

Quilts For Survivors



5,000 Quilts

5,000th Quilt Sent Out

April 24th 2024



STUDIO UPDATES |
UPCOMING EVENTS | MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD
STORIES FROM SURVIVORS | 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

“Hey look, it’s the orange shirt lady and the quilt lady”“

7

5,000 Quilts

Sent out the 5,000th quilt this month

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

Stories from survivors receiving quilts

13

Upcoming Events

Events for May 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

Content Director
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier

Art Direction
Katherine Jeremiah, Michael Jeremiah

Photographers
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier,

Contributing Writers
Katherine Jeremiah, Vanessa Genier,
Clara W, Cheryl Macumber



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

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

Purple
Sponsorship



MAT Fund

Orange
Sponsorship



GREENLAMP PROPERTIES



Green
Sponsorship



Mennonite
Central
Committee



Northern
COLLEGE

Brown
Sponsorship



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

This month we have Michael returning as a Long armer for the summer. We also will be having our last binding marathon this month till the next one in October.

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

“Hey look, it’s the orange shirt lady and the quilt lady”

Happy May! Wow April has been a wild and busy month. We started out with a trip to Toronto where I was honoured as one of the top 25 most influential women in Canada. It was a great event that I was able to share with some board members (my mom included), the CEO of the Timmins Chamber, the Mayor of Timmins and my aunt Vanessa. (you guessed it I was named after her) While in Toronto I was also able to meet Phyllis Westad, the orange shirt lady, what an amazing opportunity. It was a real honour to spend just a few minutes with her and her niece. While we were chatting someone said, "Hey look, it's the orange shirt lady and the quilt lady." That made my heart and spirit very happy.

This month also marked the sending out of our 5,000th quilt. This is an amazing accomplishment for everyone involved. It doesn't matter if you have given 1 block or 50 quilts, a spool of thread or a monetary donation all of it has brought us to this point. We appreciate your continued support as we continue to bring healing by making and sending quilts. There is an estimated 40,000 residential school survivors in Canada and this past weekend I just learned that there are an estimated 25,000 60s scoop survivors. While over 125,000 children went into foster care or adoption during the time that is called the 60s scoop (indigenous children taken into care or adoption between 1960-1980) Most of these children were ripped from their homes, or even right from the hospital for no reason other than they were indigenous. Many of them were separated from not only their communities but also from their siblings. Many of them are just now finding their families, their nations, where they belong. Some of these children were shipped to other countries and their past wasn't shared with them. Leaving them to lose a sense of who they are and where they belong.

When starting this project, I had not heard many of the personal stories that our survivors carry with them. I had limited knowledge of what took place during this time. Now I carry many stories that have been passed on to me through meeting survivors. These stories are a part of our history as Canadians and Indigenous people. I am honoured to be a part of their stories being shared. I am humbled by the impact that our quilts are making in the lives of so many. I hear also daily how our quilts are a blessing, a gift, a token of support and they are bringing healing.

Thank you, Creator, for allowing us myself included to use our gifts to bring healing to our nations survivors. We are grateful to mother earth for giving us cotton to use to make the fabric that makes these beautiful quilts. We humbled to use our gifts in a way that has a lasting impact on so many. We will continue on until all survivors and their families have received a healing quilt. May they continue to be a blessing to those who have endured so much.

Now on to our next 5,000.

Kitchi Meegwetch,

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



5,000 quilts

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah

**From a goal of 18 quilts
to over 5,000**

An illustration on the left side of the page. At the bottom, a person in an orange shirt is holding a quilt block with a grid of colored squares (black, yellow, white, red). Above them are green pine trees and a brown vertical pole. In the sky, an orange eagle is flying towards the right. The background is a light beige color.

Quilts For Sun

5,000 Quilts

We have hit another milestone and sent out our 5,000th quilt this month.

On May 11th, 2023, we celebrated sending out our 3,000th quilt! That is 2,000 quilts in under a year.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us send out quilts to survivors.

*2,000 quilts in
under a year*



QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS STUDIO SCHEDULE MAY

2024

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

Admin- Studio closed for volunteers || potluck lunch at binding marathon || *must register
Summer hours starting June 1, 2024




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.



