

Quilts For Survivors



Quilt Canada 2024

How many 12.5-inch
blocks??



STUDIO UPDATES & SUMMER HOURS |
UPCOMING EVENTS | MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD
STORIES FROM SURVIVORS | GENERAL INFO AND FAQ |
MEET THE QFS STAFF

Table of Contents



3

Message from the Editor

Short Message From our Editor Katherine

5

Message from our Founder & CEO Vanessa Cenier

“We have sent over 5,600 quilts which is almost 2 quilts a day for 3 years.”

7

Quilt Canada 2024

How many 12.5 inch blocks?

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

Jenn's Story of volunteering

13

Upcoming Events

Events for July and August 2024

15

General Information & FAQs

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

17

Follow Us

Check out our Linktree!

18

Messages from the Board

A thank you from the Board

Quilts For Survivors

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www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

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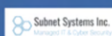
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ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION



Honourable
Mention



From the Editor

Remember, registration for our **2nd Annual Sewing Retreat** is now open and there are limited spots available.

We have less than 25 spots left!
Get your ticket before they are gone!

You can click here to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2nd-annual-sewing-retreat-tickets-695394021237>



Quilts For Survivors

2nd ANNUAL ORANGE YOU GLAD WE'RE SEWING RETREAT

ALREADY 50% SOLD!

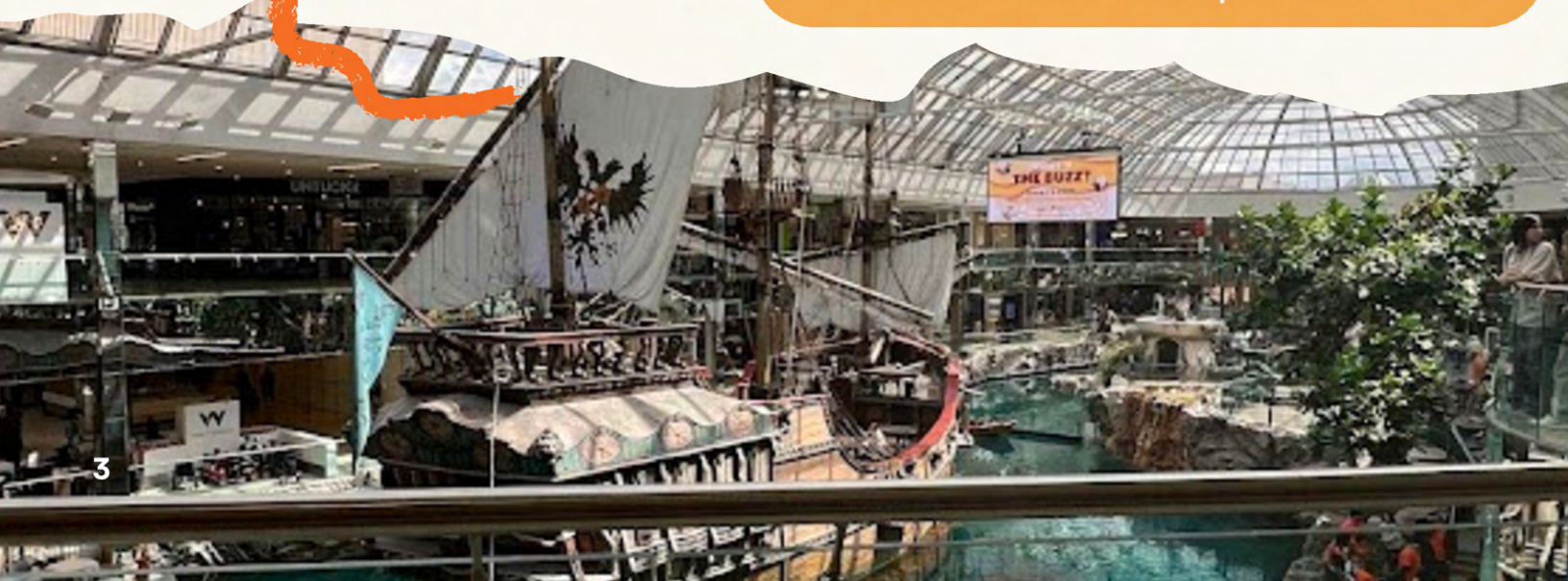
Karen Brown
Guest Speaker
Just Get It Done Quilts
I'm a quilter, crafter, mother, wife, daughter, businesswoman but not necessarily in that order. I love to make things and like nothing better than checking things off the list.

