

Charitable Project Opportunities

Airstreamers are known for their generosity and charitable giving. There are many charities that count on the kindness of others to bring needed comfort to those they serve. If you are looking for a project, here are some ways to help.

Comfort Quilts

Many organizations love handmade quilt donations. Quilts show that someone cares and bring comfort to those receiving them. Most quilts are requested to be lap size. A lap quilt is a quilt that is used to cover a person's lap or legs. They are generally smaller than a throw quilt and come in all shapes and sizes, but you need to pay special attention to who will be using the lap quilt and where they will be using it. You want the quilt to be comfy, but not burdensome. This is especially important when you are making a lap quilt for someone in a wheelchair. Too big of a quilt will make it hard to move around. Often, these quilts are more rectangular in size.

Even if you don't sew, you can make a no-sew tie blanket that shows you care.

- Lap Quilt sizes are normally: small (30"x45"), medium (36"x60"), large (45"x60")
- Quilt for a wheelchair: small (30"x40"), medium (36"x40"), large (40"x40")
- Lap quilts are needed at Veterans hospitals & homes, special housing for neglected & abused children and/or women, children's wards in hospitals and care centers
- Baby size quilts can be donated to hospital NICU. Newborn size 30"x30" and infant 30"x40"

Project Linus: Blankets

Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets, and quilts, lovingly created by volunteers. Over 8,601,140 blankets have been delivered since 1995. Free patterns can be found online.

For more information: projectlinus.org

Ryan's cases for smiles: Pillowcases

Case for Smiles (formerly ConKerr Cancer) was founded in 2007 to bring comfort and support to young patients and their families in hospitals around the globe. It was started with a simple goal to create and distribute whimsical pillowcases that give an emotional boost and remind them that they are not defined by their illness.

Today, this program has expanded to include the children's entire families so they can better navigate and cope with a very difficult experience and avoid long term emotional trauma.

For more information: casesforsmiles.org

Quilt of Valor: red, white & blue blankets

A Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." Sample quilts and free patterns can be found online. *For more information:*

qovf.org

Soldiers Angels: blankets

Soldiers' Angels is collecting NEW blankets of any kind (store bought, handmade, no-sew, etc.) to distribute to veterans in VA Hospitals and ship to deployed service members. Twin size is preferred. Although not required, you may include a 'thank you' card attached to the blanket. If you choose to send a note of thanks, it's best if it's a postcard or other card not in an envelope, so that our staff can review the card. This is a great opportunity for non-quilters to take part by making no-sew quilts.

For more information: soldiersangels.org/volunteer/special-campaigns/blanketdrive

Meals on Wheels: placemats

The challenge: Today, the average life expectancy is at a record high of 79 years. As we get older, even the most independent among us may experience physical declines or financial hardship that strips away our independence. Add to that an increase in geographic mobility of our families, and the result is millions of seniors left behind, hungry, and alone. Meals on Wheels has been guided by a single goal since the first known U.S. delivery by a small group of Philadelphia citizens in 1954 – to support our senior neighbors, to extend their independence and health as they age.

What started as a compassionate idea has grown into one of the largest and most effective social movements in America, currently helping nearly 2.4 million seniors annually in virtually every community in the country. Many local groups like to include placemats with the meals. Typical size for placemats is 18" x 14" but check with your local group for their needs.

For more information: mealsonwheelsamerica.org

Pet carrier liners

Your local animal shelter can always use soft liners for pet carriers. Small liners are 14"x10". They are easy to make with a fabric top and bottom and batting between. It's easier to make by putting the fabric right sides together, sew around the edge with a ¼" to ½" seam. Leave a 2" open space to turn the fabrics right-side out and insert the batting. Top stitch around to circumference to hold the layer together and close the 2" opening. There is no need to quilt the finished product.

Check with your local shelter but if they don't need liners, try the national Pet Finders organization. They send liners to areas where disasters have left orphaned pets.

Christmas Stockings

Many local children's homes and care centers love getting donations of handmade Christmas stockings. Some request that you do not fill them, others will give you a list of acceptable items to put in the stockings.

Where else can you donate quilts or sewing projects? Check the internet for more information on these organizations.

- Quilts of Honor: Vietnam veterans
- Quilts for Kids: uses discontinued and sample fabric
- Wrap them in love: Orphaned children around the world
- Quilts without Borders: Syrian community & Navajo Nation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities: every child entering RMH receives a quilt
- Victoria's Quilts: Cancer patients
- Hopes & Dreams Quilts: ALS patients
- The Giving Quilt Inc: donates to non-profit organizations
- Sweet Pea Project: quilts for parents of stillborn children
- A Quilt for Mother's Tears: mothers of police officers killed in the line of duty
- Coffee Creek Quilters: teaches quilting to women incarcerated. Supplies needed
- Dress a Girls Around the World: makes dresses
- Little Dresses of Africa: simple patterns for little girls in Africa
- Ovarian Cancer Quilt Project: MD Anderson Cancer Center auctions quilts as fundraiser
- Project Night-Night: packages for homeless children, include a book, blanket & stuffed animal
- Quilts for Cops: police officers injured in the line of duty

Other suggested organizations for quilt donations:

For other ideas for donating quilts locally consider some of the following:

- Local hospitals, especially children's hospitals
- Neonatal Intensive Care units (NICU)
- Veteran's hospitals and health care centers
- Local police station: officers use them to provide comfort at accident scenes
- Local fire stations: to provide comfort for victims of fires
- Women's prisons
- Women's shelters (YWCA, abuse centers, homeless)
- Domestic violence centers
- Homeless shelters
- Maternity homes
- Pregnancy resource centers
- Crisis pregnancy centers
- Family crisis centers
- Children's centers
- Area foster care children's programs
- Local child welfare agencies
- Nursing homes, especially those with Alzheimer's patients appreciate fidget quilts
- Long term convalescent homes
- Salvation Army
- Local churches for donations
- Animal shelters
- Local quilt guilds – most guilds have a community service program