YOUTH Sewing NIGHT







MAY 16 2024

**QUILTS FOR
SURVIVORS**

FROM 4:00 PM -7:00 PM
420 GOVERNMENT RD S,
TIMMINS, ON P4R 1N4
FREE PIZZA & DRINK

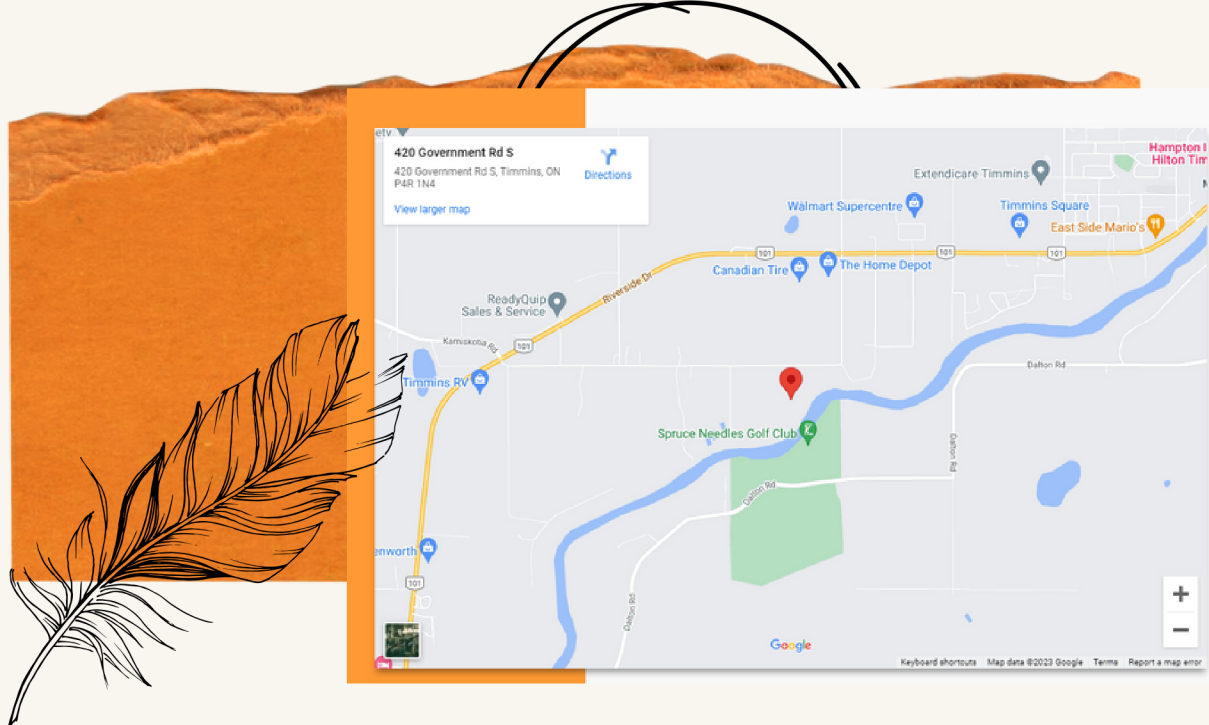
To Register Email
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Studio Updates



By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah and
Vanessa Genier



Address

420 Government Road S
Timmins, Ontario
CA

Phone

705.262.1853

Email

Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.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"



A photograph of two women standing in front of a large quilt. The woman on the left has dark hair, wears glasses, a grey t-shirt, and an orange skirt with a colorful patchwork design. The woman on the right has blonde hair and wears a black long-sleeved top and a black skirt. They are both smiling and holding a square piece of the quilt together. The quilt behind them features a repeating pattern of orange feathers on a light background, with a wide, multi-colored border. The floor is covered with a patterned rug.

Stories From Survivors & Volunteers

Stories from Survivors
and Volunteers



Oh my! What a beautiful surprise! I sat wrapped in this beautiful blanket since it arrived in the mail yesterday. Thank you so much. I love it, feels like hugs.

