

Our Tribute



Quilts of Valour – Canada Society Mission

To ensure that injured Canadian Forces members are recognized for their service and commitment to our country. We give this support through the presentation of quilts to comfort our past and present Canadian Forces members.

President's Message

Welcome 2020!

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, talents and expertise to Quilts of Valour - Canada Society (QOVC™). Without your generosity and support we would not have reached our current total of 14,435 quilts presented since 2006. I remember the first quilt I donated and never in my wildest dreams did I think the need would be so great.

We have only touched the tip of the iceberg as there are more than 185,000 Veterans in Canada.

Quilts of Valour – Canada Society's goal for 2020 is to reach our target of 20,000 quilts. This would mean giving comfort to close to 6000 more injured military members by year's end.

Last year, QOVC™ introduced the log cabin block challenge to encourage quilters from across Canada to make a block, a quilt top, or complete a quilt. It was a huge success; blocks were made and sent to local QOVC™ representatives or were dropped off at the Canadian Quilter's Associate (CQA) quilt show, Quilt Canada, which was held in Ottawa, Ontario. We are doing it again this year with the new featured block "Brave and Bold".

The pattern can be found on our website.

https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/pdfs/Brave-and-Bold-final-pattern.pdf

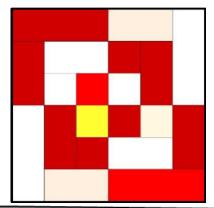
QOVC[™] is encouraging quilters and quilt guilds to participate in this worthwhile campaign. Every block received gets us closer to our goal.

Blocks, quilt tops, and finished quilts can be sent to your local QOVC[™] representative, or better still mark June 18, 19, and 20, 2020 on your calendar and bring your blocks, quilt tops, or finished quilts to the Quilts of Valour[™] booth at Quilt Canada which is being held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Let's make 2020 the year we reach 20,000 quilts and help us comfort our injured military members past and present.

Mary Ewing, QOVC™ President mary.ewing@quiltsofvalour.ca

Brave and Bold



This block is 12½" (unfinished) and is made with 2½" strips of red, white (creams), and yellow.

[This block is the Bento Box pattern].

Founder's Corner

Submitted by Lezley Zwaal, Founder, Quilts of Valour - Canada Society | lezley.zwaal@quiltsofvalour.ca

QOVC™ National Sew Day – February 1, 2020

Quilters from across Canada gathered for the second annual National Sew Day.

A huge thank you to all those who participated. Thank you to the community halls, churches, and quilt shops that donated their space. Also, thank you to vendors who provided refreshments and door prizes at some of the events.

I am pleased to report we had 19 events from Newfoundland thru Alberta with a total of 148 participants!

So far, our tally is that the equivalent of at least 40 quilt tops were made on this day. Representatives and quilters, however, are still sending in their counts, so we'll have a more accurate final count in the next few weeks.

Some National Sew Day organizers held quilt presentations at their event.

It was a very special day.

Whether you participated from home, or attended an event, we thank you for setting aside this day to support QOVC™.

I encourage everyone to participate in National Sew Day again next year on the first Saturday in February, and bring a friend!

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St-John's, NL

Submitted by Beverly McLean, QOVC™ Representative in St-John's, Newfoundland.

We had a wonderful Sew Day in St. John's, NL.

There were nine attendees in total who sewed 30 bento blocks.

Also, a log cabin quilt top was sewn at home, along with another 30 bento box blocks.

I am so grateful to The Military Family Resource Centre for providing the space. They have a quilting group who are now very eager to keep sewing for QOVC™ and we are planning another Sew Day for March.



Medicine Hat, AB

Submitted by Pam Robertson Rivet QOVC™ Representative in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and QOVC™ Marketing and Promotions Director.

National Sew Day in Medicine Hat, AB, was celebrated at Redcliff Legion with 11 volunteers who were busy at their sewing machines, irons, and cutters.

The team created three quilt tops, and finished an additional 38 blocks in the Brave and Bold Bento Box pattern. One volunteer left her quilt shop in the care of her staff for the day so she could drive an hour each way to join us; another had sorted, cut and preassembled dozens of blocks; and, one of our longarm volunteers stopped in with doughnuts and cheered everyone on.

