

Quilts For Survivors



A year in review

Recap of 2023's biggest achievements



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**
“As I look back, we sure have accomplished a lot this year. We have sent out almost 1,700 quilts this year alone. That is almost 5 quilts a day. Our volunteers are amazing. We could not do all that we do without all of you”

7 **Look back at 2023**
Highlights of 2023 and total number of quilts sent out this year

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 the fingers of a sewer by Marcy D

13 **Upcoming Events**
Events for January 2023

15 **General information & FAQ**
General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

18 **Messages from the Board**
A look back at 2023 from the Board’s perspective

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, Marcy D,
Cheryl M, Clara W,

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS

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



GREENLAMP PROPERTIES



From the Editor

This is a top I have finished working on for a very special person, I hope he loves it. I used a jelly roll batik's and did the jelly roll race with it. It is one of my favourite ways to make a quilt.

- Katherine Jeremiah



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



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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've got a new amazing format for this year!

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.

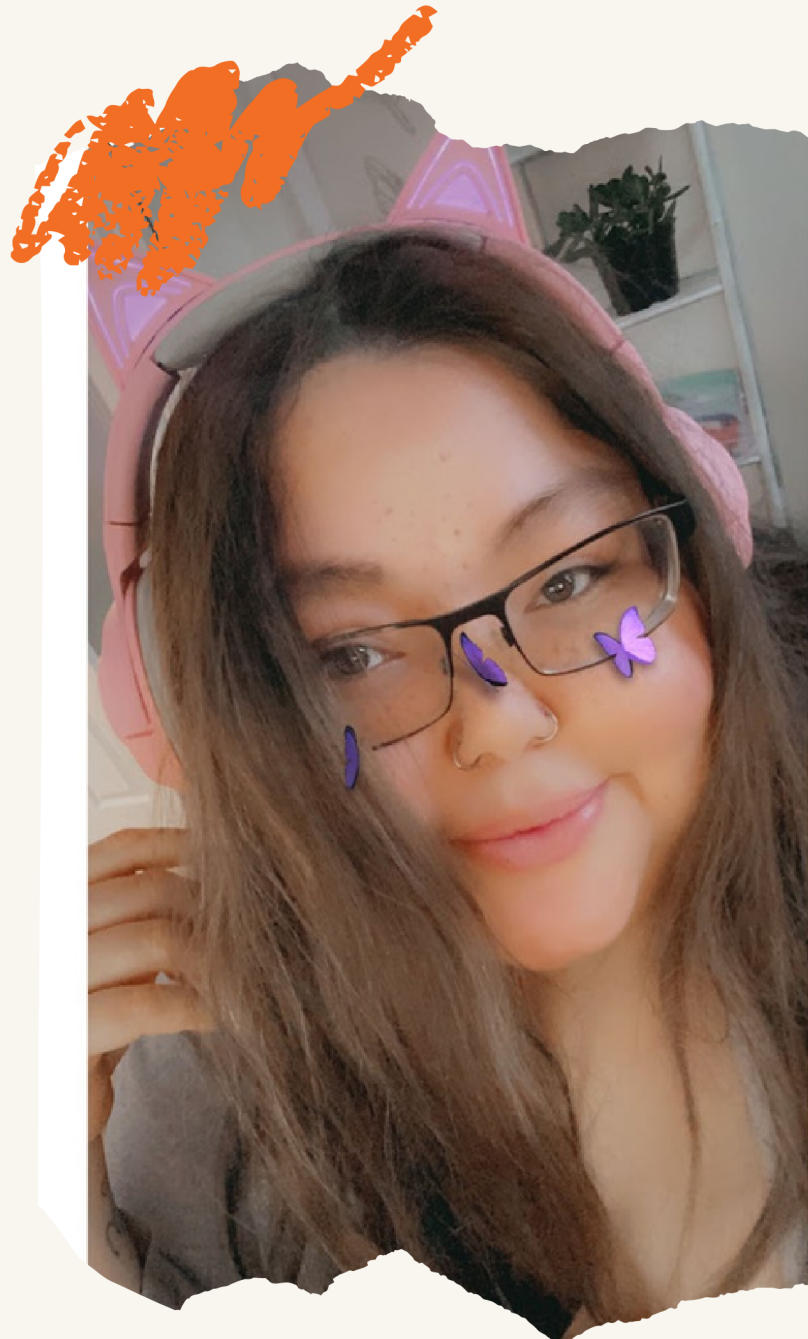
For those of you interested in quilting, we have a few fun tips and tricks as well as a 'Block of the Month' pattern for you to try at home, you can always find more patterns and block ideas on our ["Buy me a coffee"](#).

