



# Community Quilts

## Summary: 2021 Guidelines

Organization	For	Size	Notes
<b>Baystate Franklin (Greenfield Hospital)</b>	Babies in the pediatric unit	<b>Baby:</b> between 18" and 36" on an edge	Machine-quilted (not hand-tied).
<b>Fisher Home Hospice (Amherst)</b>	Wheelchair users	<b>Lap:</b> approx. 33" x 40"	Either machine-quilted or hand-tied
	Residential care	<b>Twin:</b> approx. 64" x 84"	
<b>YWCA of Western Mass. (Springfield)</b>	Teen parents & women in transition	<b>Large lap:</b> approx. 48" x 60" or larger	
		<b>Twin:</b> approx. 64" x 84"	

**Binding:** Use either regular binding or envelope/pillowcase binding.

**Quilting:** Denise Leduc may be able to quilt yours on her long-arm (ask her: [dm.leduc@yahoo.com](mailto:dm.leduc@yahoo.com) or (413) 687-5929. Leave 4" extra on all sides). Thank you, Denise!

**Labels:** All donated NMQG quilts will have a label with our guild's logo. Get one for each of your quilts & add your initials, month and year.

**Collecting.** We'll have regular times to collect them for distribution. Stay tuned.

## About Northampton Modern Quilt Guild Community Quilts

Last updated: 14 Feb 2021

Note: This is the first edition of these guidelines; please check the NMQG website for the latest news (members' area)

### A start:

Following our November 2020 guild meeting, several members expressed interest in deepening links to our community. During that Zoom meeting the Heritage Quilters of Warren and Vance Counties, North Carolina, treated us to a rich display of deeply personal quilts. But it was the members' collective — and unmissable — commitment to community-building that inspired the NMQG to look at strengthening our group's charitable activities and to explore new opportunities for service through our craft. A group of volunteers stepped forward in December 2020 and the first meeting of the Community Quilts committee took place in January 2021.

Many guild members have personal connections to local charitable organizations, and we know that a steady stream of community quilts generated from within NMQG is already warming hearts and homes across the Valley on an ad hoc basis. By associating our guild with particular organizations (three for 2021), we do not wish to replace or diminish individuals' charitable efforts — keep it up! Instead, we aim to extend this good work by providing specific outlets to members who may not have such links established, and also to encourage connections within our membership through the act of donation.

### Three organizations:

We've chosen to donate to three organizations rather than just one for a few reasons:

1 - range of quilts needed: These organizations can use different sorts of quilts which, to us makers, translates as choice and ease. A simple baby quilt...a small quilt using leftover blocks...a twin sized bed quilt whose color combination no longer tickles your fancy...these will all be gratefully received as community quilts.

2 - variety of recipients: Together the organizations serve neighbors facing a broad set of challenges across the life course. Our choice of "end user" for one quilt might be guided by what's in our stash, but for another we may desire a deeper connection in our giving based on what's happening in our own lives.

3 - geography: The work of these organizations spans the entire Pioneer Valley. Wide geographic distribution means our donations will have a reach that is reflective of our guild membership.

With all of these options (or from personal connections to other organizations), we hope that each guild member will be able to sew and donate at least one community quilt every year.

### Nominated organizations for 2021:

**Baystate Franklin Medical Center (Greenfield):**

<https://www.baystatehealth.org/locations/franklin-medical-center>

This 89-bed hospital in Greenfield offers a range of care including emergency medicine, surgery, cancer treatment and rehabilitation. Our quilts will go to the Pediatric unit and be given to babies and young children having surgery.

*Quilts needed for Baystate Franklin:*

-smaller quilts, square or rectangular (no smaller than 18" x 18" and no bigger than 36" x 36")

*Finishing for Baystate Franklin:*

-NOTE: quilts going to Baystate Franklin must be quilted (hand-tied quilts will not be accepted)

-quilts may be bound using regular binding or envelope/pillowcase binding

**Fisher Home Hospice (Amherst):**

<https://www.fisherhome.org>

Fisher Home Hospice in central Amherst offers end-of-life care for terminally ill people and their families. Our quilts will be used in the residential care facility by patients in wheelchairs and to brighten private bedrooms. The quilts will be given to family members after their loved one passes away.