Vanessa Genier
CEO & Founder
A time to **come together** as an international community to **sew, learn and be inspired**, and to **meet other volunteers** and QFS's own **Quilter with a heart of gold, Vanessa Genier**.
Visit the City with a heart of gold and learn how we **give back to Survivors**.
Come be a part in Truth and Reconciliation.

When?
> September 27 - 30, 2024
Where?
> Timmins Ontario - Northern College
How?
> Tickets on Sale Now! on Eventbrite
Price?
> \$225.00*
*Includes lunches, dinners, snacks and a traditional indigenous feast with traditional drumming, food and dancing.

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

For more information, please call us at 705-262-1853 or send us an email: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



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

Hey there!

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

This is the summer edition of the newsletters! Issues 7&8 are combined.

I hope you are all having a great summer!

I had such a great time in Edmonton, I was a bit under the weather with allergies but I still got to do a few really cool things like go to the West Edmonton Mall and the Zoo.

We love hearing from you, so please feel welcome to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future issues.

Thanks so much for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter!

Katherine Jeremiah
They/Them

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white knit beanie, glasses, and a red jacket. She is looking upwards and to the left. The background is a snowy forest with bare trees. The image has a torn paper effect at the bottom.

Message From Our CEO & Founder

By Vanessa Genier

“We have sent over 5,600 quilts which is almost 2 quilts a day for 3 years.”

Wachay,

With Summer comes warmer days, new life and a time to reflect and rest. I have been enjoying my summer so far and I trust you are too. We have been very busy with the activities at the studio. We are still hosting classes, workshops and drop in sew times. This past week we started to assemble the amazing amount of quilt blocks we received while attending Quilt Canada in Edmonton last month.

With **over 4,000 blocks** to assemble into tops our staff and volunteers sure have been busy. We have sewn together over 40 tops just this past week. I am so grateful to everyone who donated a quilt block.

Over the past 3 years I am amazed at the amount of support we have received. Who would have thought that an idea to make 18 quilts would become a national way to take part in Truth & Reconciliation. **We have sent over 5,600 quilts which is almost 2 quilts a day for 3 years.** That is a lot of fabric, thread, love, and support. As we continue to grow, it is our hope that you will continue to walk or stitch beside us on this journey of healing. It was our government and churches that allowed this trauma to take place in our own backyard. As we sew together, we become a united force of love, support, and healing. I have said many times that it will take the entire country to heal our nations. We are each doing our part in this healing.

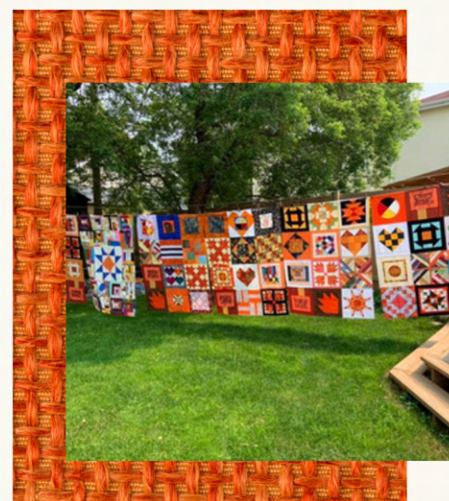
Looking back to the beginning to where we sewed out of my house with one machine, one iron, no longarm and using my kitchen counters and dining room table.... to a beautiful studio full of donations, new machines, fabric, longarms and love. **We sure have come along way and it is thanks to all of you.**

I want to thank the Survivors who allow us to humbly give from our hearts quilts made from many loving hands. We are honoured that you find comfort in our efforts. We cannot erase the past for you or take the memories away. We can sew love, respect, joy, appreciation and honour into each quilt. We do this to signify our commitment towards True Truth & Reconciliation. We do this to bring your inner child love and warmth. We will continue our mission until all our relations have been healed from the trauma caused by simply being an Indigenous person. Kitchi Meegwetch, Meegwetch,

In the spirit of community and love,

Kitchi Meegwetch,

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



Quilt Canada 2024

By Vanessa Genier
and Lora A

Photography by Katherine Jeremiah

How many 12.5-inch blocks??



