

QUILTING FOR CHARITY

LUANA RUBIN



Here are some ideas and tips on how Modern Quilt Guilds can plan and implement Comfort Quilt projects.

DISASTER RELIEF:

When a disaster occurs, often people want to do something to help.

Quilters think of making quilts.

In an extreme disaster they may not have a way to deliver anything but emergency supplies such as food, water and medical supplies... but if many have lost their homes then the longterm view would be to replace the things they would need in a new home, including a quilt.

COMFORT QUILTS:

Can be made for children with cancer, donate to fire/police dept to give to kids rescued from abusive or traumatic situation.

PRODUCE QUILTS FOR ANNUAL SALE:

Quilting Bee – weekly group that pools fabric scraps and makes scrappy quilts to be sold as fundraiser for a specific cause.

TIPS:

- Always put a label on the back with your name, date, contact information, and a special message of comfort for the recipient. You may or may not hear back from the recipient depending on the level of trauma they have experienced, but they will surely read your message of comfort and compassion.
- If you ship a donated quilt to a group who is receiving and distributing a large volume of quilts, do not expect them to notify you or send a thank you note. These organizations are often working on a very low budget with volunteers, focusing on serving the needs of those affected: i.e. they don't have a staff to acknowledge receipt of packages. They are too busy unpacking boxes and organizing to deliver to those in need. The best thing for you to do is send with a tracking number so you know when it is delivered. Only give to organizations who you know have a way to safely store, transport, and deliver directly to those in need.
- When giving to an international relief effort, bear in mind that it is a challenge to ship a large volume of quilts overseas, and can be even more of a challenge to deal with customs officials. If it is the aftermath of a disaster like an earthquake, tsunami or hurricane, and the infrastructure is damaged, then there needs to be a plan and a commitment to deliver directly to those in need. If roads are damaged and a community has not been identified with a local representative to identify those most severely affected, the quilts may not go to those most in need. This is very crucial, so that those who made and donated the quilts, know that their gift is going where it is needed most.
- When donated quilts go to recipients overseas or far away, you will depend on a trusted agent to not only present the quilts one at a time to individuals and families, but also to make a record by photographing some of the recipients with the quilts they received.
- Be sure to ask permission to take the photo, and also to share the images. In the future others may view your photos, and be inspired to donate quilts to those in need, based on the images you share.

eQuilter.com and Mission of Love have distributed over 12,000 donated quilts since our first project after 9/11.

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