

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



This is the last month to see the beautiful quilts on display at the CoBACH Center in downtown Brighton, next to the Mill-pond. We hope you enjoy this story and will visit CoBACH to see these beautiful works of art. Hours for CoBACH can be found on the front page.

Casual Quilters — Conclusion

Because some of the members of Casual Quilters were teachers, they also made a series of sample quilts known as the Storybook Quilt Project, or “Eight Hands Around.” It was a traveling quilt show to be taken to different schools in the area to educate the children about the history of the different types of quilt patterns and the love of quilting. The quilts are accompanied on the tour with the book, “A Quiltmakers Gift” which would be read to the children. This kit is still available to any group that wishes to use it.

The quilters have been active in many other worthwhile charity projects. They make quilts for “Project Linus,” which is quilts for children in hospitals. Dresses have been made and sent to Africa for the young girls there from pillowcases and ribbon. Very small burial gowns have been made for stillborn babies. Fleece blankets for the troops in the Middle East. Mondo bags for social services for foster children to carry their items when they are removed from their homes.

One of the larger projects that they are involved in is “Quilts of Valor.” A national and now international project to give Veterans of War a thank-you quilt. Ann Meredith started up the group’s participation in the project, with Terri Dubac, Helen Singer and Gladys Niemi assisting. Gladys and Helen are the leaders today. Patterns are cut out by some, tops sewn by others, quilted by yet another person and bound by someone else. A show of respect made from many hands. The quilt is then presented to the Veteran. The Casual Quilter group has made upwards of 1600 quilts. We have done local presentations as well as donated to the Michigan Chapter.

The group has held several quilt shows for the public to see the artistry and beauty of the quilts that are made. They participated

in the 150th Anniversary of the City of Brighton by showing quilts at St. Paul’s Church. This became a highlight of the celebration.

The group has a show and tell at each meeting for quilters to present their quilts they have made and encourage each other to make the best use of their imagination and talents.

Along the way there have been many interesting quilt challenges. Just a few are round robins, art quilts, and paint can quilts.

Casual Quilters meet monthly, (still the first Monday of each month) whether in person or by Zoom, due to the COVID restrictions, to be together. It is open to people of all ages.

Though the faces have changed over the years (more gray hair), the love of quilting still brings them all together. The group is thankful to Ruth Spangler for starting the group, and the early participants for maintaining such a group for all to enjoy.

Casual Quilters reached 30 years in 2021. The pandemic has not allowed the group to be very celebratory.

Here’s to another 30 years!!



(Thanks to Mindy Kinsey, Ruth Spangler, Deb Gough, Gayle Ode and Andrea Michaels for their input to this story)