Quilt Canada 2024

Quilt Canada was a great time. We meet so many volunteers, friends, supporters, and survivors. Our booth was larger to accommodate the donation of the use of two sewing machines from Central Sewing in Edmonton. The overwhelming support of donations was amazing. We had volunteers sewing the **4,040** blocks into tops while they were helping in the booth. We made 20-plus tops at Quilt Canada. We also received donations of completed quilts, tops, thread, other size blocks and fabric. We are grateful to everyone who stopped by, chatted, donated and shared their stories with us.


I enjoyed meeting all the amazing volunteers. Some of whom have been with us since the beginning. I was amazed that Lora had started following us from the First Live I had done. We sure have come a long way from our first booth in Vancouver in 2022. Helen and Suzanne have been our faithful volunteers who have helped with all three Quilt Canada Booths.

See you all next year in Toronto! I am excited to bring all 5 of my children to the show. Have a great summer.

-Vanessa Genier

Quilt Canada in Edmonton was full of firsts! This was my first time attending a quilt show and WOW it was as amazing as I'd heard it would be! So much inspiration too; I took many photos of the quilts on display. This was also my first time meeting Vanessa and Kat (and Suzanne from The Quilting Barn) in person after only seeing them virtually for the last 3 years. I was lucky enough to help Suzanne assemble some of the donated 12.5-inch blocks into tops; it was so much fun picking blocks from the giant pile of donations! I even got to watch Vanessa film one of her famous Facebook Live videos. As a day-one follower of Quilts for Survivors, it was extra special volunteering in person and it was lovely meeting SO many fellow quilters. As Vanessa often says, this is a tangible way to get involved in Truth and Reconciliation, and I fully agree! I was privileged enough to witness two survivor quilt presentations during Quilt Canada and while it was very emotional, it drove home the reason I will continue to volunteer with Quilts for Survivors from my home in Edmonton. I had someone ask me why I volunteer and it's simply because Vanessa's first live video spoke to me. I realized that I too could use my ability to sew a straight line to help do something, even though I had never made a traditional quilt block before. Three years later I'm fully deep into the quilting world and loving all of it!

-Lora A



*The overwhelming
support of donations
was amazing*

QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS STUDIO SCHEDULE JULY

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 closed	2 open 10am-3pm	3 open 10am-3pm Block Making*	4 open 10am-3pm	5 closed	6	
7	8 admin	9 open 10am-3pm Youth Day*	10 open 10am-3pm	11 open 10am-3pm	12 closed	13
14	15 admin	16 open 10am-3pm	17 open 10am-3pm	18 open 10am-3pm	19 closed	20
21	22 admin	23 open 10am-3pm	24 open 10am-3pm	25 open 10am-7pm Youth Night*	26 closed	27
28	29 admin	30 open 10am-3pm	31 open 10am-3pm	1	2	3

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers || *must register || Summer hours till September 2024



420 Government Rd S,
Timmins, ON P4R 1N4
(705) 262-1853
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Updates

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah

Studio Hours

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

Summer Hours

We are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm.

QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS STUDIO SCHEDULE AUGUST

2024

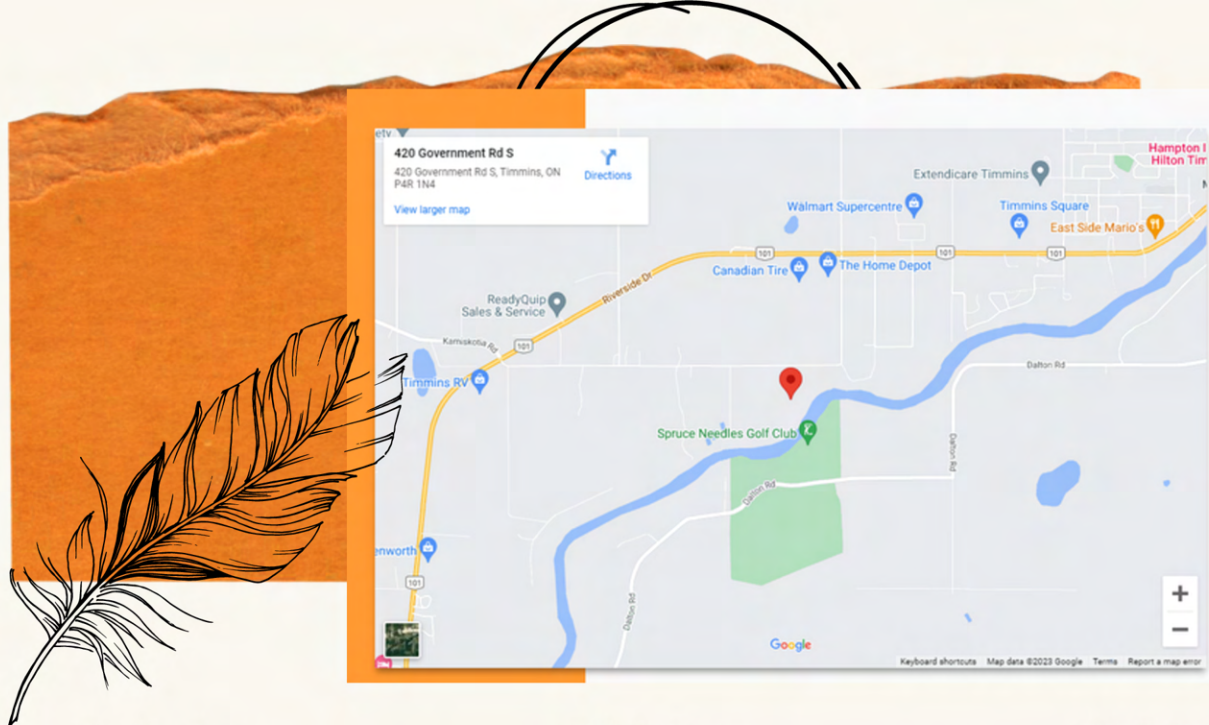
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 open 10am-3pm	2 closed	3
4	5 admin	6 open 10am-3pm Youth Day*	7 open 10am-3pm Block Making*	8 open 10am-3pm	9 closed	10 closed
11 closed	12 closed	13 closed	14 closed	15 closed	16 closed	17 closed
18	19 admin	20 open 10am-3pm	21 open 10am-3pm	22 open 10am-7pm Youth Night*	23 closed	24
25	26 admin	27 open 10am-3pm	28 open 10am-3pm	29 open 10am-3pm	30 closed	31

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers || *must register || Summer hours till September 2024



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Timmins, ON P4R 1N4
(705) 262-1853
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca





Address

420 Government Road S
Timmins, Ontario
CA

Phone

705.262.1853

Email

Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Sewing Space

We have been making good use of the sewing space! We have brand new machines to try out!



Fabric Room

"Our fabric room is so well organized, it makes picking out fabrics so much fun!!"



Workshops

We are always trying to get new Quilters and Volunteers in the Studio.

We have many different Workshops and things to attend for all skill levels.

"We are always trying to get new volunteers in the studio"





Stories From Survivors & Volunteers

Story by Jenn
Svarckopf

**Ottawa Modern Quilt Cuild and
friends sew and raise funds for
Quilts for Survivors**

Sew Days

Since 2021, on National Truth and Reconciliation Day we have gathered to quilt for Quilts for Survivors. I thought as a federal government employee and quilter it would be good to use this new day recognizing all that has been done to the inhabitants of Turtle Island and all that needs to be done in reconciliation and towards healing that I could organize a few friends and fellow quilters to make a quilt.

In 2021, Ottawa was still in a partial lock down and strict rules applied at Maki House, the community centre, having reopened just days before. So 5 of us got together and pieced and quilted (with the batting) as we went one quilt from the Canape pattern that Stéphanie Di Cesare had in a favourite book. M-R Charbonneau quilted it to the backing afterwards. It was lovely to sew with others in-person for the first time (at least for me) since 2019.

In 2022, the group got a little bigger and a little more ambitious, 2 quilt tops were made that year (1 finished afterwards) these included strawberry blocks from Vancouver Modern Quilt Guild tutorial (<https://vancouvermodernquiltguild.ca/blog/archive/past-challenges-and-round-robins/challenges-2017/june-strawberry-blocks/>) that Leslie Stobbart had found and a flying geese frenzy with Healing Water panels that Kirstin Fearon designed. Volunteers long-armed and bound the quilts after the sew day.

In 2023, the group grew a little larger and a little more official when the Ottawa Modern Quilt Guild, of which several of the group are members, agreed to pay for shipping of the quilts made that sew day and promoted the sew day at the meeting before the event. While we were very happy with the 2021 and 2022 quilts, we knew there were a lot of survivors still waiting for quilts so we supersized our strawberry quilt, worked out simpler designs with the Healing Waters and Tracey Metallic bear paw panels (Kirstin, Stacey Lee O'Malley, myself and others were involved in those designs), a stripey improv piece, and a stripey morning star with work led by Stéphanie (we decided the multi-diamond style was too precise for a quick sew-day project with multiple piecers). The quilt tops quilted by various volunteer longarmers who are all members of OMQG. The Morning Star ended up with some big stitch hand quilting to highlight the wonderful quilt. Our guild president, M-R, bound many of the quilts this round.