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

“As I look back, we sure have accomplished a lot this year. We have sent out almost 1,700 quilts this year alone. That is almost 5 quilts a day. Our volunteers are amazing. We could not do all that we do without all of you”



As we prepare to start a New Year, I always find it good to look back at the previous year. In our culture we take time to honour the winter solstice by having a ceremony where we reflect on the year we are leaving and take time to voice what we would like for the New Year. I would like to share my thoughts on 2023 with some personal reflections but mostly reflecting on Quilts for Survivors. Then I would like to put out into the universe thoughts I have for the upcoming year.

2023 started out with lots of interviews and presentations. We had so much planned for the year and it started right after the holidays. I had many in person teachings, presentations, and events to attend. I also attended my first Little NHL in southern Ontario during March break. Both Wallace and Josee were playing. Their first time not only playing hockey but skating. They did great. I was also able to share about QFS and even met some volunteers and enjoyed watching a game with them.

I attended a 100th birthday party for a survivor in April. It was such an honour to be there in person to present her with a quilt. She was moved and really appreciated the quilt.

In May we sent out our 3,000 quilt and we also won a local business award from the Timmins Chamber. We won NOVA award for Non-profit. It was a very exciting day.

In June I and Kat were off to Quilts Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Suzanne and many other volunteers met us there and we had a blast. We met so many wonderful people, received generous donations, heard wonderful stories from volunteers, and spoke with so many people and potential sponsors for the next Quilts Canada in 2024.

Indigenous People's Day is also held in June and I was on the committee to organize the day. We had it in a local park, and we had a great turn out. I was one of the MC's and I had a great day. Lots of good food, games, music, and stories. This coming year we will be in Edmonton for Indigenous People's Day. Planning to attend some of the local events there while still taking part in Quilts Canada.

July and August were busy with preparations for the upcoming Sewing Retreat. I am grateful that we had Michael in to longarm. It was a huge blessing, and he not only was able to help get many quilts out, but he also did a great job of quilting them.

The summer was busy with Wallace and Josee having soccer games three nights a week. But it sure was fun watching them work hard to help their teams. We also enjoyed having them in the studio and they did well with the limited space.

September was all about the Sewing Retreat. Being our first we tried hard to organize and plan for a great time. We tried to ensure that we had everything we needed and be prepared for anything that could go wrong. I am pleased to say that it was a huge success. It was more successful than we had anticipated. We met so many amazing people. They are all excited for next year and so are we.

In October I made my first trip to Alberta. I went to Calgary to accept the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Inclusive Growth Award. It was a wonderful experience and a huge honour to be recognized along side other businesses within Canada. We were the only nonprofit organization. While I was there, I was also able to meet some volunteers and took time to stop by one quilt shop. November was a busy month. We had started looking for a new studio space. We wanted one that was accessible, had free parking, lots of natural light, open space for sewing, sperate office space and wasn't too far of a drive. We also wanted something we could afford. I knew that the Creator would bring a space to us and many times while we were looking, I would offer tobacco to the land, to the river and I did this across town. I did this knowing that when asking for something you give tobacco. Then one day in November we found our space. I had chatted with Kristian Murray from Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services (Kuno) regarding our need for a space. The Creator provided once again with a blessing that was more than our dreams. We have a beautiful space. We also have a great partnership with Kuno and are looking forward to working with them to continue to bring healing to survivors, their families, and our nations.

It was exciting to welcome volunteers into the new space. We are already making memories here and have held two Binding Marathons and a Youth Night, as well as our usual Sewing Days. We also have had our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony and welcomed many local businesses, organizations, and community members into our new space. We also sent out our 4,000 quilt from our new location.