-Toni



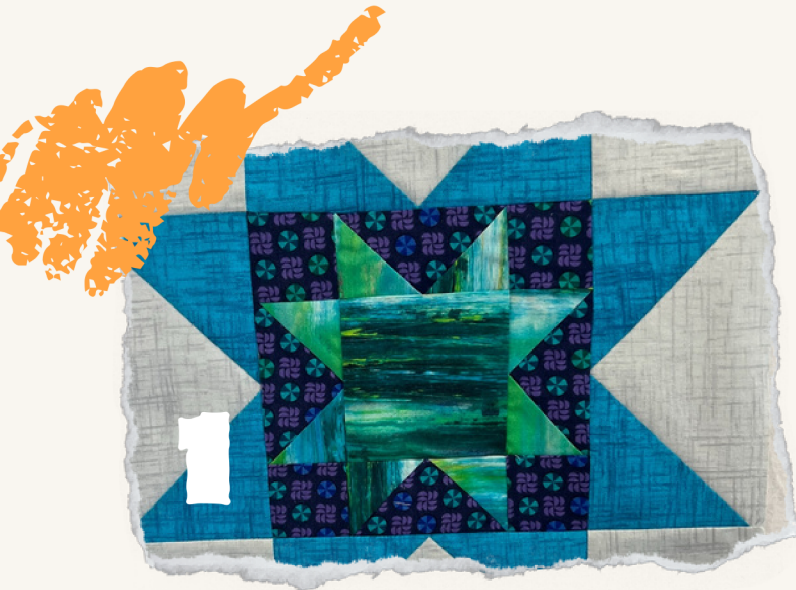
This beautiful quilt was delivered to my mailbox in honour of my mom Bonita , She attended St. Mary's Residential in Mission BC. She passed on December 18th 1998. She was 50 years old. I sat at the mailbox reading the card and letter. The tears flowed as I read the beautiful words, I could feel my mom's spirit with me as I cried. She wants me to know she is ok.....I miss her so much. I would like to thank everyone at Quilts for survivors four this beautiful quilt made in memory of my mom bless you all

-Jacqueline

To have your story featured here please
email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
Feel free to include a picture with your story as well.

Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah
May'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

Governor General Award

Vanessa Will be in Ottawa , Ontario to recive the Governor General Award.



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.



Intro to Sewing

We will teach you how to sew on a domestic machine, straight lines, a strip block to start, thread a machine, fill a bobbin, and sew a straight stitch.

To join the Workshop please email admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



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.

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 Ninth Class is May 26th from 2 pm-4 pm EST. To register please fill out the form

<https://forms.gle/tSoAiSdpmtPcidyq8>



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>

Survey



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

Quilt Canada Blocks



We are asking for 12.5-inch blocks at our
Quilt Canada booth in Edmonton, Alberta.
We have a goal of 1,000 blocks.
If you cannot attend please email
admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca for the mailing address

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 **5,000** 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

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

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

Messages From Our Board

Board Member Clara W

Greetings all

In early April I joined Vanessa and Cheryl at the "Top 25 Women of Influence Awards" luncheon in Toronto where Vanessa was one of 25 incredible women that were being recognized for their achievements. CONGRATULATIONS Vanessa; you are so deserving of the recognition for your dedication and commitment to ensure that those who are affected by residential schools receive a quilt to help with their healing. Also while in Toronto we got to meet up with a couple of amazing people; Karen Brown; who will be the guest speaker at our 2nd sewing retreat in September and the wonderful Phyllis (Jack) Webstad; who's residential school experience was the origin of "Orange Shirt Day". It was such an honor to meet Phyllis.

April 14-20 is National Volunteer Week. THANK YOU to you all for your time and contributions to Quilts for Survivors. On April 17th the staff and some local volunteers attended The Timmins Chamber's social event to celebrate volunteers. We would not be where we are if it was not for AWESOME volunteers.

The biggest milestone this month was the reveal of the 5,000th quilt on April 24th. It's hard to believe that in almost three years that many quilts have been distributed across Turtle Island. The hiring of a couple of additional staff sure helped with decreasing the wait time for a quilt. Thank you all for getting to the 5,000th quilt.

The month of May brings the celebration of mothers. HAPPY Mother's Day everyone.

Meegwetch

Board Member Cheryl M

A GIFT IS NOT A GIFT UNTIL ITS SHARED (Richard Wagamese)
It is with great excitement that I acknowledge the accomplishment of Quilts For Survivors. Five thousand quilts were sent out to Residential School Survivors in less than 3 years. What a great accomplishment for all those involved in this wonderful cause. Bringing healing to our people one quilt at a time and honoring their journey. Your passion, dedication, and commitment serve as a testament to your desire for healing, truth, and reconciliation. BRAVO!!!

As a proud Board member, being on the Board has been an honor and privilege. I've learned new sewing skills, met many dedicated and wonderful, and generous quilters which have made this journey so awesome. Our Board is focused on Residential School Survivors and we work with our CEO to continue to bring healing and support to each of them.

Meegwetch

I would also like to thank our CEO and founder, Vanessa, and her staff for bringing us to this point. You can take pride in your ongoing commitment to the success of Quilts for Survivors.