Along with the 5 quilt tops started at the 2023 event, an Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild member who sewed with us that day (there are a few members of the group that belong to both guilds) donated a completed top, batting and backing, and at the November Sew and Tell at the OMQG in November two quilters donated completed quilts to be sent. Making a total of 8 quilts for the 2023-24 efforts.

(List of group members and long-arm quilters over the years includes: Devon Bartley, M-R, Amanda Case, Stéphanie, Kirstin, Wendy Foster Birch, Karen Mahoney, Diane Mainville, Christine McDowell, Carolyn Moffat, Diane Routledge, Leslie, Jenn. Apologies if any one has been missed – there are no group photos!)

Quilt Raffle

Along with the Ottawa Modern Guild supporting our group's donations by covering mailing costs for the (2023-24 season), as part of our 10th anniversary Quilt Show, the guild also raffled off a quilt in May/June 2024 with half the proceeds supporting the guild and half supporting Quilts for Survivors. Joel Becker, France Cyrenne, and Meighan Hartley worked to organize the raffle, get a license, make tickets and rally the members to sell tickets.

The raffled quilt, Confetti (51" x 62") was pieced by: Cheryl Thomson and the Improv North Bee members (Jo Allbutt, Traceyann Crawford, Shelley Dehay-Turner, Sylvie Hamel, Barb Kulka, Jera MacKenzie, Peggy Pirillo, Linda Schmidt, Carol Stanley); quilted by: Cheryl; and designed by: Cheryl and Improv North Bee Members. Artist Statement: It is a collaborative quilt made with the help from Improv North Bee. I asked for blocks in a specific colour pallet and with geometric shapes. I also asked for skinny strips in charcoal grey.

Thanks to Cheryl for the wonderful donation, the organizers, and all the OMQG members who sold tickets \$905.37 was raised for QfS. (The amount is weird since some tickets were purchased online and our raffle license didn't allow a charge to cover the service fee.) Hoping this helps with shipping, batting, backing or thread for a few quilts as you work through the donated blocks. France will mail the cheque promptly as the OMQG year-end is fast approaching.

Thanks to all the friends and guild mates that make these efforts such a success.

What's next?

One of the long-armers is quilting the last of the Quilting for QfS 2023 quilt now, so we'll be reaching out for another address soon.

We're organizing sewing quilt blocks/tops in two locations for September 30, 2024. Our regular spot where the focus is QfS quilts and at our guild retreat (which unfortunately overlaps this year) where retreaters will be encouraged to sew a block or 10 towards tops that will be quilted and mailed during the winter and spring.

Vanessa will be speaking at our Guild meeting in October 2024 and we're looking forward to meeting her and hearing her speak about the work she and all of you do, and about her experiences with giving quilts in person.

Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah
July's Events and Workshops

Block Making

In this Workshop, we are learning to make different kinds of simple blocks.

To **join the Workshop** please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Youth Day

Youth Days are for ages 16-29. We will be working on different projects all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer Lunch with our Youth Days.

Yard Sale

Yard sale from 9 am-3 pm at our studio on Government Rd S, we asked for Items from the community and made over \$1,000



Youth Night

Youth Nights are for ages 16-29. We will be working on different projects all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer Dinner with our Youth Nights.

Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah
August's Events and Workshops



Youth Day

Youth Days are for ages 16-29. We will be working on different projects all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer Lunch with our Youth Days. To signup please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Block Making

In this Workshop, we are learning to make different kinds of simple blocks.

To **join the Workshop** please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Closed

The studio will be closed due to staff attending a family gathering in Missanabie, Ontario

We will be back open on August 20th for volunteers.



Youth Night

Youth Nights are for ages 16-29. We will be working on different projects all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer Dinner with our Youth Nights.

To signup please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



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. it can be scrappy, we ask that it be joined on the diagonal.