I am looking forward to all the new events we are planning for the upcoming year. We have an Intro to Sewing (first one is already full), monthly Youth Nights, Intro to Longarming, Advance Longarming just to name a few. We are also busy with the plans for the 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat. Registration opens February 1st. I am also working on our next class quilt. We are working on finishing up the current class quilt. There are still spots available and there is lots of time to catch up and join in. (Classes run September to June)

We are also looking forward to being in Edmonton, AB for Quilts Canada in June. We have a booth again and have a challenge out to receive 1,000 blocks (12.5 inches unfinished) while there. More information on that on page **XX**.

As I look back, we sure have accomplished a lot this year. We have sent out almost 1,700 quilts this year alone. That is almost 5 quilts a day. Our volunteers are amazing. We could not do all that we do without all of you. Your generosity, time, and commitment to QFS does not go unnoticed. Every little bit helps. It is important to me that you know how much we appreciate you and that you and your time are valued. You have helped us make a difference in so many lives. Your impact, our impact, is making a difference across Turtle Island and our nations Survivors can heal, feel valued, loved, and supported because together we are providing comfort and healing. Thank you for continuing this journey.

Happy New Year everyone!


May this year bring you many blessings.

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

Look Back At 2023

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah

Look back at the highlights of 2023

An illustration on the left side of the page shows a person with dark hair, wearing an orange top, sitting and quilting. They are positioned next to a wooden post and a line. To their left is a window with a grid of colored panes (black, yellow, white, red). The background features stylized green pine trees and a white, cloud-like shape with a blue scribble above it. An orange eagle is flying in the sky.

*Quilt
For Su*

Highlights of 2023

January - Interview with Kinz & Klomp

February - Registration for the 1st Annual Sewing Retreat opened

March - Presented quilts at Rama First Nation:
Vanessa presented 25 quilts to Survivors

April - Northern College Powwow

May - Won a Nova Award and sent out our 3,000th quilt

June - Attended Quilts Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia (where we met Eileen and Christine, I love you both) and celebrated our Second Anniversary

July - Kelowna quilt display

August - Sewing Retreat preparations began

September - Hosted our 1st Annual Sewing Retreat

October - Vanessa went to Calgary, Alberta to receive the Inclusive Growth Award from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

November - Moved to our new studio

December - Hosted our second Christmas party and our Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony



Over 1690 quilts
sent out in 2023

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

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

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.

