

“Hugs in a Quilt”

Introduced by the Sequim Prairie Grange



The Sunbonnet Quilt Club and the Sequim Prairie Grange provide “Joy Quilts for Kids”.
What a special way to send comfort to our children who need a hug!

The Sunbonnet Sue Quilt Club members make little quilts that are 12 to 20 inches square and wrap them around a stuffed animal that is donated by the Sequim Prairie Grange. they are given to children of need due to stress due to serious situations in their lives. The sizes of the little quilts depend on the size of the animals.

The quilts are made with cotton fabrics and have lightweight batting inside. We use many children prints with lots of bright colors. We also use quilted blocks from our unfinished projects that we do not plan to finish. We also sometimes use flannel or binky fabric for the backs.

We attach labels on each quilt that say, “Made Just for You” or “Made with Love Just for You”. We use permanent marking pens to write the verbiage on the labels. Children like to rub their fingers on the labels so we attach one end of the tag inside the binding. These labels are about one inch by 2 ½ inches when finished. I take a piece of fabric 2 ½ inches wide the width of fabric. Place right sides together and stitch along the long side. Turn it inside out like a belt. Then cut into 3 ½-inch lengths, tucking ¼ inch on one end, stitch it closed and tuck the unfinished end when attaching the binding.

We try to match the quilt to the animals or visa versa. We wrap the quilts around the animals as if you would wrap a baby and tie a ribbon around the quilt to hold it together.

The Police Departments keeps a couple of the Joy Quilts in the trunk of each of their squad cars so they are readily available upon need. The Fire Departments also carry the quilts in their vehicles.

We give the Joy Quilts to the following non-profit groups in Sequim and the surrounding towns in WA to children in many different serious situations.

Healthy Families have collaborated with United Way. They provide child abuse prevention and treatment services, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, intervention, counseling, advocacy, and emergency and transitional shelter. They give the Joy Quilts to children associated with one of these situations.

Washington State DSHS, Children’s Administration provides protective services to children to reduce the risk of abuse and/or abandonment. The Joy Quilts are given to children at risk because they were removed from their home. They provide secure and safe placements as well as attending supervised parent visits when they have been removed from their homes.

Juvenile & Family Services coordinates CASA Volunteers who are appointed by judges to monitor and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they do not get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home.

Prosecuting Attorneys, Superior Court must interview children who are victims or witnesses of felonies.

Fire Department in our surrounding towns, give children who were in a home was burned or in some type of accident that a child is involved in.

Serenity House who works with the Homeless Families and other serious situations that families have encountered.

These agencies were thrilled to receive a small supply of our joy quilts and look forward to more. Having something to hug during these moments of discomfort and fear is an enormous comfort to the children. Perhaps your Grange could partner with a quilt club near you to help provide these special joys! Feel free to bring some of your “Hugs in a Quilt” to state convention in June so we can feel the hugs and send hugs all over the state!