

Quilts For Survivors



**How many Quilts
can we send out
in 2024?**

See our goals for 2024



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 Cenier

“I am excited about my chat with Sonya Rock. This will be over Zoom and it will be live. I invite you to join in and listen as we hear from Sonya about her journey through the Residential school system.”

7 How many Quilts can we send out in 2024?

See our goals for 2024

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

From Volunteer Diana K

13 Upcoming Events

Events for February 2024

15 General Information & FAQs

General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

18 Messages from the Board

A thank you from the Board

Quilts For Survivors

420 Government Road South
Timmins, ON P4R 1N2

www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Editor-in-Chief
Katherine Jeremiah

Managing Editor
Alexia P

Content Director
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier

Art Direction
Katherine Jeremiah, Michael Jeremiah

Photographers
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier

Contributing Writers
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier, Diana K, Cheryl M, Clara W, Lesley G

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

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



From the Editor

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

You can click here to register:

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



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.

> REGISTER NOW



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 with you our latest monthly newsletter, packed with lots of updates and new information for Quilters, Volunteers, and Survivors.

We are very pleased with our new staff, Connor is working downstairs on the longarm and Kendrick will be joining us on the 5th as the Studio Assistant!

We also have updates from our Founder and CEO Vanessa Genier as well as studio updates, general questions and information, and a message from our Board Members.

For those of you interested in quilting, we have a few fun tips and tricks, as well as a 'Block of the Month' pattern for you to try at home, you can always find more patterns and block ideas on our "[Buy me a coffee](#)".

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 month's newsletter!

Katherine Jeremiah

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





Message From Our CEO & Founder

By Vanessa Genier

“ I am excited about my chat with Sonya Rock. This will be over Zoom and it will be live. I invite you to join in and listen as we hear from Sonya about her journey through the Residential school system. ”

Watchay,

As I sit here in my office looking out the window at the snow falling, I am reminded of how blessed we are in our new studio. This new space has given us more opportunities to welcome in volunteers both those who have been on this journey with us for some time now and ones who are new to this journey. We have also been able to host events throughout the month, such as Intro to Sewing; Intro to Longarming; Block making and Youth Nights. These events have been so successful and we are looking forward to continuing them each month.

We are also blessed with a great staff that is growing. We have, as you know, Kat as our Studio Manager, Connor, Longarmer: and next week we welcome Kendrick, Studio Assistant. As I look back over our short 3-year journey we sure have come a long way. I never would have imagined when quilting in my home that I would have a staff not to mention a great space to work in. The Creator has truly blessed our work. I was told recently that when you do good work for the right reasons it will be blessed. QFS is a testament to that for sure.

We have many upcoming events that will be held online and in person. One that I am excited about is my chat with Sonya Rock. This will be over Zoom and it will be live. I invite you to join in and listen as we hear from Sonya about her journey through the Residential school system.

I have other exciting news to share but I will wait on that for a bit. I do want to share with you a proud mom moment, well actually a few. Last week Kendrick wrote his last exam for High School and will graduate at the ceremony held in June. Wallace and Josee competed in a Karate Tournament last weekend and Wallace walked away with a Gold in Sparring. Josee after only being in Karate for about 6 or 8 weeks walked away with experience. They both had a great time.

This month I am excited to finish up the quilt I have been working on for Nishnawbe Aski Natin (NAN). This is the one you might have seen with the small and tiny bear paw blocks. I will be personally presenting it at the end of February when I travel to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Kitchi Meegwetch for your continued support. It means sew much. We greatly appreciate each and everyone of you.

Have a great month and I am sure I will see you on an upcoming live.

In the spirit of community,

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



How many Quilts can we send out in 2024?

By Vanessa Genier
Photography by Katheine Jeremiah

See our goals for 2024



Quilts For Su

Goals for 2024:

We would like to send out 2,000 quilts in 2024!

- That would be 167 quilts per month.
- This would be 5.5 quilts per day.
- If the tops have 20 blocks in them, it would be 110 blocks made per day.

This would also ensure that anyone who requested quilts in 2023 would have their quilt by the end of the year.

We would like to see the wait time go down from 12+ months to 6 - 8 months.

We would like to have 25 quilts quilted in the studio per week.

We would like to have updated sewing machines.

We would like to train more volunteers on the longarm.

We want to have 1,000 quilt blocks at Quilts Canada in Edmonton June 2024 (12.5-inch blocks).

We hope to engage more sponsors and increase our donations.

We want to have more live and in person events to promote sewing, quilting and our organization.

