

Quilts For Survivors



Look back at our 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat

Reflecting on a great few days



STUDIO UPDATES |
UPCOMING EVENTS | MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD |
STORIES FROM VOLUNTEERS | GENERAL INFO AND FAQ |

Table of Contents



- 3** **Message from the Editor**
Short Message From our Editor Katherine
- 5** **Message from our Founder & CEO Vanessa Genier**
“It was above and beyond my wildest dreams.”
- 7** **Look back at our 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat**
Reflecting on a great few days
- 9** **Studio Updates**
Welcome! Our studio is a safe space for everyone to come in and sew!
We offer classes, events, and workshops.
- 11** **Stories from Survivors & Volunteers**
Story by “Poster Child” Gayl R, Astrid W “42” and Janet F
- 13** **Upcoming Events**
Events for October & November
- 15** **General Information & FAQs**
General Information and Frequently Asked Questions
- 17** **Request A Quilt**
Information on Requesting a Quilt
- 18** **Messages from the Board**
A thank you from the Board

Quilts For Survivors

58 Legion Drive
 South Porcupine, Ontario
 P0N 1H0
 Canada

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Editor-in-Chief
 Katherine Jeremiah

Managing Editor
 Alexia

Content Director
 Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier

Art Direction
 Katherine Jeremiah, Michael Jeremiah

Photographers
 Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier, Jess C

Contributing Writers
 Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier,
 Clara W, Cheryl M, Leslie G, Gayl R,
 Astrid W, Janet F



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

To request a Sponsorship Package
 please email Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Purple
 Sponsorship



MAT Fund

Orange
 Sponsorship



Newmont

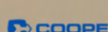
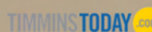
GREENLAMP PROPERTIES



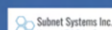
Green
 Sponsorship



Brown
 Sponsorship



Honourable
 Mention



From the Editor

Registration for our **3rd Annual Sewing Retreat** will open on February 1st, 2025 and there are limited spots available.

The 3rd Annual Sewing Retreat will be hosted in our studio space located at 58 Legion Drive in South Porcupine Ontario.

We will be offering long-arming classes in addition to sewing.

New to the Retreat agenda in 2025, we will also be hosting a Gala with Guest Speakers, dinner and a Silent Auction.

COME SPREAD THE LOVE

3RD ANNUAL ORANGE YOU GLAD WE'RE SEWING RETREAT

September 27-30, 2025

About The Retreat

It is a time to **come together** as an International community to **sew, learn, & be inspired**, and to **meet other volunteers and QFS's own Quilter with a Heart of Gold, Vanessa Genier M.S.M.**

Visit the City with a heart of gold and learn how we **give back to Survivors.**
Be a part of Truth and Reconciliation.

Retreat Highlights

HONOURARY GUEST
PHYLLIS WEBSTAD FROM THE ORANGE SHIRT SOCIETY

CLASSES
Quilting Classes Taught by Brandy Maslowski, The Quilter on Fire
Long Arming Classes Taught by Suzanne Gauthier, The Quilting Barn.

TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS
Each day we will have traditional Indigenous Teachings from Grandma Cheryl.

FIRST ANNUAL GALA
We will host our first gala which will include a dinner, our Honourary Guest Phyllis Webstad will speak, and we there will be a Silent Auction.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FEB 1, 2025

CONTACT US:
705-262-1853

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA

Thanks so much for your continued support. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter!

Hello everyone!

I'm excited to share our latest monthly newsletter, filled with updates and new information for Quilters, Volunteers, and Survivors.

The past couple of months have been incredibly busy with the Annual Sewing Retreat, starting school, youth council activities, and trying to maintain a somewhat normal social life. In the midst of all this, I realized I hadn't taken enough time to focus on my mental health, which led me to take a much-needed break. So, I want to remind you all to prioritize your mental well-being in whatever way works best for you. You are important, and you matter.

We love hearing from you, so please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with us. Your feedback and suggestions for future issues are always appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy this month's newsletter! Don't forget to check out the website for updates I've been making!

Katherine Jeremiah
They/Them

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





Message From Our CEO & Founder

By Vanessa Genier “It was above and beyond my wildest dreams.”

