



Project Warm Embrace

Starlight Quilters Guild Co-Chairs, Renee Arnett and Donna di Natale
http://www.starlightquilters.com/project_warm_embrace

Project Warm Embrace is a statewide partnership (established in 2008 in south central Kansas) between the Kansas Department for Children & Families (DCF) partners and community quilters. In 2016, Project Warm Embrace expanded to Northeast Kansas to ensure that handmade quilts benefit the foster children in Johnson County and the surrounding counties of Atchison, Douglas, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte.

In January 2018, the Starlight Quilters Guild adopted Project Warm Embrace as a community service project for its members.

Project Warm Embrace requests quilts be 45" x 60" or larger. The greatest need is for larger quilts appropriate for older youth/teenagers – boys as well as girls. There are about 6,600 children in foster care throughout Kansas. In 2016, the average age of a child in foster care was 8 and the oldest child was 18.

To help you delve into your quilt shop quality fabric stash and make a child or teen friendly quilt for Project Warm Embrace, here are some Bust That Stash* tips:

- **Piece your backing** using quilt top leftovers. If you have extra blocks or fat quarters, piece them into the backing. How about using a quilt top (that you don't necessarily want to quilt separately) as a backing.
- **Repeat a single block** using your stash fabrics. This is a great way to reduce/use your stash and single block quilts are very popular right now. Think of a sawtooth star block and make each block using a different fabric from your stash. Scrap quilts are so much fun.
- **It's OK to buy** background, border or backing fabric to help you complete or start a stash quilt. You're still using your stash, right?

Fabric bags are also welcome. When children come into DCF's care, it is a time of insecurity and instability. Many times a child is given only 15 minutes to gather up their belongings when being removed from their home. They often leave with their possessions in a paper sack! Since children arrive with very few possessions, providing a keepsake quilt during this traumatic time in their life sends an encouraging message letting each child know they are special and that someone cares about them. The Starlight Quilters Guild is also making fabric bags for Project Warm Embrace and has named them "**dream bags**" after SQG member Susan Wagner shared the following quote by William Butler Yeats: *"Take, if you must, this little bag of dreams, Unloose the cord, and they will wrap you round."*

Check the Project Warm Embrace page on the guild's website for more details about child safety requirements for quilts, donation receipt, and the pattern for Dream Bags.

Thank you for your consideration to support Project Warm Embrace. **All children need to know they are loved. What a blessing that we can use our talents and love of quilting to do just that.**



*Eagle Creek Quilt Shop Newsletter, Shakopee Minnesota