

COFFEE CREEK QUILTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coffee Creek Quilters Invites the Community to Help Prison Inmates Learn to Quilt

Wilsonville, OR, January 11, 2010 – Every week 60 inmates gather in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility dining room where they learn to stitch quarter inch seams, piece half square triangles, and follow detailed pattern instructions to create quilts for the community. Classes are taught by Coffee Creek Quilters, an organization that's dedicated to teaching life-enhancing skills like perseverance, patience, problem solving, and the importance of quality work to the women at CCCF.

Each student in the 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.

Coffee Creek Quilters invites the community to participate in the CCQ program, either as groups or as individuals. There are two possible ways people can be involved:

Sponsor A Quilter. CCQ is an all-volunteer effort. Although most of the fabric for the student quilts is donated, it costs around \$100 for each student who goes through the CCQ program. This pays for thread, quilt batting, blades for rotary cutters, needles, sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, cutting mats, and other tools and supplies. CCQ invites members of the quilting community to donate \$100 to sponsor a student for the year she is in the program. The group welcomes one-time contributions as well as annual donations.

Release Kits. Women who have completed all three quilts and have been released from prison are eligible to receive a "release kit." Each kit includes a medium size cutting mat, ruler, rotary cutter, seam ripper, scissors, needles, and pins. The kits also include everything needed for a quilt project – fabric, thread, and pattern. CCQ provides women who receive release kits a donated and recently serviced sewing machine. CCQ invites the quilting community to assemble release kits for newly released students.

CCQ Board President Mary Ann McCammon described her experience with the quilting program: "Being part of the process of making the three quilts is so rewarding," McCammon said. "The look of pride on a student's face when she finishes that first quilt, the sense of accomplishment experienced when the second quilt is completed and the anticipation of giving the third quilt to a loved one are precious times that we share with our students."

Students learn much more than a hobby in the CCQ program. After struggling with her 2nd quilt, one student said "It's really hard to have someone tell you you're doing a good job; it's hard to accept that

after always being told you just make mistakes and are no good...so thanks for encouraging me."

CCQ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Coffee Creek Quilters and mailed to P. O. Box 2672, Wilsonville, OR 97070. Those interested in donating release kits should call 503-625-1425 for more information.

Additional information about the CCQ program can be found on the organization's web site:
www.coffeecreekquilters.org

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