We hope to have 100 people at our sewing retreat.

We strive to continue to move forward in a good way that honours our ancestors, brings healing and comfort, and provides a future the next generations can be proud of.



Our goal is to
send out 2000
quilts this year

QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS
STUDIO SCHEDULE
FEBRUARY

2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 OPEN 10am-7pm	2 ADMIN	3
4	5 ADMIN	6 OPEN 10am-7pm	7 OPEN 10am-7pm <i>Block Making</i>	8 OPEN 10am-7pm	9 ADMIN	10
11	12 ADMIN	13 OPEN 10am-7pm <i>How to use a panel* 11am - 2pm</i>	14 OPEN 10am-6pm	15 OPEN 10am-7pm <i>Youth Night*</i>	16 ADMIN	17
18 <i>Zoom Class* 2-4pm</i>	19 ADMIN	20 OPEN 10am-7pm	21 OPEN 10am-7pm <i>Intro to Sewing* 11am - 1pm</i>	22 OPEN 10am-7pm	23 ADMIN	24 <i>Binding marathon 11am-3pm</i>
25	26 ADMIN	27 OPEN 10am-7pm	28 OPEN 10am-7pm	29 CLOSED	1	

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



420 Government Rd S,
Timmins, ON P4R 1N4
(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. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 7 pm.

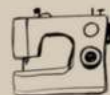


Quilts For Survivors
SPONSOR OUR MONTHLY YOUTH NIGHTS

By Sponsoring Our Monthly Youth Nights you will:

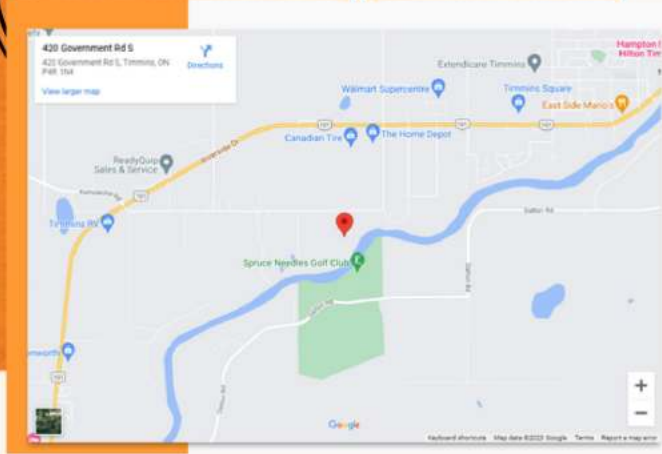
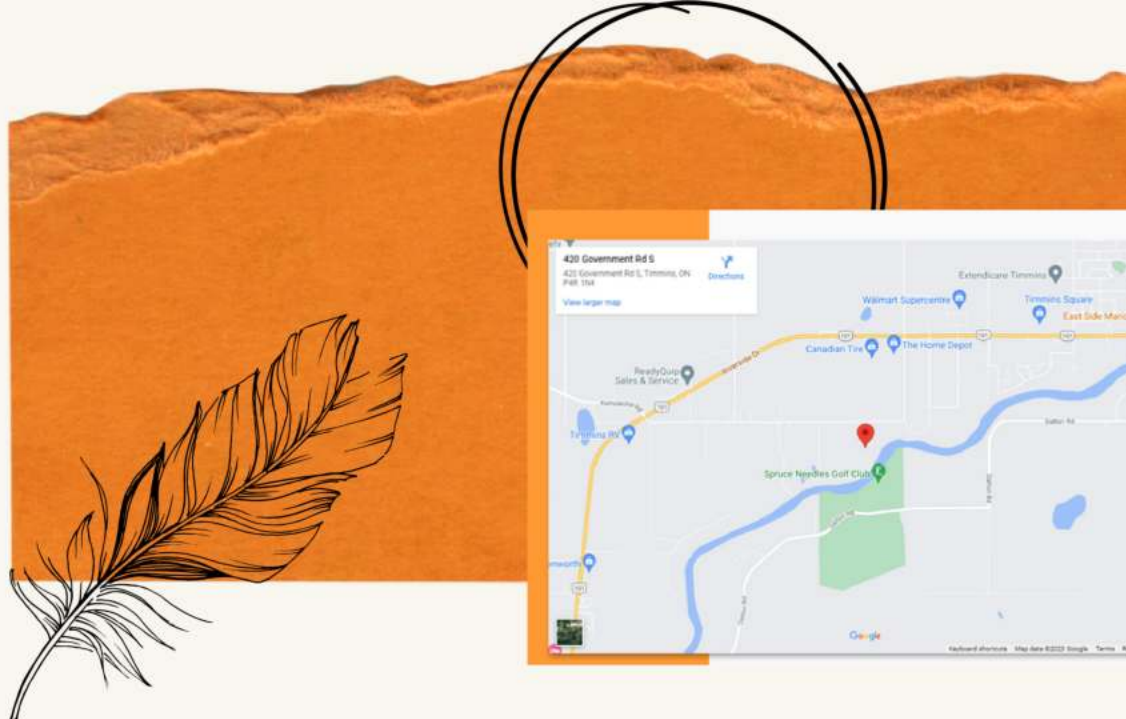
- Get free advertising for you or your business
- Be supporting local Timmins youth