Wow, what a great Sewing Retreat! I am already excited about the next one. We had around 70 people attend the Retreat. They came from across Canada and several from the USA. We had 8 to 10 people joining through the live stream at any given time. I was overwhelmed and amazed at the generosity and support of not only the people who attended but also their fellow quilters who sent up donations.

We had every part of the quilt-making process happening at the same time. Every time I looked up from my machine, I would see several quilters at the cutting tables or ironing. We had so many quilters working together to help support each other and their blocks or tops. I was working on a quilt top and Patsy gave me a bunch of trimmed blocks to finish off my quilt. For another quilt top, Karen gave me the measurements for one extra large Bear Paw that made one complete quilt. I believe I added a border. This pattern will be up on our website soon.

My favorite part of the Sewing Retreat was meeting everyone, chatting with them, learning about how they got into quilting and how they heard about QFS. One lady learned how to quilt at the Sewing Retreat. That is amazing. We made 110 tops - some completely from scratch and others were made with already-made blocks or a combination of blocks. We also quilted 22 quilts at the Retreat. Several quilters were quilting on their domestic machines and even hand quilting. We had over 40 completed quilts donated. **It was above and beyond my wildest dreams.**

Another highlight of the Retreat was welcoming quilters into our new studio space. It is great to be able to share all the blessings the Creator has given us with others. Next year we will be hosting the Retreat in our studio. Doing this will give you the full experience we have every time we come into the studio. We will also have slots available for long-term use. If you have never used a machine, we will have qualified teachers to provide instructions.

One other special event to note is our Gala held during next year's Sewing Retreat. Our Special Guest is Phyllis Webstad, founder of the Orange Shirt Society. We are honoured to have her come to Timmins to be a part of our Retreat.

This year has been one of change and patience. I have learned a lot about waiting on the Creator, asking for what I need, and focusing on what is important. I have been making time for myself and my family. I have been working on personal quilts to gift to my family at Christmas. The plan is to have 16 quilts ready to gift at our Christmas dinner. They are all unique and different and all made using fabric in my stash. I don't even think I made much of a dent in the stash pile. New fabrics always find their way into the sewing room. Stay tuned for more exciting news from us as we continue to expand and create love and comfort one stitch at a time.

Vanessa Genier M.S.M
Founder and CEO
Aka Quilter with a Heart of Gold

Look Back at our 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah



Orange You Glad We're Sewing



Celebrating Healing Through Creativity: The 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat for Quilts for Survivors

This past weekend our community came together for the **Quilts for Survivors: 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat**, an event that beautifully blended creativity, compassion, and camaraderie. Held at Northern College, this Retreat brought together volunteers, quilters, and Survivors to create healing quilts designed to provide comfort and warmth to those in need.

A Weekend of Purpose and Connection

From the moment participants arrived, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and purpose. The Retreat kicked off with a warm welcome and an introduction to **the Retreat's mission: to craft quilts that embody hope and healing for survivors**. Volunteers of all skill levels came together, from seasoned quilters to those new to sewing, united by a shared passion for making a difference.

Crafting Healing Quilts

Throughout the Retreat, attendees focused on making healing quilts. Participants collaborated to sew quilt tops, create individual blocks, and piece everything together. Each quilt was imbued with love and intention, as quilters shared stories, laughter, and encouragement while working side by side. The creative energy in the room was palpable, with vibrant fabrics transforming into beautiful quilts that would soon provide comfort to those who are on their healing journey.

Fun and Fellowship

Beyond the sewing, the Retreat was filled with fun activities designed to promote relaxation and bonding. The day included traditional teachings, storytelling, sharing meals, and creating a sense of community and friendship. Participants exchanged ideas and inspirations, forging connections that will extend beyond the Retreat.

A Heartfelt Impact

As the Retreat came to a close, the collective impact of the participants' efforts was clear. The quilts created during the weekend are more than just pieces of fabric; they represent hope, healing, and the strength of the community. Each quilt will be gifted to survivors, providing them with warmth and a reminder that they are not alone on their journey.

Looking Ahead



As we reflect on the success of this year's Sewing Retreat, we are already excited about next year's event. We encourage everyone – whether you're a quilter or simply interested in supporting our mission – to join us. Together, we can continue to spread kindness and healing through the power of quilts.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, participants, and sponsors who made this Retreat possible. Your time, skills, and compassion are truly appreciated, and we can't wait to see what we'll create together next year!



QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS
STUDIO SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Closed	2
3	4 Admin	5 Open 10am-6pm	6 Open 10am-6pm Block Making 11am-1pm	7 Open 10am-6pm	8 Closed	9
10	11 Admin 	12 Open 10am-6pm	13 Open 10am-6pm Intro to Sewing* 11am-1pm	14 Open 10am-6pm	15 Closed	16
17	18 Admin	19 Open 10am-6pm	20 Open 10am-6pm Drum Social+ 2SLGBTQ Paint Night 3-8pm	21 Open 10am-6pm Youth Night*	22 Closed	23 Binding marathon 11am-3pm
24	25 Admin	26 Open 10am-6pm	27 Open 10am-6pm	28 Open 10am-6pm	29 Closed 	30

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers || *must register || potluck lunch at binding marathon



58 Legion Dr
South Porcupine
ON P0N 1H0
(705) 262-1853
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Hours

Welcome! Our studio is a safe space for everyone to come in and sew! We offer classes, events, and workshops.

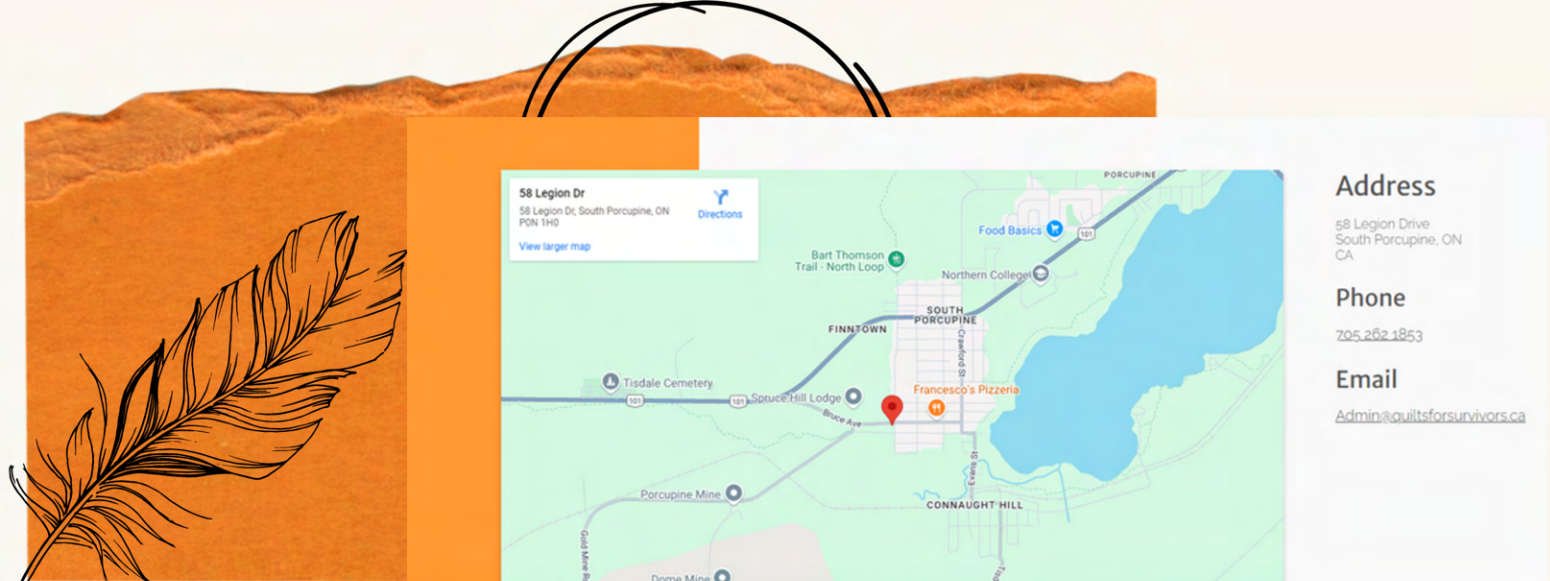
Regular Hours

We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 6 pm.



Studio Updates

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah



Sewing Space

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates from our sewing studio! Over the past few weeks, we've been busy revamping our space to make it more inviting and functional for all our quilters and volunteers.