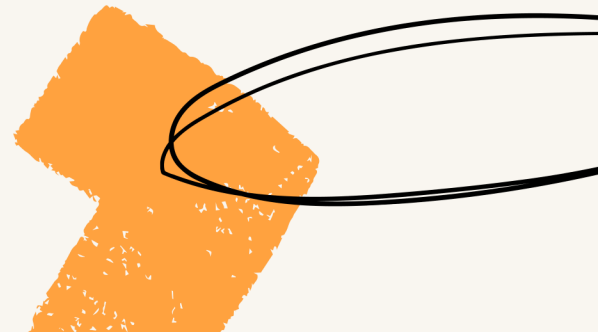


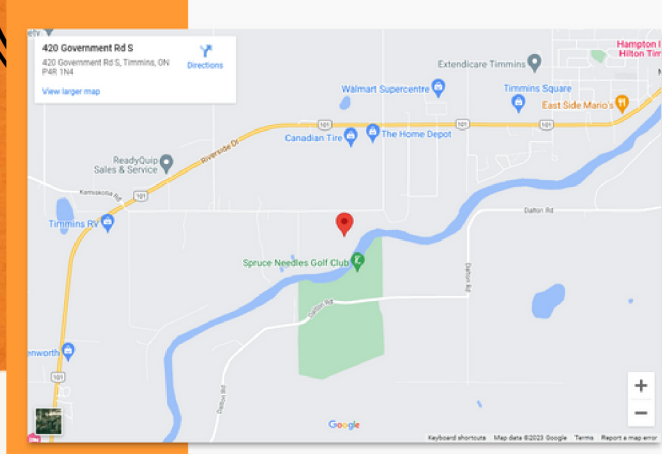
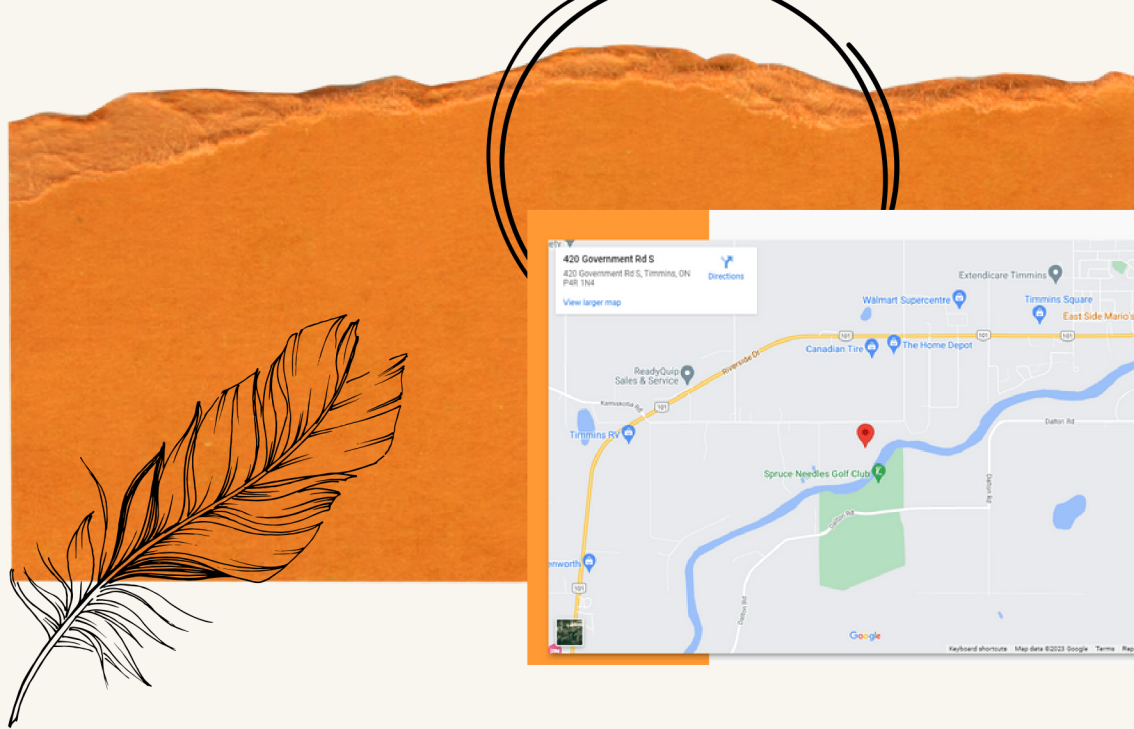
420 Government Rd S,
Timmins, ON P4R 1N4
(705) 262-1853
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca



Studio Updates

By Katherine Jeremiah
Photography by Katherine Jeremiah





Address
420 Government Road S
Timmins, Ontario
CA

Phone
705.262.1853

Email
Admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca

Sewing Space

We are very grateful to have a new sewing space, it is wonderfully lit. You can see all the trees around us, there is so much space to sew and work on quilts.

I have been taking the time to organize the space, putting everything away and labeling draws and bins so that it is easier to find what you need!

Fabric Room

I am very excited to announce that Marcy is our Fabric Room coordinator. She has been a great help at organizing and un-packing the Fabric Room!

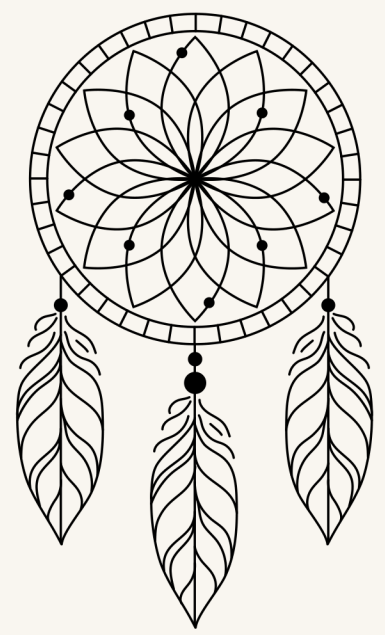
We could not have done it without her help. She is in the Studio almost everyday that we are open.

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.

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 Marcy D

Stories from Survivors
and Volunteers.

