

Mask Project Summary

“Any time women come together with a collective intention, it’s a powerful thing. Whether it’s sitting down making a quilt, in a kitchen preparing a meal, in a club reading the same book, around the table playing cards, or planning a birthday party, when women come together with a collective intention, magic happens.”

—Phylicia Rashad

Dear Quilters, Sewers, Hub Captains, Managers, Drivers and Communication Team and all manner of volunteers who have been part of our War Effort,

It is my happy task to inform you that we have filled ALL our outstanding requests for masks and are not projecting any major new requests for the foreseeable future. Therefore Our Guild is suspending the mask-making effort that we began in early March. (more details below)

You have done an OUTSTANDING JOB OF MEETING THE EMERGENCY NEEDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE in all sorts of vulnerable and high risk situations during this unprecedented coronavirus epidemic! There are no words adequate to express the GENEROSITY, SKILL, DEVOTION AND OUTPOURING OF LOVE AND CARE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY that you have demonstrated over these last 8 weeks!! I bow deeply and THANK YOU on behalf of all the people you have helped shield from this horrid illness.

Members of QUILTSchenectady and other erstwhile quilters and sewing friends made over 10,000 masks serving all these organizations listed below. We also provided approximately 2,000 masks to friends, family, neighbors and individuals you knew who needed them.

Albany Medical Center- Accounts Payable	Albany
Avila Retirement Community	Albany
Bethesda House	Schenectady
Better Health of NorthEast NewYork	Gloversville
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Capital District Food Pantry	Albany
Center for Nursing and Rehab	Hoosick Falls
Center for the diasbled	Albany
Clifton Park Senior Center	Clifton Park
Coburg Village Independ Living Retirement Community	Rexford
Cocoa House	Schenectady

Community Care Physicians- troy branch	Troy
Community Hospice	Rensselaer
Conifer Park	Schenectady
Double H Ranch	Lake Luzern
Dr Rahman	Albany
Dutchess County Hospital	Dutchess County
Ellenville Community Hospital	
Four Winds	Saratoga Springs
Hannaford Pharmacy Dept	Schenectady
Heritage Home for Women	Schenectady
Home Instead Senior Care	Schenectady
Home of The Good Sheperd	Saratoga Springs
HOPE House	Albany
HOPE House- Other Locations	Albany
Josephs House	Troy
Judson Meadows Assisted Living	Scotia
Kingsway Community	Schenectady
Ladies of Charity- Carol Sirincione	
Lefebzre Chriopractors	Waterford
Lexington Community House	Albany
Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County	
Loretta critical nurse	?
Midge Consler- Nursing Service / Home	Syracuse
Mohawk Ambulance	Schenectady
Nathan Litauer	Gloversville
Niskayuna Co-Op	Niskayuna
North East Parent and Child / Northern Rivers	Albany
Northern Rivers	Schenectady
Oakwood Community Center	Troy
Planned Parenthood	Albany
Podiatry Associates	?
Prestwick Chase	Saratoga Springs
Proctors	Schenectady
RASP (Ganesvoort)	Ganesvoort
Refugee Group	?
Schenectady ARC	Schenectady
Schenectady City Missions	Schenectady
Schenectady County Office for Child and Fam	Schenectady
Schenectady Foundation	Schenectady
Schenectady Inner City Ministry Food Pantry	Schenectady
ST Lukes Food Pantry	Schenectady
St Peters Hospital (Nurse)	Albany

St. Peters Hospital	Albany
St. Vincent's Food Pantry	Schenectady
Teresian House	Albany
The Charlton School	Burnt Hills
The Wesley Community	Saratoga Springs
Town of Greenburgh Paramedics	N. Greenbush
Transitional Services	Unknown
Wellspring Domestic Violence	Saratoga Springs
Westview Senior Center	Albany
Wildwood Programs	Schenectady
Glendale Nursing Home	Schenectady

It is important to recognize that our efforts have not been isolated – even though we ourselves have been forcibly isolated during most of this endeavor. There have been MANY sewers and quilters responding to the need for masks simultaneously around the country and around the Capital Region. I cannot begin to quantify all that has been done even in our own region, because so much was not coordinated – or counted – by anyone. However, I can tell you that we coordinated with, delivered masks to, supported, shared elastic (that oh-so-valuable commodity!) with our sister guilds and colleagues in this effort.

Quilters of the Gloversville/Johnstown/Amsterdam area coordinated by Diana Marshall of the Gloversville Sewing Center, sewers of the Mooncatcher Project coordinated by Elle Von Wellsheim and we, the people of QUILTSchenectady, have made and distributed well over 30,000 masks!

To answer some inevitable questions...

We have a small backlog/stockpile of masks to fill any straggling requests that may yet come in. Of course we hope that as the lockdowns ease, we do not see any new outbreaks anywhere in the country, especially here. But we will be ready if shortages occur again. **If you are currently making masks, please finish what you have started and furnish them to our Hub Manager, Felicia Campo as before.** We ask Hub Captains and Drivers to stay attached to this effort for a couple of weeks more to wind up this effort, with the expectation that fewer masks will be funneling in.

We intend to contact EVERYONE to whom masks were given, reminding them that these are washable and reusable. And when wearing them is no longer necessary, the masks should be washed and SAVED for any future unfortunate outbreak. I am sure I am not

alone in feeling that we don't want to do this all over again – in any way!! I urge all of you who have made them for friends and family to make a similar suggestion.

NEXT STEPS

Now, as you are certainly wondering, what will we be doing as a Guild since we are rather indefinitely shut down for an unspecified time? We canNOT yet guess WHEN we will be able to meet again – as we all deeply long for “normal” to return. We will all be watching carefully as various places open up over the months to come. Their success or failure will inform decisions by our Governor about when we will be permitted to safely gather again. Although I cannot tell you WHEN, I can tell you a little bit about HOW we will have our first “post-Covid” meeting. We will not have a speaker but we will definitely have Show and Tell for the wonderful creations you have completed during and AFTER MASKS! And we will have a MASSIVE PARTY to which I hope every one of you will come, as well as our colleagues who have worked alongside of us in this great effort.

With you, I long for that day. The lyrics, to Rogers and Hammerstein's *You'll Never Walk Alone*, come to mind. “At the end of the storm there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark.”

Have an amazing summer: You deserve it!

Kathleen Morris
President QUILTSchenctady

PS: This message takes the place of our regular May Newsletter. Since normal quilt activities are all on hold there is not much else to report to you right now. Stay tuned for a late August newsletter that will update you on activities that are hopefully coming back “online.”