After lunch, we presented two Quilts of Valour[™] and the emotions were palpable in the room as these quilts were gracefully received.

One of the quilts had been a focal point of a previous gathering, and the binding had several inches stitched by each person that was present.

It was a good team effort!

George Hope and Winston Jobb, who volunteered in WWII efforts at the ages of 17 and 19 respectively, were both joined by their wives and family members for the presentations.

They stayed at the legion for much of the afternoon afterward, to the delight of our quilters. George said a beautiful thank you to the team, followed by a big round of applause. We were also joined by base commander Lieutenant-Colonel Troy Leifso and Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Marcel Chenier from Canadian Forces Base Suffield.

It was a pleasure to greet them, and it was nothing short of inspiring to see them speak with and thank our veterans. The commander and RSM's offices are much appreciated as champions for the QOVC™ cause and help keep us connected (along with the Transition Centre and Military Family Resource Centres staff) to members still serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

A hearty thank you to everyone for their ongoing support and contributions to Canada's 2nd Annual National Sew Day, and Medicine Hat's 1st Quilts of Valour™ Bee.

It's an honour to serve our military in this way.



Voici quelques photos de notre journée du 18

janvier dernier.

Province de Québec

Submitted by Bonnie Frappier, QOVC™ Representative in St-Hubert, QC.

We had a fun day on January 18th and made 74 blocks. The Chateauguay Valley quilters have put together two quilt tops from the blocks made on January 18th, and we have two more sets of quilt tops being assembled at people's homes.

We are currently planning another Sew Day for later in February.

Here is a quick summary of our January 18th Sew Day, written 'en français' by Louise Drouin who is the QOVC™ Representative for Chateauguay, Québec.





to R) Guylaine Genest, Richard Weiss, and Lorraine Beaubien.

Le 18 janvier dernier, Bonnie Frappier a organisé une journée couture pour assembler des carreaux Bento pour les Courtepointes de Vaillance™. militaire de St-Jean-sur-Richelieu a gracieusement offert une de leur salle de réunion pour cette occasion.

Nous étions 14 courtepointières à couper, assembler et repasser les carreaux Bento.

À la fin de la journée, nous avons terminé 74 carreaux, l'équivalent de plus de deux couvertures.

Mme Frappier organize en fin février une autre journée couture pour les Courtepointes de Vaillance™. Cette fois-ci, nous serons reçues par les courtepointières de la guilde Châteauguay Valley Quilters' Guild.

Sarnia, ON

Submitted by Laverne Phills, QOVC™ Representative in Sarnia, ON.

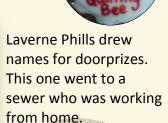


Sandra Cabiddu won one of the doorprizes. Congrats Sandra!



Alice King assembled blocks with her Featherweight from

Everyone had a good day and the event was very successful!



North Vancouver Island, BC

Submitted by Chris Longmore QOVC™ Representative on Vancouver Island (North)

The photo below is Wanda Gulliford, (on the right), being presented with her quilt by Cheryl Rousseau, Services Co-ordinator, Transition Centre, Comox Air Base.



Below are Jason Olson and his service dog being presented a Quilt of Valour™ by Fran Wilson at the Vancouver Island Compassion Dog Centre.





This quilt was completed by our junior quilter, Chase, who is the granddaughter of Parksville quilter Mickey.

(Recall, young Chase was featured in the May 2019 newsletter when she completed the quilt and in earlier newsletters when the quilt was in progress).

Brave and Bold

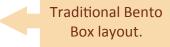
Layout ideas have been compiled by Lezley Zwaal, $QOVC^{TM}$ Founder. Follow this <u>link</u> and scroll to the last 2 pages to see the impact of fabric selection.



Alternating Block direction.



On point.





Another variation of Alternating Blocks layout.



Welcome to our newest QOVC™ Representative:

Genevieve Massicotte in Nepean, Ontario.
Amy Taylor in Petawawa, Ontario.
Gloria Kovach in Guelph, Ontario.
Brenda Millar in Vancouver, British Columbia
Heather O'Leary in Gagetown, New Brunswick
Beverly McLean in St-John's, Newfoundland

Winter Haven, Florida

Submitted by Phyllis O'Brien. QOVC™ member and QOV Carefree member.

