

COFFEE CREEK QUILTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coffee Creek Quilters Publishes Guide for Starting Quilting Classes in Correctional Facilities

Wilsonville, OR, February 12, 2010 – Coffee Creek Quilters learned by experience that teaching quilting classes in a prison presents difficult security challenges. When they started the program in 2002, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility officials required stringent procedures for the use of rotary cutters, scissors, seam rippers, needles, and pins. The quilting group has now published a document designed to help other groups start similar programs in other facilities.

In addition to security issues, *The Coffee Creek Quilters Program: A Guide for Starting Quilting Classes in Correctional Facilities* covers a range of other topics: volunteer recruitment and training, class structure, quilt kits and patterns, fabric donations and storage, fundraising, and organizational details. The Guide is available on the CCQ web site: www.coffeecreekquilters.com.

Each student in the CCQ program makes three quilts in weekly two-hour classes. The first two quilts are donated to a variety of charities that serve seniors in nursing homes, hospitalized children, terminally ill adults, and foster children. Every year approximately 150 quilts are donated to these charities. Students may keep the third quilt or give it to a loved one.

CCQ was founded by Koko Sutton, a quilter who believed that teaching life-enhancing skills like perseverance, patience, problem solving, and the importance of quality work to incarcerated women could help them work toward a better life when they reenter society. “It was Koko's dream to 'clone' the CCQ program in other communities and the Guide is a first step toward making that happen,” said CCQ President Mary Ann McCammon. “Koko passed away last fall, but we are so grateful for her vision, dedication, and hard work in getting the program started.”

More information about the CCQ program is available on the organization's web site:
www.coffeecreekquilters.org

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