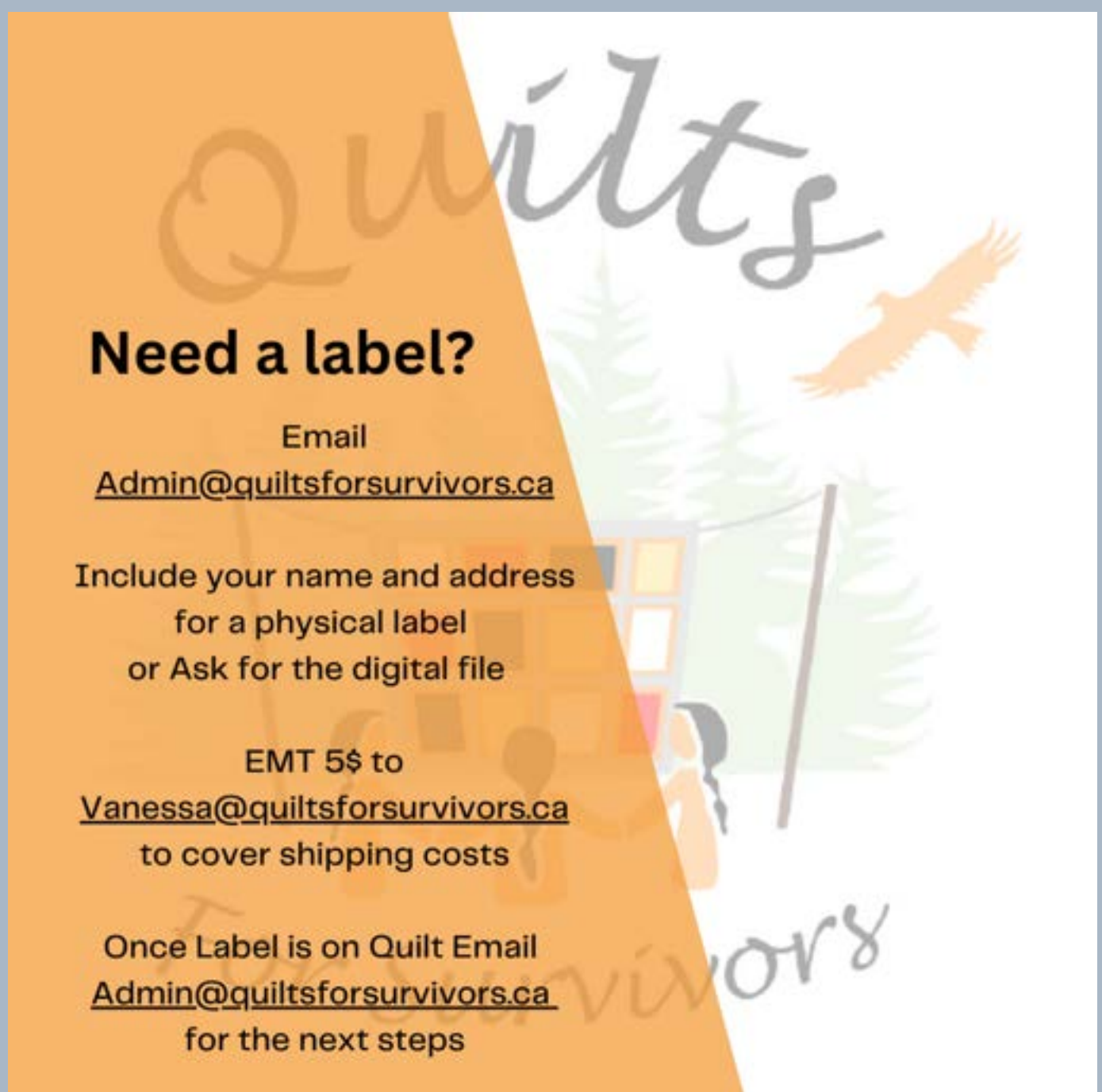
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

- Send out the quilt within 2-3 business days

Send a Quilt to QFS

- Mail it to Quilts for Survivors

130 Tamarack Street
Timmins Ontario
P4N 6P8



Need a label?

Email
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Include your name and address
for a physical label
or Ask for the digital file

EMT 5\$ to
Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
to cover shipping costs

Once Label is on Quilt Email
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
for the next steps

A Message from the Editor

Hello, everyone!

As you all know we are getting very excited at the studio!! There are only 35 days left till Quilts Canada!!