In choosing this organization, we honor the memory of Susan Garfield-Wright (1953-2014), one of our guild's early members. Susan spent her final days at Fisher Home following a valiant fight against breast cancer. Susan was a wonderful quilter and teacher, and known for wonky quilting and improvisational quilting.

*Quilts needed for Fisher Home:*

-lap quilts for people using wheelchairs (approximately 33" x 40")

-twin sized bed quilts (approximately 64" x 84")

*Finishing for Fisher Home:*

-quilts going to Fisher Home can be machine quilted or hand-tied

-quilts may be bound using regular binding or envelope/pillowcase binding

**YWCA of Western Massachusetts (Springfield):**

<https://www.ywworks.org/>

The YWCA of Western Massachusetts is committed to improving women's lives. It offers a range of programs in Westfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Springfield. Our quilts will go to Springfield where residential programs are run for teen parents and for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Some quilts will be used within the housing units while others will be passed on to women when they transition out of the shelter and on to a safe place of their own.

*Quilts needed for the YWCA:*

- large lap quilts (approximately 48" x 60" or larger)
- twin sized bed quilts (approximately 64" x 84")

*Finishing for the YWCA:*

- quilts going to the YWCA can be machine quilted or hand-tied
- quilts may be bound using regular binding or envelope/pillowcase binding

Finishing:

*Batting:*

All community quilts must be machine washable so keep that in mind when choosing your batting (ie not wool). When we are meeting again in person, we may be able to provide batting.

*Quilting:*

Community quilts can be made entirely on our own from start to finish: choose the fabrics, the design, the binding and the quilting (keeping in mind that quilts going to the pediatric unit at Baystate Franklin must be machine quilted and not hand-tied).

Alternatively, Denise LeDuc may be able to quilt your project on her long-arm machine. Get in touch with Denise to check her availability ([dm.leduc@yahoo.com](mailto:dm.leduc@yahoo.com) or (413) 687-5929). If you go this route, be sure to prepare your batting and backing so that both layers extend a good 4" beyond your quilt top (on each of the four sides). And thank you, Denise!

*Binding:*

All makers will need to bind their community quilts. Quilts may be finished with binding or you can use the envelope/pillowcase method.

*Labels:*

We would like all community quilts donated by NMQG to have a label attached to them. A label has been designed featuring our guild's logo, and with space for the maker's initials and the month and year the quilt was made. We expect to have labels ready for distribution in late March/early April. We're also working on getting digital files for guild members who print on fabric or who have embroidery machines to use to generate their own labels. Stay tuned for details.

Collecting and distributing:

Once we are meeting in person again, guild meetings will be the time and place to hand over finished quilts for donation. In the meantime, do keep sewing community quilts! We are planning Collection Days to happen in early May, September, and again just before the winter holidays in 2021 (roughly quarterly). More details to come.

Looking ahead:

As our giving grows, we will learn more about the organizations themselves and about the work they do. And in the spirit of the irrepressible Heritage Quilters, we hope to identify opportunities to serve in less-than-obvious ways. The civically-minded Heritage Quilters, for example, help to reduce teacher turnover by welcoming new educators to their community. They teach math through quilting to elementary kids, provide scholarships for local college-bound students, and collaborate with their local library to capture life story narratives in both fabric and written forms.

What do our communities need? What sorts of community-oriented activities might we think of doing here in the Pioneer Valley? Which social issues can we help address through our busy hands and fabric scraps? How can we use our time, talent and skills to sustain our communities? Please do share your ideas (however crazy) of how we might use our fabric and our people to “do good” within our community.

Thank you for sewing community quilts!

Community Quilts Committee members:

MaryEllen Bradley-Gilbert

Barbara Christ

Lori Colliander

Denise LeDuc

Connie Lentz

Betty McLeod (chair)

Sandy Wright

(and with early input from Debbie Leonard Lovejoy)