

**THE WESTERN NEW YORK**

**AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT**

**PROJECT**

**Sponsored By The AIDS  
Quilt Team**

**Of**

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**AIDS Community Services**

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**of Western New York**

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The Western New York AIDS Memorial Quilt Project was established to commemorate those who have died from AIDS in Western New York. The Quilt Panels will remain in this region and be displayed throughout the year at appropriate sites.

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The goal of the Western New York Quilt Project is to:

- help our community recognize the humanity behind the AIDS statistics,
- build community, bring lovers, parents, friends and relatives together to remember and celebrate those who have died,
- inspire people to move through their grief and sorrow toward action and empowerment,
- infuse the battle against AIDS and HIV disease with new energy, by encouraging awareness and action upon thousands of people,
- encourage an educational approach that breaks down barriers, bridges isolation and lessens grief,
- increase resources for the AIDS organizations providing direct services, through the generosity the quilt panels inspire wherever they're displayed,
- remember the names of those who have died, and honor their lives.

The Western New York AIDS Quilt Team, sponsored by AIDS Community Services will make or assist persons in the construction of an AIDS Quilt panel.

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### CONSTRUCTION

In designing your panel, remember that the quilt will be folded and unfolded many times, so that *durability of the design* and *durability of materials used* are crucial to the longevity of your panel.

## DESIGN

1. To start, think about the person for whom you are making the panel. Try to recall favorite pastimes or symbols that might represent him/her. Don't overlook work, hobbies, family, habits, school travel, private jokes. Even the hometown he/she hailed from could suggest a great idea. You can include mementos like a favorite piece of clothing in the panel.
2. When thinking about the design of the quilt panel, it is suggested that since this is a regional quilt project, if the last name of the person is used, we should be sensitive to families who wish not to have the last name used. It would be helpful to obtain permission by the family before you complete your quilt panel.
3. Now get some of your ideas down on paper. Many people find it helpful to experiment by sketching various designs. Don't worry about artistry; it's the idea that counts.
4. Now think about colors. Your choice may have special significance.
5. Your panel can be simple or complex.

If you want help, call us, we are here to help you!

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## SIZES

The finished size of the completed panels can be:

6 x 3

3 x 3

2 x 3

Please allow 3 inches of extra fabric on each side of the quilt panel. This allows sufficient fabric to attach your panel to others for display.

## CONSIDER THESE POSSIBILITIES

●**APPLIQUE:** Sew letters to the background. For more security on slippery fabrics like satin, use glue or "Stitch Witchery" to attach letters, then stitch in place. You can use precut vinyl letters but because their adhesive wears badly, you will need to stitch them down, too. Iron-on letters work on natural fabrics such as cotton, but not on synthetic fabrics such as rayon. Stitch them down, also. Avoid using glue as the only method of fastening letters and material. It does not hold up well. Nor does glitter prove durable; we don't recommend it.

●**PAINTING:** Brush letters on with textile paint, color-fast dye, or write them with indelible markers.

●**STENCIL:** Brush textile paint on after cutting your design or letters out of stiff paper or cardboard.

●**COLLAGE:** Please do not use large three dimensional objects or heavy metal pieces. If you want to include a large object, recreate it in fabric - it's effective and fun. Photographs? Photocopy them onto iron-on transfers, then iron those onto the panel. As with iron-on letters, this works best when the background fabric is a natural fiber like cotton.

Make certain that all materials are securely attached and that any paint or ink has dried before you fold the panel.

When the panel is complete, write a one or two page description of the symbolism in the quilt panel and represented about the person you have memorialized. Tell what this person meant to you and how you think he/she should be remembered. We would also ask you to sign a release form allowing us to display the panels in Western New York.

For more information and where to bring your quilt panel, please contact the AIDS Quilt Team at 716-847-2441.

## HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL AIDS QUILT

*In June of 1987 propelled by death and tragedy that confronted so many all around the world, especially the gay and lesbian community in San Francisco, Cleve Jones searched for a way to make people understand the loss and frustration.*

*Awkwardly, he spray-painted his friend's name, Marvin Feldman, onto a piece of cloth the size of Marvin's grave. Others joined the effort: friend, acquaintances, and strangers. Soon, thousands of people all across the United States and around the world were adding names, expressing their grief and anger by creating hand-made memorials for their loved ones lost to AIDS.*

*For additional information concerning the National NAMES Project:*

*The NAMES Project  
PO Box 14573  
San Francisco, California 94114  
415-863-5511*

*For information concerning the Western New York Quilt Project :*

*AIDS Community Services  
220 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 512  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
716-847-2441*

# Please help us to help others

We rely on your generous  
donations to provide  
services to our clients,  
education to our  
community and to  
fund the Quilt Project.  
Please help!

**NEWSLETTER \$12.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ ONE YEAR  
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**DONATION**

\$10 \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ **THIS IS A CHANGE  
OF ADDRESS**

*Our mailing list is confidential*

Please mail to:  
**AIDS Community Services**  
220 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 512  
Buffalo, NY 14202