November 11, 2019

A year ago, I had never heard of Quilts of Valour™. Heck, a year ago, although always wanting to, I had never made a quilt. Then, while sitting around my kitchen table my dear friend Susan Skuda, who is a Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) member in North Carolina, asked me if I would be interested in participating in the US QOV Sew Day even though I was a Canadian. After explaining what QOVF was, I wholeheartedly agreed. A veteran is a veteran and that has nothing to do with international borders.

On QOVF National Sew Day in February 2019, 14 people from three different nations came together for a fun day of sewing and socializing. In little more than three hours, blocks to make eight Quilt of Valor tops had been sewn. The day was such a success, the group asked to continue working together to make Quilts of Valor. The Carefree QOV Chapter was born.

A tally was taken and it was discovered that there were three Canadian Veterans in our Florida community of Carefree and one Canadian citizen who was a British Navy Veteran.

My goal was to make Quilts of Valour™ for these three Canadians to be presented to them at the joint US/Canada 2019 Veterans/
Remembrance Day ceremony.

I googled QOVC[™] in Ontario and was pleasantly surprised to find that there was a group in my hometown of Sarnia, Ontario. I contacted Laverne Phills, the group leader, who took me under her wing and did everything she could to help me become a QOVC[™] member and work towards accomplishing my goal.

Through the QOV website I requested information on the QOV UK representative and contacted Jean

Morris. Jean was very supportive and provided me with Union Jack fabric and a QOV UK label and her blessing to provide our UK veteran with a quilt.

On November 11, 2019, our community of Carefree celebrated its annual Veterans Remembrance Day Celebration. For the first time a Quilts of Valor awarding became an important part of this beloved and well-attended ceremony.

On that memorable day, we presented 15 quilts to veterans of three countries in gratitude for their service and sacrifice to their respective nations. We were honored to award a QOV to a WWII veteran who made a rare visit from his home to join us that day. Honorees served in the British Navy, Canadian Armed Forces, and in four branches of the US Military. Among them were individuals who were combat wounded, some who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder, and one who currently works with Veteran Suicide Prevention.

These 15 veterans had served in conflicts and peacekeeping missions all over the world to protect the freedoms we all enjoy.



Sgt. Lenard (Len) Adams from Corunna, Ontario, being presented his Quilt of Valour™ by Phyllis O'Brien at the Remembrance Day Celebration in Winter Haven, Florida.

QOVCTM Exec Intros

Stay tuned for the more Executive Intros in the next newsletter.

President

Mary has been involved with Quilts of Valour™ almost from the beginning. Her oldest son was being deployed to Afghanistan and she knew she needed to do something to give back and also to help herself endure the six month deployment. Mary was accustomed to her husband deploying and being gone for months on end on a ship, however it is different when it's one's own son. She happened to turn on the TV one afternoon and Lezley Zwaal, QOVC™ Founder, was being interviewed about Quilts of Valour™. Mary contacted Lezley and she has been involved ever since.

This cause is near and dear to her heart, what with having two sons in the military (one is now retired), a retired naval husband, and a grandson serving in Latvia.

She and her husband live in New Albany, Nova Scotia, after spending 15 years in the Ottawa area. Previous to moving to Ottawa, they lived in the quaint fishing village of Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Mary was able to watch her husband's ship sail out to sea from their living room window and also watch as it returned to Halifax.

As they settle into their home in the Annapolis
Valley and wait for spring to come, Mary will be busy
with sew days and quilting for our injured military
members. mary.ewing@quiltsofvalour.ca

Vice President

Linda lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. She is the new Vice President. Linda is also the Rep Coordinator for Team 1 (BC, Alberta & Yukon) as well as the QOVC™ Representative for the Yukon. Linda enjoys camping, boating and fishing with her husband and grandchildren....and of course quilting. She is looking forward to this year's Quilt Canada in June in Edmonton. linda.gerein@quiltsofvalour.ca

Marketing and Promotions Director

Pam Robertson Rivet lives in Medicine Hat, AB. She is the new Marketing and Promotions
Director and also the QOVC™