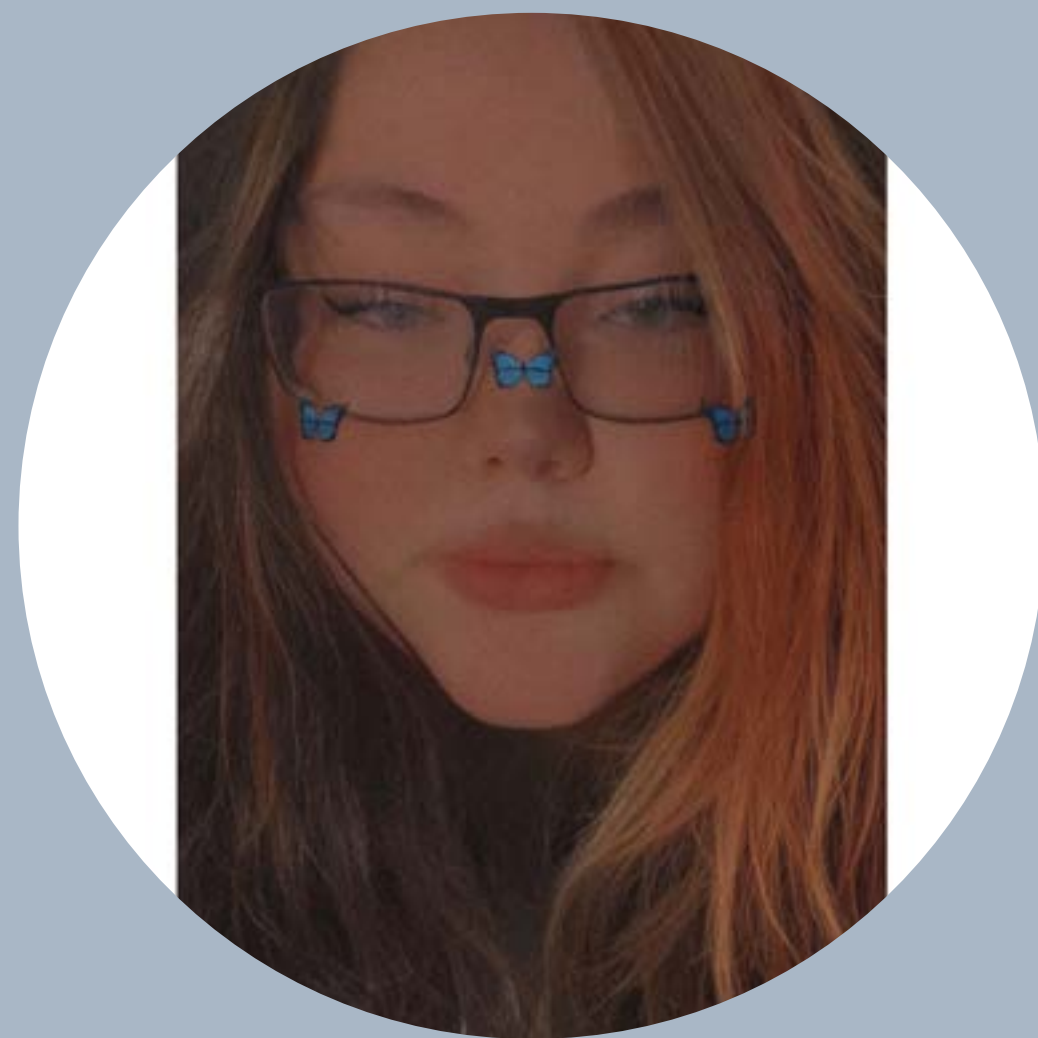
It'll be my first time in Nova Scotia and I am very excited!! We have been busy at the studio this month, we have gotten new furniture which I had to put together but it looks great!

I am very thankful for all the volunteers who work from home and the ones that come into the studio, without you it would be a lot more work, my challenge this month is just to keep sharing our group and inviting people to join!

I spent the last week of April attending a conference in New Brunswick, I got to meet many new people and talk to them about QFS. while doing that I was reminded how amazing Vanessa and all our volunteers are. When you are doing this work every day you can sometimes forget how big of an impact you and others are making. I just want to say thank you to everyone who has supported this project so far!

I do also want to give a special shoutout to Alexia for helping edit the newsletter !

As always happy quilting!
-love kat



If you have any comments or ideas for the newsletter, let me know!

We are always looking at ways to improve.

You can reach me at
admin@quiltsforsurvivor.ca