For a Sponsorship Package please email:
admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Updates

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah and
Vanessa Genier



Address
420 Government Road S,
Timmins, Ontario
CA

Phone
705.826.1853

Email
Admin@quiltforsurvivors.ca

Sewing Space

We have been making good use of the sewing space! We have had someone in it every day that we are open!



Fabric Room

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

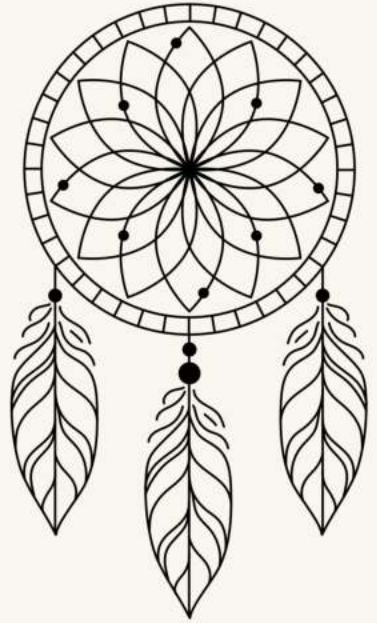


Workshops

We are always trying to get new Quilters and Volunteers in the Studio. We have been looking at offering new workshops and themed nights for Volunteers to come in and learn. We have four events now for people to join and attend every month.

The more people we can teach the better, so that we can continue this healing work for Survivors and ourselves.

“We are always trying to get new volunteers in the studio”





Stories From Survivors & Volunteers

By Diana K

Stories from Survivors
and Volunteers



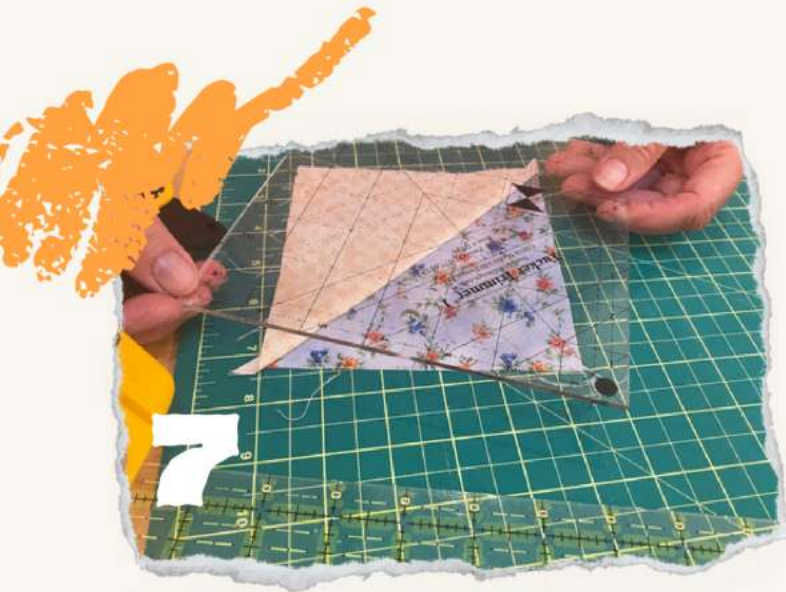
To my fellow volunteers my name is Diana Klatt. If the name sounds familiar to you, it may be because I am the author of the poem that goes out with each of our beautiful quilts. Back on July 1, 2021, I was introduced to Quilts for Survivors by my sister. Right away I knew that I wanted to be part of this very important cause. I sent my words to Vanessa and asked if she wanted to use my words to send along with the quilts. She very gracefully accepted, and I am more than honoured that she did. I immediately started to volunteer in what ever way I was able to. I was not much of a quilter at that time, only having made rags blankets prior. I would go to her home where the early volunteers gathered to help. At this time I was introduced to her wonderful family. I truly am quite fond of the early days. Sizing blocks, ironing, sandwiching the quilts together. I was fascinated by the process. Katherine at that time would peak in on us now and then, as she was quite shy. Not anymore - lol - except with the camera. Cheryl (Vanessa's beautiful Mom) and I made one heck of a team, both rookies to the craft we have become quilters together, and I have found someone that has turned into a lifelong friend. Watching this cause grow like it has, is beautiful to see. Vanessa is becoming known throughout our country and the recognition is well deserved. I was drawn to this cause for a few reasons. We are actually doing something that is helping Survivors heal, and not just by using our words. Providing a quilt is something that can be held, touched, smelled, provide warmth, comfort, cried into if need be. Given with love in hopes that the recipient feels it in return, unfortunately sometimes for the first time. An acknowledgement, that says yes we do understand what you have been through, we believe what you have to say. As a fellow Canadian my heart hurts deeply that this is part of our history. Through volunteering I have been able to be present when quilts have been given out. It is all quite emotional, and has brought me to tears on more than one occasion. Hearing Survivors tell their stories is a blessing, and not something that is easy to do. We are being trusted with something very private and painful to each one. Will I continue to volunteer? Absolutely! As long as I am needed I will help when I can.