Representative for Medicine Hat. Last year, Pam got married to her best friend, Ashley, a man she met 35 years ago when they were both in the Canadian Armed Forces. pam.robertson@quiltsofvalour.ca

Newsletter Editor

Pat More lives in Sarnia, ON. This is her second year as Newsletter Editor. She is really hoping she can make it out to Edmonton, AB in June to help out at the QOVC™ booth. She is a hockey fan, and recently was with her family in the Czech Republic to cheer on team Canada all the way to the gold at the World Juniors Hockey Championship. newsletter@quiltsofvalour.ca

Current QOVC™ Executives

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Vice President Linda Gerein

Secretary Jennifer Owens

Treasurer Annie Schwarz

Social Media Nick Kerr

Marketing + Promotion Pam Robertson

Materials Procurement Lisa + Don Compton

Membership Wendy Evans

Newsletter Patricia More

Trade Shows Mary Ewing

Special Projects Lezley Zwaal

Past President Lezley Zwaal

Rep Coordinator Officer Don Oliphant

Label Coordinator Jaquie Fuller

Thank you Ken Demchuk for all the years you have volunteered at QOVC™ as our Webmaster! It has been a real pleasure to work with you and we truly appreciate all the support you have provided.

Aurora, ON

Submitted by Naomi Babineau. QOVC™ Representative in Aurora, Ontario.

At the Region of York Quilters Guild in Newmarket, Ontario, we began the year 2020 very much involved in Quilts of Valour™. We are a large Guild of approximately 150 people, many of whom are active in supporting Quilts of Valour™ through the purchase of Hug Blocks, by making full quilts, and by making Log Cabin and Brave and Bold blocks.

We are lucky to have two expert longarmers, Evelyn Mattonen and Irene Philp, who longarm quilts for us at no charge. We are also grateful to have as a member Deborah Edwards, from Northcott fabric company, who regularly donates fabric to our Guild for our Outreach and Quilts of Valour™ programs. We have currently 11 completed Quilts of Valour™ on hand and another five in the works. We have already presented a Quilt of Valour™ this year to John Tescione, a true hero, and we look forward to presenting all of our quilts.



Quilt of Valour™ presentation on February 9th to John Tescione of the 48th Highlanders serving in Bosnia; a true Hero.

Our group continues to advertise Hug Blocks and the pattern book, From Across the Nation, as well as the Brave and Bold blocks.

A friend and I are currently working on a quilt following the pattern From Across the Nation, and we will display this quilt when it's finished to encourage other quilters to try the pattern. It really is a beautiful quilt!

Looking ahead at our local QOVC™ events, we plan to step up our game by offering participants a chance to win prizes. I am in the process of making a purse and wallet with a poppy theme that will become a great prize. We are having our own Sew Day at one of the Guild's Sew Social days in March where we will have a quilt cut out and ready to sew together. People can do as much or a little as they wish and hopefully we will end up with a top done, ready for the longarmer by the end of that day. Prizes will include fat quarters of Northcott fabric and a few other surprises. This will be our first time doing this so wish us luck!



Grade 5, Quilt of Valour™ in the works.

Region of York Quilters Guild also has a Youth program that encourages young people to get into sewing and quilting. Members go into the schools to lead sewing programs. myself teach students at granddaughter's my school to sew and I have grade five class working on a Quilt of Valour™.

One project that we began last year was a

"Signature" quilt in which we collected signatures on rail fence blocks, for a small donation. When we had enough, Linda Wigmore sewed them into a quilt. It is stunning and many of the messages are very thoughtful. Thank you to Liz Seamans for providing the idea and the rail fence blocks.



Rail Fence Signature Quilt.

...Continued Aurora, DN

We also reach out to other Guilds and present the Quilts of Valour™ program at their Guild meetings. This often results in us receiving completed quilts and blocks and these groups continue to support us long afterwards. We have presented the program to a Seniors group in Schomberg, Ontario, and plan a few more this year. At each of the presentations, we are able to display completed quilts, sell Hug Blocks, and promote the program. In Schomberg, we presented two Quilts of Valour™ to deserving Veterans which made our presentation even more meaningful. These presentations bring in other volunteers including three longarmers, Sandra Flintoff, and Sherry and Laura Foster. They have done a fabulous job quilting for us.

