

2023 HUGS NIGHT PRESENTATION

- Introduce Hugs Team – Debi M, Dee
- Special Thank You's – Mary McCauley & Patty Kobelin, Lynn & Mary Willis, Paul & Dawn Shirron, Sally Krajicek, Ann Sirrine and Peg Steiner (1377 bag kits),
- Hugs Report – Last year we delivered 365 quilts to our organizations. We've delivered 179 bags.
- Hugs History
 - Guild started in 95, within a year or so Hugs was started
 - Candlelighters gave a presentation – they make care bags, our quilts went into them.
 - This was when we gave to Children's and Mary Bridge, we don't give to them anymore.
 - Not sure who started Hugs, it was originally called "Charity Quilts"
 - Sherry Lowe was the chair in 2002-2003 – fabric was stored in a single wide trailer, most of the fabric was dress shirts that had flaws, we cut off the seams and buttons and used them for quilts. The fabric at that time was not quilter's quality cotton.
 - Vickie Wieck took over after that approximately 2003-2005 – she had all the fabric in her house.
 - Pat Bradshaw & Gail O'Hern – 2005-2011 – Pat & Gail took over and started counting the quilts and making kits along with yearly challenges. They also started the monthly workshops. Most of these were held at Water Gardens as they lived in the community. We voted to change the name from Charity Quilts to Hugs. Pat & Gail set the stage for how Hugs is handled to this day.
 - Lori – 2011 to current – In 2010 I was contacted by a quilter who needed to give her fabric away or her husband was taking it to the dump!! This fabric was stored in my master bedroom for two years until my sewing room was finished. I have a very patient husband. He always said, "not many people get to crawl over fabric to go to bed". This began our journey into better fabric. Fabric has been purchased over the years to supplement our stock, we try to not spend more than 4.00 - 6.00 per yard on fabric. This is becoming harder as the prices continually go up. You will find me at shops or homes that are closing their business etc. We do have to pay the

wholesale price for blenders, about 5.00 per yard. In 2016 Jodi & Chris Grenzner donated 550 bolts of fabric!!!

- Batting is no longer donated by the Warm Company. We are given a wholesale cost from them. In the past we have spent approximately \$800.00 yearly on batting. We do get donations from quilters along the way. In 2021 we spent \$1430.00 on batting, in 2022 we spent \$1771.00. the prices were increased.
- Hugs Income – The past three years Hugs has not taken a budget as the donations we are receiving are keeping the program moving forward. Hugs has a budget of \$1500.00 for batting in 2023. (Remember we spent \$1771.00 in 2022) This is one thing that we have to have in order to meet our commitments.
- We have a 'designated funds' bucket that donations go into along with money made from the sales at the Bazaar and Auction. The Breast Center donates money to Hugs when they can. This is the only organization that has donated money to us. Gretchen Lutz (hasn't bought any quilts since 2019) came to one of our Quilt Shows and fell in love with our Hugs program and wanted to help. ~~She's not a quilter however, she has purchased many quilts over the past 2 years. She donates them to Mt St Vincent Providence. This is her way of giving and supporting what we do.~~ Excerpt from Website: Providence Mount St. Vincent, known as "The Mount," is an inter-generational living care community for older adults in which we celebrate life, living and individual capability. Additionally, a childcare center at The Mount provides opportunities for children and elderly residents to interact in planned activities. Fundraising supports residents, especially those who have outlived their life savings, along with programs that enrich their lives such as music, art and spiritual care.
- Remember that most companies match employee donations. A lot of our 'donations' come from companies matching volunteer hours. Please consider checking into this if your company offers it. You can decide how much goes to Hugs or the Guild.
- We started 2020 with teaching workshops, a new pattern for each month. The pandemic sidelined this. We are currently doing the videos bi-monthly, there will be a new video with instructions on how to do the project. The tote will be on my porch for you to grab a kit.

- Life of a Hugs Quilt/Kit

- Kits consist of fabric and a pattern, most often there will not be borders included, it's too difficult to guess what would look good. Most of the quilts are scrappy. The 'Kit' is assigned a Hugs number and are available at a Guild meeting or in the totes on my front porch..
 - When the tops/kit are returned we verify that they are big enough, sometimes they go into the "needs a little something basket. Several members are involved in finishing these quilts.
 - Backing and binding is selected and they are ready to go to Paul for quilting. I then pre-fill out the quilt label so when the 'kit' comes back from Paul and Dawn it's ready to go out for binding. Please note that we do not sew the backs, I send the whole bolt to Paul & Dawn.
 - By putting the binding and label with the quilt earlier, when they return from P&D they are ready to be sent out for binding.
 - Upon return from binding they are auditioned to see what the best fit is for the receiving organization. When quilts are given to Multicare they have to be put in plastic bags and taped shut with a note saying they have not been hospital laundered. They do not get bags as they would have to be put in the plastic bags as well. We provide the bags, the ones they had you couldn't see the quilt. I buy them in bulk thru U-Line in Lacey, we go and pick the order up so there is no shipping. (We do the same thing with the paper bags for Quilt Show).
 - Our goal is to always have quilts in reserve so when we get the email that the organization needs quilts they get delivered within a day or so.
 - When we deliver they go to our contact. We never hand out quilts to patients. We never see patients receiving quilts.
 - Snowball Express is the only organization where we get to see who gets the quilt. 2020-21 Snowball Express was canceled. The first Snowball Express event happened this past December.
 - Each organization (except Snowball) gets a stack of thank you's they can send back to us if they choose. These thank you's are put into the Guild newsletter.
 - When the quilt leaves my house for donation the ticket info is completed and closed out of the database.
- A big Thank You to Pat & Gail for the time they were chairpersons. They made my job so much easier.

- Behind the scenes: There's a lot of work that happens behind the scenes for Hugs. When fabric comes in it needs to be gone through to see the quality, if it's quilters cotton it goes into a kit, if not it will be made into a bag kit. Some of the fabric that cannot be used will be sold at the Auction or Quilt Show Bazaar. There is always 'something' going on in Hugs.
- Misc – we receive all kinds of donations, whatever isn't used for Hugs is sold, if not sold, then the Goodwill.