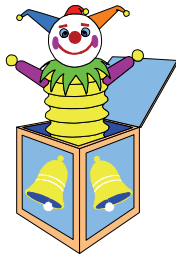


Santa's Workshop

Generous members make and donate items to the Santa's Workshop and all monies raised go to benefit children in protective custody within CPS. Our talented members are extremely creative and overwhelmingly generous in their donations to the Workshop. The member's preview starts in October, with the Grand Opening of the Workshop in November at the regular OQG meeting. Items continue to pour in until the final day of the Workshop, which is at the December gala & party.



Summary

This a multi-faceted project with many ways for members to participate. Also, we always need organizational help, and help at the time we distribute the stockings and gifts, at the "Stocking Store" we set up at NDHHS in December. So, hopefully you will find a way to participate that is suited to you. Join us as we make a difference in the life of a child!




"SHAMELESS 2005" Roberta Willet and good friend Betty (Rudolph) Harmsen

You can't take away the darkness....

but you can add to the light!

**Omaha Quilters'
Guild**

Website
www.omahaquiltersguild.org



**O m a h a
Q u i l t e r s '
G u i l d**



Children's Emergency Fund Project

Some children in foster care are fortunate to be placed with families who are able to provide generously at Holiday time. But many years ago, it was apparent that other children were left out during the holidays, especially those who had just been placed in protective custody, and those who were in shelter care. Also in need were those moving from one family to another, or those who were moving back home around Christmas. The Omaha Quilters' Guild became aware of the need and in 1992, created the Children's Emergency Fund. The project originally focused on sewing Christmas stockings but has since grown into a multi-faced, annual event. There are four ways for members to participate in the project.



Overview

The main focus of our project is to help children who are taken into protective custody at holiday-time who are victims of abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment.

These children are usually taken from their homes under emergency circumstances, often with very few personal possessions.

From there they will most likely be taken into an emergency shelter or hospital setting, and then into the most conducive protective setting that Child Protective Services can provide immediately. Our project aims to provide children in protective custody a supported holiday

and/or Christmas, especially those children most recently brought into protection at holiday-time. We also serve as many children under protection as possible over the holiday. We do that with the generous support, talent and resources of our guild and its members. We make Christmas Stockings, provide holiday gifts and raise funds—all for the benefit of the kids under protection in Douglas and Sarpy counties. We do this in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Child Protective Services. In order to accomplish all this, we have a fund-raiser gala & party at our regular December meeting.



*Stocking Display for Viewers' Choice Awards
Vote is by Monetary Donation*

The Stocking Challenge

At our September meeting, members line up to get their \$2.00 fabric kit for the stocking challenge. The challenge is to include the fabric on the front of the stocking somehow, making as many stockings as they wish. Finished stockings are then dropped off at designated shops in the first week of December. Then all the entries are displayed at our December party when members vote on the stockings by monetary donation. A small prize is given for the 24 stockings that raise the most money. The person whose stocking raises the most money is crowned "Shameless", since we know they had to campaign shamelessly and flagrantly for their stocking! All the stockings and the monies raised are donated to Child Protective Services (CPS).



The Angel Bag Project

This is the segment of the project that allows us to collect gifts for the children. At the November meeting, members are asked to pick up one or more of our clear bags which are labeled with the age and sex of a child. Then they return the bags to the December meeting with new, unwrapped gifts in them. Members often ask for ideas as to what to put in the angel bag. Remember, many times these children are taken from their homes with little to nothing—not even a toothbrush—in some instances. So, anything from a personal grooming item, to something your own kids might like is appropriate for an Angel Bag. We compiled this list for consideration: unisex clothing such as sweatshirts/sweatpants, socks, outerwear to include hats/gloves/mufflers (no team logos allowed) fleece throws/lap quilts, age appropriate games/ toys/ puzzles, candy, inexpensive watches,

costume jewelry, makeup kits, artist supplies or craft kits, small boom box, radio or "walkman", duffle bag or backpack, shoes or slippers, batteries, stamps, stationery, journals, diaries, alarm clocks, calculators, handheld games, disposable cameras, sports balls and/or workout equipment, books, CD's or videos, phone cards and of course, Gift Cards. Gift Cards can be from the major chain discounts like Wal-mart, Target, and Shopko or from specialty stores such as Payless Shoes, Best Buy or any of the major book-sellers. We ask that the denomination be written on the gift card, and that it be handed to one of the adults at the Angel Bag table when you come to the party. Please do not put gift cards in one of the Angel Bags. Hope this helps and thanks so very, very much for the things you get for the kids and the time and effort you take to make this a special holiday for a child in special circumstances!

Caring Friends Auction

This facet of the project asks members to work together in a group of at least two people to make a quilted item, according to a theme. Each year a theme is announced and the challenge is to interpret the theme into a quilted item, or an item with quilting on it somewhere. The items are then auctioned via live auction at the December gala & party and all proceeds benefit children in protective custody within CPS.