I would like to thank my partners in crime, Linda Wigmore and Carol McPherson, who help me unconditionally with promoting Quilts of Valour™, making presentations, organizing and running our Sew Days and constructing quilts! They do so much and I truly appreciate all their help.

Thank you also to Mary Ewing, Lezley Zwaal, Don Oliphant, and Elizabeth Seamens for their encouragement and support!

We would love to hear from other Guilds about what they do to encourage members to participate.

If you have an idea you want to share with Naomi, you can contact her by email at naomi.babineau@quiltsofvalour.ca





Some of the marvelous quilts from Naomi's group.

HELP WANTED

We have an AMAZING volunteer opportunity available. Our current Webmaster has been supporting QOVC™ for five years and is ready to take on some new challenges. He will mentor a new incumbent to help you get the hang of things!

We are presently searching for a Canadian volunteer with solid experience in website design and maintenance. The existing QOVC™ website was developed using the Bootstrap framework. Along with FTP, experience and comfort in HTML coding, CSS and Javascript would be definite assets. Some experience in image/graphic design as they relate to website implementation are necessary.

Some experience working with SQL databases, Google forms, Google API, and website security would be desirable, but not required.

Effective and timely communication are musts. A sense of humour is helpful, as you will be working with a volunteer board that is spread across the country with participation from all time zones.

Expect about 1-2 hours of commitment per week, but also know that we are working on making some changes to the website so there could well be a bump in intensity required from time to time. Please apply with a resume outlining your experience and qualifications to pam.robertson@quiltsofvalour.ca if you are interested in this role. Reference checks and a police screening will be required by the successful candidate.

Deadline to apply is March 15th, 2020

2020 NEWSLETTER Schedule

Issue#27 May/20 Marvelous Quilts!

Issue#28 Aug/20 Edmonton - City of Champions

Issue#29 Nov/20 20,000 quilts in 2020

Calgary, AB

Submitted by Lana Butcher. $QOVC^{\mathbf{M}}$ Representative in Calgary, Alberta.

We have just completed our two Sew Days; Monday we were in Cochrane, AB, and Tuesday we were in Calgary. We also had some people who participated in the Sew Day from home.

The Calgary QOVC™ group was recently featured in a CTV news segment entitled 'Inspired Albertans'.

To view the clip, click on this link. https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1827681

It was a fun morning spent with Darrel Janz and his cameraman. Featured in the background during the

filming is this beautiful quilt pieced by Janet Moore custom and quilted by Nancy Swanby. This guilt has since been presented to a 104 year old WWII Veteran in High River, AB. The guilt was made from a kit called 'Tuscany Poppies' that purchased from 'Craig's Store' in Olds, AB.



Below is a photo from a presentation held on October 26th, 2019 in Red Deer, AB, at the Gasoline Alley Harley-Davidson dealership.



(L to R) Brock Blaszczyk, Michael Charlish, Troy Deatrich, Julie Bircsh, Wayne Chamberlain, Caroline Chamberlain, and Eugene Barker

Our QOVC™ group plans to enter a quilt display at Heritage Park's 'Festival of Quilts' in May. This show is the largest outdoor quilt show in Western Canada and this year is the 25th anniversary of the show. Our theme is 'Patriotic Maple Leaves' and we plan to display 15 quilts for our Group Entry. We will also have an information table to meet people and promote QOVC™.

Please come out and see us if you are in the area. The Heritage Park's 'Festival of Quilts' will be held on Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th, 2020.

• MAY • MAY • 24



Above a is marvelous scrappy quilt from Lana's group.

Belleville, ON

Submitted by Denise Wenzel. QOVC™ Representative in Quinte/Belleville/Trenton, Ontario.

Our Sew Day event on February 1st was very well attended.



(Spot Denise, she is the person holding the cake!)



Our local Beaver Colony raised money to purchase fabric for Quilts of Valour - Canada Society. I was very happy to receive the fabric on behalf of $QOVC^{TM}$.



Their donation was presented at the Consecon, ON, Legion.

Each year the boys raise money for a local non profit organization; this year we were the lucky recipients.



Presenting a Quilt of Valour™ is always a great honour, and on August 31st, 2019, Jan Easton (former QOVC™ Representative for this area), had the unique privilege of presenting four Quilts of Valour™ to one special family.