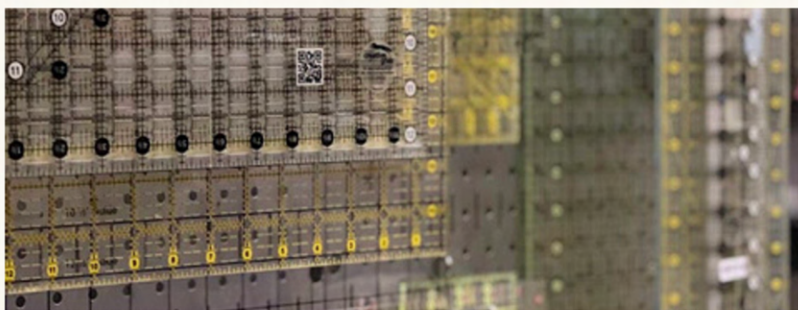
Workshops

Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops and open sewing days, where you can explore new techniques and connect with fellow creatives. We're excited to see what you'll create in our refreshed studio!

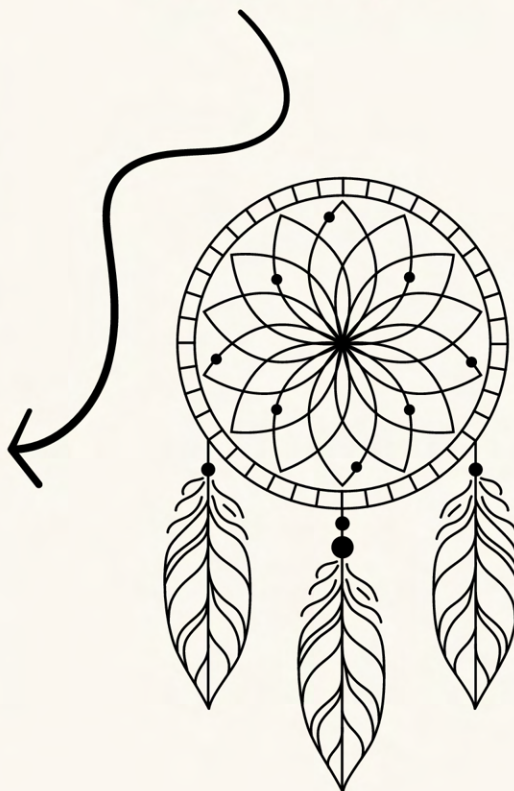


Fabric Room

We've also organized a vibrant fabric library, making it easier for everyone to access the materials they need for their projects.



Our Studio Space





Stories From Survivors & Volunteers

Stories by “Poster Child” Gayl R, Astrid W “42” and Janet F

Gayl R

Volunteering, Quilting, and Me - “Poster Child” Gayl R

Volunteering has been a lifelong journey, one that started right in my village as a child. I have fond memories of serving tea at flower shows, flipping burgers at the winter carnival canteen, and helping out with fundraisers at the nearby women’s center. These experiences grounded me in the value of community service, showing me that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in people’s lives.

In 2011, our family came together in a different kind of way through quilting. The Quilting Posse was born as we tried to cope with the deep grief of losing my 4-year-old nephew. Quilting became a form of therapy and connection, giving us comfort and a creative outlet for our emotions. Over the years, we’ve shared many moments of healing, and our quilts have become symbols of compassion, gifted to other families going through difficult times.

My journey of understanding has also grown, particularly when I learned about the history of Residential Schools and the profound trauma endured by Indigenous children and their families. Like many, I was horrified by what wasn’t taught in history class and by the ways certain narratives overshadow important truths. When my sister introduced us to Quilts for Survivors, we joined wholeheartedly, creating quilts to honor Survivors and contribute to the healing of these resilient communities.

Volunteering and quilting have shown me the power of community and the ways we can support each other through both joy and hardship. I’m grateful to be part of something that keeps giving back, both to my village and beyond.

Astrid W “42”

My first encounter with Quilts for Survivors was through a podcast I follow regarding sustainability. After an unexpected acquisition of various quilt tops, I decided to finish those as well as a WIP and I planned on sending those to the organization. As a follow-up, I joined the QFS Facebook group. Once I had sent my quilts along, I was pleased to see them being shown in the group. I felt a sense of purpose and pride at the work being appreciated.