-Diana K

Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah

February's Events and Workshops



Block Making

In this Workshop, we will focus on making a star block using QST units, perfect for beginners wanting to learn something new. This Workshop requires you to sign up, we still have spots open.

How to use a panel

We will be teaching you how to use a panel to make a quilt top. We have many different patterns for you to learn from.





Youth Night

Youth Nights are for ages 16-29. We will be working on some different projects all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer pizza with our Youth Nights. Our last Youth Night was sponsored by Christine D and Family from PEI.

We are looking for a sponsor for this month! Please contact us at: admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca if you would like to Sponsor a Youth Night.

Zoom Class Quilt

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 Sixth Class is February 18th, 2024, from 2 pm-4 pm EST. To register please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/tSoAiSdpmtPCidyq8>



Intro to Sewing

We will be teaching you how to sew on a domestic machine, straight lines, a 9-patch block to start, how to thread a machine, fill a bobbin and sew a straight stitch.

Please note, this Workshop is currently filled.

Binding Marathon

Binding Marathons take place on a Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm. Binding is the finishing on a quilt. It always feels great when we can finish quilts to be mailed out to their forever home. Binding Marathons are a fun time filled with stories, laughter and good food.



Updates

by Katherine Jeremiah

Donations



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

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>

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.



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 **4,280** quilts.
That's amazing! Thank you everyone for your continued support!



General Info & FAQs



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

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**

WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA

Catch the freshest News
Updated frequently
Read anytime, anywhere

Messages From Our Board

Board Member Clara W

HAPPY New Year! What will 2024 bring? So far the year has been exciting with three long arms in the building and funding was secured to hire another staff member. The additional equipment and staff member will shorten the quilt mail-out timeline from months to weeks.

The excitement is building for the 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat; pass the word to encourage your family and friends to register. Thanks to all who have contributed and volunteered their time.

Meegwetch

Board Member Lesley G

I would like to thank all the volunteers and staff for all the hard work and hours to support our Survivors through the making of quilts.

I am also looking forward to our 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat that will be coming up in the future

Board Member Cheryl M

Greetings my friends and a Very Happy New year to you all. Well January 2024 is here and is on its way out as I write this little note. The moon for this month is the "Great Spirit Moon". The first moon of Creation and is manifested through the Northern Lights. It is a time to honour the silence and realize our place within the Great Mystery's. As a Board member I want to take this opportunity to say a big Meegwetch to all our volunteers and supporters.

Excitement is growing here at studio as we prepare for our 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat. Don't forget to sign up! We have awesome speakers and teachers lined up for this event. Don't be square, be there. Our first classes of Intro to sewing and Longarming were a great success with happy quilters learning to hone in on their new found skills. Well till next time be good to yourself and happy quilting. Meegwetch



A SURVIVOR'S JOURNEY

JOIN US OVER ZOOM TO HEAR FROM SURVIVOR SONYA ROCK

 **FEB 2 2024**

 **4:00 PM EST**

TO REGISTER

Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



TRIGGER WARNING: MANY OF THESE ITEMS DEAL WITH EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SUBJECT MATTER RELATING TO PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SEXUAL, AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE THAT SURVIVORS EXPERIENCED IN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.



Survivors

**Thank you to everyone who
donated to QFS in honour of
Grandma Cheryl's Birthday!**