Harold Stoddart (far right) and his three sons (L to R) Mike, Patrick, and Carmen were each presented with their quilts in Trenton, Ontario.

Together, the Stoddart family have served 149 years and have been deployed to Germany, Alaska, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Haiti, and the Persian Gulf. The Stoddart family have served in the Navy, Army, and Air Force.

This beautiful quilt (right) was donated by a church group from Niagara Falls/Christchurch, ON, and it was my privilege to present it to Master Corporal (Ret) Lawrence Christensen. His service dog looks on with adoration as his master wraps himself up with the comfort of a quilt made with love.

We thank our Veterans for their service as well as their sacrifice.



North Bay, ON

Submitted by Lynne Mersereau. QOVC™ Representative in North Bay, Ontario.

We hold our Quilts of Valour[™] Sew Day on the last Monday of every month at the Evangelical Missionary Church, at 656 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, ON, from 9am to 3pm.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make 2019 an incredible year; we were able to make and donate over 150 quilts!

We had a great National Sew Day with 20 people attending plus several more sewing from home. We made a total of five quilt tops plus 153 loose blocks.

Here are some photos from that special day.





Westport, ON

Submitted by Donna Easter. QOVC™ Representative in Westport, Ontario.



Westport, ON, is a community of <1000 people situated between Kingston and Ottawa.

The town's motto is 'Life is Good'. (ref. Wikipedia).

On November 6th, we celebrated the production of

100 quilts in 2019.

We had made 35 quilts in our first year, and 67 quilts in our second year. Our QOVC™ group is only three years old.



We had a Quilt of Valour™ presentation for Ian

Jackson and invited our sponsors, the Legion and the Lions Club to attend, along with our Transition Centre team from Kingston, and we also invited local elected officials.



I made a ham

with scalloped potatoes and baked beans lunch, and we had a special cake for dessert.

I am happy to report the day was a huge success and also that our group actually exceeded 100 quilts before 2019 was up!

Wesleyville, NL

Submitted by Heather Beselaere. QOVC™ Representative in Wesleyville, Newfoundland.

Hi Heather,

Here are some pics from our Quilts of Valour™ presentations. These soldiers were so surprised to receive them....even a few tears were drawn.

Thank you so much for all you have done.

Morgan Simmons, Legion President.



(L to R) Edward Langer receiving his Quilt of Valour™ from Morgan Simmons.



Bill Warrick receiving his Quilt of Valour™ from Morgan Simmons.

Colin Payne, Quilt
of Valour™
Recipient,
displaying his quilt
with help from
Morgan Simmons.

Andy Ford receiving his Quilt of Valour™ from Morgan Simmons.

Manitoba

Submitted by Edith Taylor. QOVC™ Representative in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

On February 8th, we had a busy day at Deer Lodge Hospital presenting 50 Quilts of Valour™ with enthusiastic assistance from the Veterans Commandos Motorcycle Club of Canada.

Thank you gentlemen, and thank you for your service.



The Recreation Coordinator at Deer Lodge and his staff had laid out coffee, tea, and dainties for the Veterans, their families, and the attendees.

It was a really great day for everyone. We also made sure we went upstairs in the facility to visit and present quilts to those Veterans who were unable to join us in the recreation room.





Everyone really loved the quilts and I would like to thank the Manitoba quilters for their contributions.



Our Manitoba Prairie Quilters Guild is having a Quilt Show in Winnipeg on April 17thto 19th and QOVC[™] always has a presence at the event.

APRIL

APRIL

APRIL

17

18

19

Looking forward to an early spring as it is -30°C today.

Calgary + Cochrane, AB

The next newsletter in May will focus attention on the beautiful Quilts of Valour™ from groups across Canada. Here is a snapshot of some from Lana Butcher's groups in Calgary and Cochrane. They will enter the Heritage Park outdoor quilt show in May....I expect their group entry will do very well as evident from the creativity and talent here on display.

Nice work ladies! - Newsletter Editor.











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Other Hug Block patterns are available for free on the website. https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/t-hugs-blocks.html

We ask that you write your town/city name on the block in permanent marker and mail your finished block(s) to the address on the pattern.

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