

STEPS FOR COMMUNITY QUILTS

What are all the steps we take our Community Quilts through to get them finished?

- 1) Top made (by you, at home, from kit or own ideas and fabric.)
- 2) Match top with a back and batting.
- 3) Layers basted/pinned (often done at Quiltathon) – Teams work together to spread batting flat on a table, smoothing as firmly as possible so there are no bumps or wrinkles. Spread quilt back on top, face up, and firmly smooth this too until completely flat. Quilt top added next, face down, and smoothed very flat as well. Finally, pin the edges every 4-6 inches with pin heads toward outside (easiest for removal while sewing). On one side, place two sets of crossed pins about 8-10 inches apart, to indicate the opening to be left for turning quilt right side out.
- 4) Machine sew around edge, approx. 2 - 2.5 stitch length, 3/8" seam, or width of walking foot, leaving gap for turning at crossed pins.
- 5) Trim around edge of quilt with scissors or rotary cutting tools leaving approximately 3/8" seam allowance. You can trim the corners diagonally close to the stitching, so the corners are sharp and square.
- 6) Reach inside quilt between top and back, turn quilt right side out, and push corners out fully.
- 7) Hand-sew opening closed; label can be sewn on at this time.
- 8) Press quilt flat with iron, or smooth firmly with hands on flat surface. Rather than making edge perfectly even, it is most important that quilt is flat. If desired, pin around edge to keep flat.
- 9) Sew around edge (2.5 - 3 stitch length, 1/8"-3/8" in from edge)
- 10) Machine quilt – designs or patterns can be quite big, although we do want it to hold up through many washings. You are welcome to use walking foot quilting in lines or free-motion quilting with a darning foot.
- 11) Affix pre-made label by hand or machine if not done at #7.