A few days later, one of the recipients posted a video of their new quilt. Nothing prepared me for seeing my finally finished WIP in the hands of someone who was truly touched and appreciative. My heart melted, my resolve hardened, and my tears flowed. This event gave me agency to become an ally to Indigenous people and to find a meaningful path within the Truth and Reconciliation movement.

I have since participated in the QFS Quilting Retreat. If nothing prepared me for seeing someone receive a quilt I had made, I can honestly say I was completely deconstructed and rebuilt by my experience at the Retreat. Not only did I meet quilters, passionate about their craft and willingness to share their knowledge, but I also met like-minded people whose deepest values are aligned with my own.

The ties forged during the Retreat, as we frantically worked on dozens of quilts, have changed me profoundly. Throughout the whole weekend, we were also privileged to assist and participate in smudging ceremonies, drumming sessions, sharing circles, and a powwow. I can only hope those for whom I've been honoured to craft a quilt can feel the love and the ties these quilts represent. And now back to quilting.



Astrid W “42”

Janet F

Thank you Kat for the invitation to share my volunteer experiences with your organization. I have learned so much about the Indigenous culture and have also been introduced to Mark Anthony Jacobson's stunning artwork. I am grateful for the personal growth I am continuing to experience.

My dear friend Diane and I had the honour of attending the Retreat held in Timmins this September. First I'd like to express a deep gratitude to Vanessa and her team for organizing a successful in-person retreat for 70 people, plus adding the online component. They created a beautiful, safe place for us to sew, share, listen, learn, dance, laugh, and yes, shed a few tears. A big thank you to Grandmother Cheryl for continually smudging our spaces. There were many poignant moments, George sharing his story with us as a Survivor, Grandmother Cheryl sharing her teachings, listening to what Truth and Reconciliation means to us and how we can put our words into action, and expressing to Vanessa what she means to us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the journey Diane and I made to arrive in Timmins in September 2024. We decided to attend well over a year in advance and were both so excited to participate. In late March, Diane had 5 strokes. When I saw her a couple of days afterwards she told me we were still going to Timmins! 😊 Throughout her rehabilitation she was determined and focused to be well enough to attend, and she did! Meeting Vanessa and her family in person was emotional and such an honour, not only for us but also for so many others.



Janet F

We truly feel blessed to be a part of this amazing community of volunteers. We met so many beautiful souls and cherish the friendships we formed. I would highly encourage anyone to participate however they can in this worthwhile organization. My son set up a business account with Canada Post so he could send out quilts on free Tuesdays in October. He felt like he made a difference as we walked out of the Post Office together.

To have your story featured here please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca **12**

Feel free to include a picture with your story as well.

Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah
October's Events and Workshops

Block Making

Block making happens monthly, we learn new techniques and make a different block each time.



Intro To Sewing

Join us at our Intro to Sewing Workshop from 11 am-1 pm at our studio, perfect for beginners or those who need to freshen up their skills. We teach basic stitches, how to use the machine, and make a cool block in the process. To Register please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Drum Social

Our First Drum Social and potluck. Join us for a fun evening full of singing and drumming.



Binding Marathon

Join us for our binding marathon and potluck from 11am-3pm.

Youth Jelly Roll Classes

Join us at our Youth Quilt Event, ages 16-29. Make a finished jelly roll race quilt from start to finish. To Register please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah
November's Events and Workshops

Block Making

Block making happens monthly, we learn new techniques and make a different block each time.



Intro To Sewing

Join us at our Intro to Sewing Workshop from 11 am-1 pm at our studio, perfect for beginners or those who need to freshen up their skills. We teach basic stitches, how to use the machine, and make a cool block in the process. To Register please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Drum Social + 2sLGBTQ Paint Night

Join us for our drum social + potluck as well as a 2SLGBTQS paint night. More information is on our website.



Youth Nights

Join us at our Youth Night, ages 16-29. Includes dinners and Volunteer Hours For School. To Register please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Binding Marathon

Join us for our binding marathon and potluck from 11am-3pm



Any questions? Email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Updates

by Katherine Jeremiah



Donations



Donations can be made by EMT to:
Vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
or through our Linktree

Survey



Our Survey On Colonization & Indigenous Land: Effects and Conservation can be filled out here
<https://forms.office.com/r/QnUan79EBv>

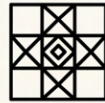
Volunteering

We 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 9 for full details.