FROM THE FINGERS OF A SEWER

Volunteering gene in my family is always at the top of our DNA list. I have volunteered quite a bit in my life being an old bag lady.

In doing the Facebook thingy I came across a Facebook post for Quilts for Survivors. Being a sewer and a semi quilter, this post intrigued me. I contacted the poster which was Vanessa and was told "Come on Down" so I went on down.

Driving to see and to register as a volunteer I noticed that it was close to a building that had a bad name in my city. So being leery I tried the door which was marked "B", the door was locked not a good indication in my book. Anyway I went next door, reception contacted Vanessa who came to unlock the door. Climbing up stairs were a great workout and out of breath and talking about volunteering. I signed up with a little fear.

Along the way meeting with Vanessa who has the confidence of a Viking Warrior, and meeting Kat and some of the volunteers, I began my weekly sojourn at the sewing machine studio namely "Quilt for Survivors."

The impact that this studio has had on my life is extraordinary. My experience with the First Nation people was through the Family and Criminal Courts in our local area. It was not a good experience let me tell you. I did not know the background of their problems nor of the residential schools. Landing at a sewing machine with Vanessa and Kat as my guides opened up my eyes to the problems of what most First Nation people have had to endure.

My volunteering has helped me to go from a nine patch to a little more exclusive quilt cutting and sewing and hoping that each quilt I finish will help a Survivor.

At the old studio there was still some scary moments when meeting people doing things at the entry of Suite B but with Vanessa's training I was okay at both times. Moving to the new studio has made a world of difference.

Being singled out to placing hundreds of pieces of material coming from the old studio to the next has given me many a nightmares, but it all worked out in the end. Everything is mostly organized with a little bit of work still left to do.

Being a part of the quilting studio also has given me more confidence in my quilting path and at the quilting marathons. The camaraderie shown at the marathons and the food that shows up is awesome. I gotta say the volunteers are good cooks, sewers and teachers. At the last marathon one volunteer was having trouble binding, broken needle, most of the volunteers jumped up to help her. It was nice to see the knowledge that they were passing on because I feel that today's generation is not picking up the older generations' crafts which is a great loss.

In my view Vanessa and Kat are doing an awesome job in helping First Nation people find a path towards healing and I hope to continue to be a part of there healing journey. It makes my heart smile.

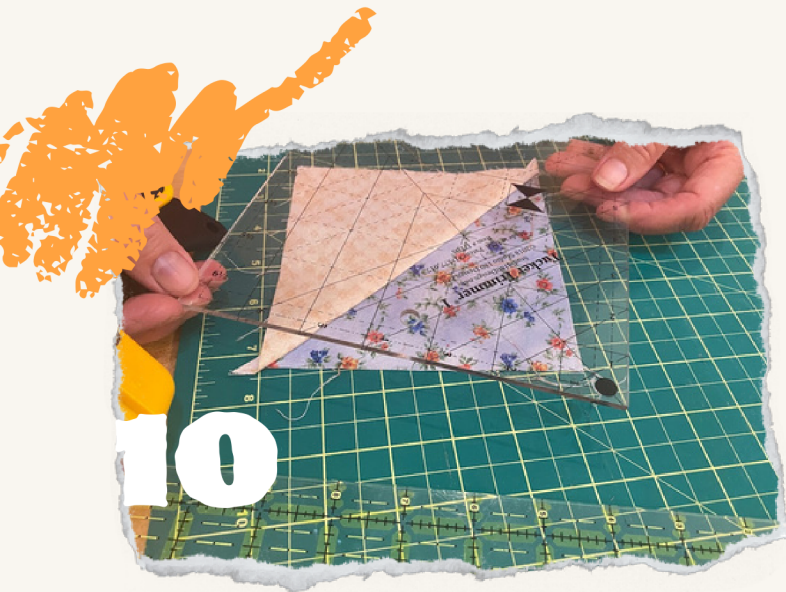
-Marcy D



Upcoming Events

By Katherine Jeremiah

January's Events and Workshops



Block Making

In this workshop, we will be focusing on making a simple 9-patch block, perfect for beginners or we will be doing a star pattern. This workshop requires no signup just come in and start sewing.

Intro to Sewing

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

This Workshop is currently filled.