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



Wishlist

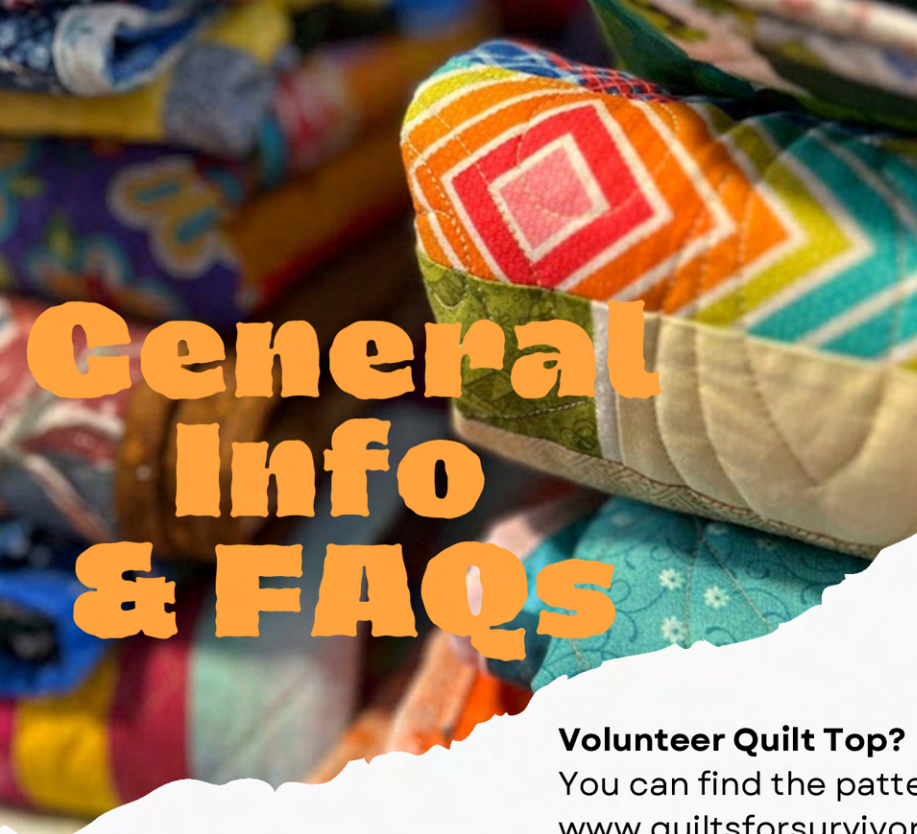
Purchasing items off our Wishlist helps us get things we need for the Studio or things that would help make things easier for us in the Studio. Thank you!

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 **5,656** 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

420 Government Rd S, Timmins, ON P4R 1N4

What kind of fabric is used?

100% cotton quilting fabric

What size of blocks are needed?

16.5 inches square or 12.5 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

420 Government Rd S, Timmins, ON P4R 1N4

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.

For more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

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out online**

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Phone number (705) 262-
1853



QFS Donations

Quilts for Survivors
website

Buy me a coffee

Request a Quilt

Messages From Our Board

Board Member Clara W

Good day All

Where did June and July go!! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and partaking in each day to the fullest.

A huge THANKS to all who contributed to the 4,000+ tops that were collected during the Quilts Conference; it was way beyond what was expected. The question now is when will the 10,000 quilt milestone be reached and thanks to everyone's time and generosity it could be reached at a faster time than the first 5,000.

For Quilts to continue without interruption of services we need constant funding. We encourage all our supporters to share our GoFundme page or encourage your local business to sponsor our initiative. The yard sale we had last weekend was FUN despite the heat; the wading pool of cold water helped us stay cool. During the yard sale volunteers were in the studio binding quilts and we were able to give a tour. I think we may have recruited a couple of volunteers.

Our next big event is in September; the 2nd Annual "Orange You Glad We're Sewing" Retreat. The goal is to have 100 participants and there are about 20 spots left. Over the three day retreat there will be workshops, giveaways and surprise announcements while sewing quilts. I met this year's guest speaker Karen Brown in June; Karen is very supportive of Quilts for Survivors and she is looking forward to the retreat.

Thanks always for sharing your photos with your beautiful quilts.

Chi- Meegwetch. Enjoy the rest of your summer and see you in September.

Board Member Cheryl M

Hello,

I have been having a great summer so far! I recently attended the cultural camp up in Missanabie which was a great time. I love being out on the land and around family, I am grateful for the land and all that it gives us.

As many of you know we have put a callout on gofundme to help with the overhead costs of keeping Quilts for Survivors running. If you can donate that would be greatly appreciated and if you cannot please consider sharing the post with friends and family.
Meegwetch

Quilts For Survivors



Scan to donate



gofundme