Linktree*

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

Quilt Canada Binding



We are asking for a 2.5-inch binding joined on the diagonal.

If you cannot attend please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca for the mailing address
Shipping begins in April 2025



Wishlist

Purchasing items off our Wishlist helps us get things we need for the new Studio or things that would help make things easier for us in the Studio.
Thank you!

To purchase something from our Wishlist, please visit:
<https://mywishlist.online/w/5pxebt/quiltss-wishlist>

Quilts Quilts and More Quilts

In case you didn't hear we have now sent over **5,853** quilts. That's amazing! Thank you everyone for your continued support!



General Info & FAQs



Volunteer Quilt Top?

You can find the pattern on our website www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca, We ask that you only send us **ONE block per volunteer**. Please make sure it includes your name, city/town, and how long you have been a volunteer.

Please mail to:

Quilts for Survivors 58 Legion Drive, South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0

What kind of fabric is used?

100% cotton quilting fabric

What size of blocks are needed?

16.5 inches square

Are there any restrictions on the blocks?

Our Fabric Restrictions are posted on our website. No Religious fabric, School related fabric, Travel related fabric, Graphic illustrations or images, or Gang related fabrics.

You can always check with us by emailing: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Can I donate something other than a block or a quilt?

Yes! We are accepting monetary donations, supplies, and more. Please visit our Wishlist, see page 15 for the link and more information.

Can we donate tops or completed quilts?

Yes, tops should be 48" x 64" or lap size.

Completed quilts can be any size.

Please mail to:

Quilts for Survivors

58 Legion Dr South Porcupine, ON P0N 1H0

To ship directly to a Survivor please email: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

- Include a picture of the finished quilt & card (if you're sending one)
- Advise if you need a label or digital file from us
- Confirm you can ship within 2-3 business days of receipt of the address we provide

Once all of the requirements are met you will receive an address from us.



Quilts
For Survivors



Do you know a survivor?

Please contact us to submit your request for yourself or another Survivor by phone, email or via our website.



705-262-1853

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Quilts For Survivors started in 2021 with the vision of seeing all living Survivors with a quilt. Quilts For Survivors honours the journeys of Residential School Survivors, Day School Survivors, 60's Scoop Survivors and anyone who has gone through the foster care system.

**CONTACT US:
705-262-1853**

**admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA**

Messages From Our Board

Board Member Clara W

Good Day all

It's hard to believe that during the month of September QFS moved into the new studio space and held their 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat. The new studio space is AWESOME and has potential for growth; to eventually hire more staff and/or to offer various workshops. Another Sewing Retreat has come and gone and I can't believe how fast those four days went. It was GREAT to see returning QFS friends and to make new friends. Thank you to all who attended to sew an amazing number of tops and assembled quilts. Thank you to the participants that donated fabric, thread and completed quilts. We are all looking forward to next year's Retreat when Phyllis Webstad will be joining us.

November brings Remembrance Day. Wear a poppy and participate in your local ceremonies. Usually it's cold and snowing at our local event; I tell people I should be able to stand in the cold and damp for an hour since our Veterans sacrificed more for our freedom. Thank you Vanessa, staff and volunteers for your hard work and dedication to "offering comfort to survivors"

Meegwetch

Board Member Cheryl M

Hello, fellow volunteers,

Acts of kindness are more crucial than ever. Research shows that expressing kindness releases powerful hormones like oxytocin and endorphins, enhancing our well-being. As volunteers with QFS, we dedicate ourselves to bringing healing to those in need. We all share a desire to be part of something greater than ourselves, and I truly believe we've found that purpose within QFS.

Here, we begin the internal work that inspires us to make a difference in the world around us. Our healing quilts are a beautiful way to express our compassion and support for others on their journeys. Your generosity of time, skills, and talents is deeply appreciated—you all rock!

It's an honor and a pleasure to walk this path with each of you.

Meegwech!

Board Member Leslie G

Hello I would like to thank everyone for the support we are receiving for Quilts For Survivors.

I am thankful for all the people that attended the 2nd Sewing Retreat and am looking forward to seeing everyone next year.

Take care and be well until we meet again next year.

Lesley

Follow Quilts For Survivors

NEVER MISS A THING!

Stay up to date!



**Check us
out online**

WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA

Catch the freshest News
Updated frequently
Read anytime, anywhere

