

October 2022

Message from our CEO/Founder

Wachay,

Fall is a time when I often look back on the year and think about what I wanted to accomplish and where I wanted to be and have done for the year. When I started on this amazing journey, I never dreamed that only a short 15 months later I would be running a non-profit organization full-time and spending my days sharing my love of quilting and hours a week simply sitting at my sewing machine. I enjoy creating and putting together something that will bring comfort and joy to another. The one of the best parts of my day are seeing the recipients, our survivors wrapped in a quilt that took a journey of love to get to them. I have heard many people say how the quilt ends up with the right person. I agree the Creator knows what each of us needs and it is evident on their faces.



This month was extra special as I was able to attend 3 different events where survivors were honoured. At these events I was able to present quilts to survivors who are the true warriors. It is because of their resilience and love for their people, language and culture that I am the strong, proud Indigenous woman I am today. I am humble by the joy they feel when being wrapped in a quilt made for them by many loving hands. We don't all work on each quilt, but each quilt is filled with the love of the one who created it and also the love of us. We are all apart of the quilt's journey and this journey of healing as we are all walking together.

As we continue to promote creativity, healing and comfort may we never forget why we are on this journey. We walk this journey together, a journey of truth, love, honesty, and respect. It takes a country to heal our nations. We are bringing comfort and healing one stitch at a time.

Vanessa



Online Classes

Second quilt

With fall just around the corner we will once again be having out Zoom quilting classes. We will be making a new quilt called "Churned All Day" by Laurie Flannery for Laurie Rose Designs.

Classes will be held every third Sunday of the month from September to June. The second Class is October 16th, 2022, from 2pm-4pm EST. To register please email vanessa@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



QFS Spreading comfort

Out in the communities

September 16th – “Reclaiming our lives” 1st annual IRS gathering. **At this event we handed out 16 quilts to survivors, many at this event have already received a quilt from us.**

September 17th-18th – standing together: 20th Annual Northern College Powwow. **At the powwow we handed out 28 quilts. We honored many survivors at this event to see the event live check our Facebook group.**



September 30th – Orange shirt day/ blanket ceremony/National day for truth and reconciliation. **On September 30th Vanessa and Cheryl attended the blanket ceremony in Toronto with the Toronto modern quilt guild they handed out 47 quilts to survivors. Me and Michael attended the 8th annual orange shirt walk with the Timmins friendship center.**



September 20th – Walk for healing

We participated in the walk for healing with the friendship center.



Upcoming Events:

October 7th – presentation to love 2022

October 16th – QFS Class Quilt Blocks 3&4 (see website for more information)

October 21st-23rd – Quilting in Missanabie

October – youth sewing classes

Future events:

June 24th, 2023- 2nd anniversary Gala

September 28th – October 21st, 2023– QFS sewing retreat *registration opening soon*

Quilts, Quilts, and more Quilts

In case you didn't hear we have now sent over 2,000 quilts. That is amazing. Thank you all, for now it is our hope that you will take some time once a week or even once a month to come in a work a few hours or spend the whole day with us at our studio. See attached Calendar for full details.

Message from Grandmother Cheryl

What can I say, this sure has been a journey. Over 2,000+ Quilts made to date. I started knowing very little about quilting, but I was willing to learn, vanessa was willing to teach me. I am proud to say that I am now able to make a quilt from start to finish. With that being said I must admit the most healing part of this journey is all of you beautiful talented and generous people. This past year I have had the privilege to meet some of you personally and what an honour that was. I am amazed at the donations that continue to come in and just at the time we need them. We have a beautiful studio that we work from now and we also have 2 full time employees. It is amazing how creator uses each one of us to help, heal the residential school survivors. This work is very important, satisfying and healing. Knowing I am so glad to be a small part of you all. I like to call us the “*dream team*” – we are helping others to find healing and dream of better times.

Take care y'all and keep sewing – Grandmother Cheryl



A message from Katherine

Hello, everyone! This is my first newsletter; I am enjoying working in the studio fulltime. I have loved quilting everyday even though at times it can be frustrating and sometimes my boss is a bit crazy LOL.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to me at Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Remember to check out all of our social media links, we will be posting some exciting things soon!

My challenge for you this month is for you to use the #quiltsforsurvivors in a post, comment or story on a social media platform.

Happy quilting!!



This orange shirt drawing was made by Michael Jeremiah