Youth Night

Youth Nights are for ages 16-29. We will be working on a number of different projects, all geared towards beginners and those new to sewing. We offer pizza with our Youth Nights, The last Youth Night was sponsored by Grandmother Cheryl. This month's Youth Night is sponsored by Christine D and Family From PEI.

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 Fifth Class is January 21st, 2024, from 2 pm-4 pm EST. To register please fill out the form <https://forms.gle/tSoAiSdpmtPCidyq8>



Longarm Workshop

We will be hosting a longarming workshop. We will be teaching the basics of how to load a longarm, adjust tension, do basic longarming.

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 **4,164** 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.

For more information please visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

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Updated frequently
Read anytime, anywhere

Messages From Our Board

Greetings All,

Board Member Clara W

It has been another busy and AWESOME year. Thanks to the INCREDIBLE staff and volunteers for your dedication and passion of spreading love and healing "one quilt at a time".

2024 is going to be an exciting year for the new location; beautiful studio workspace, room for growth, and welcoming former and new volunteers.

Workshops and events are being planned for anyone and everyone will be able to participate. One of the biggest events I am personally excited about is the 2nd Annual Sewing Retreat

I wish you all a very MERRY Christmas, Happy Holidays, and all the BEST for the New Year.

Meegwetch

Board Member Lesley G

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you to all our supporters and volunteers.

Board Member Cheryl M

Boozoo: Greetings from the Great White North. Merry Christmas and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2023 has been a whirlwind of activity for Quilts for Survivors. NEW SPACE & VOLUNTEERS - Our wonderful CEO, Vanessa, was spreading "tobacco" - our sacred medicine that opens the door to Creator all over town asking for a bigger place without the stairs to the sky. We are grateful to Peter for his generosity and kindness, but we simply outgrew our space. Volunteers continued to come to the studio and help where needed, tidying up, ironing, cutting, piecing, making tops, quilting, binding, and whatever else was needed. "Volunteerism is part of the human makeup - people want to get out, reconnect and feel as though they're contributing something to their community." This I find defines our volunteers - connecting and contributing with their time, complements, energy, creativity, and generosity just to mention a few.

2nd ANNIVERSARY - We celebrated our 2nd Anniversary, hosting an open house at our safe place. We had a great turnout and a lot of laughs. Kat did a fabulous job organizing everything and it went off perfectly.

SEWING RETREAT - We held our "Orange You Glad We're Sewing" Retreat. We had incredible teachers, the space was great, and the Volunteers that came from near and far worked hard every. Sixty tops were made in that short time, and lots of laughter, friendship and learning about our people. We had some Survivors share their stories which are always very powerful. Can't wait for next year's retreat!

DROP THE PUCK - Our Board and Staff drove to Sudbury to 'drop the puck' at a Sudbury Wolves hockey game - very exciting. We raffled off a quilt and presented two quilts to two residential school survivors - another emotional evening.

AWARD - Our CEO was whisked away to Calgary to accept an award especially made to fit the category of Not-For-Profit from The Canadian Chamber of Commerce. What an honour for our Quilts for Survivors. Vanessa was the only recipient that was allowed to speak and there was not a dry eye in the room.

RIBBON CUTTING - We have moved into our new space. Bigger, brighter, surrounded by Mother Nature and next to a Healing Lodge and water, with lots of parking and no stairs. The Creator knows what we need and delivers right on time. Meegwetch Creator. We had a great turnout at the ribbon cutting with George Pirie, MPP, the President of Timmins Chamber of Commerce and a letter from our Ontario Premier, Doug Ford. Susan from the Quilting Barn was busy demonstrating how to use a long arm and once again, Kat did an amazing job planning and setting up for this event.

LOOKING AHEAD - The future of QFS looks awesome: thousands of quilts to make and present to our Survivors, we are busy making sure everything is going well at the studio and continue to offer amazing programming and we will hire more staff to work on the long arm. We are waiting for two more long arms to arrive - again an answer to Vanessa's "tobacco offerings" and prayers. Meegwetch Creator.

Well to all you wonderful, beautiful and supportive quilters, stay safe and keep on quilting.

Meegwetch



KAMLOOPS INDIAN
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
MONUMENT
1883 - 1977

THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED
TO

