

## VIP QUILTS

### (Quilts for Visually Impaired Persons, or Tactile Quilts)

**Quilts from Caring hands trusts that you will sew these quilts with the joy of giving. Please do not sell the directions or any quilt made with them, rather share them freely with children and their families who need a little extra Tender Loving Care.**

VIP Quilts are generally planned and designed by a group of members who know and understand the parameters set by individual agencies that receive the quilts for their clients and patients.

Size: 8 ½" finished blocks – 5 blocks X 6 blocks yields a 42" X 52" finished quilt.

#### SUPPLIES:

**Collect a stash of pre-washed fabrics with texture, patterns with movement, and fabrics with high contrast:** corduroy, fleece, fake fur, terrycloth, sateen, seersucker, brocade, velvets, laces, flannel, flat and dotted minky, small checks, swirls, zigzags, large polka dots, plaids, wide stripes, large motif designs, patterns with high contrast colors.

The quilt will be frequently washed. It is best to know a fabric's wash ability by **pre-washing fabric** before the fabric is in the quilt. The fabrics must be washable and machine dryable.

**Variety of decorations:** rickrack, laces, braids, ribbons, trims, gimp.

**Backing:** Use pre-washed high quality solid red flannel, about 2 ¼ yards at 45" wide.

**Batting:** Hobbs cotton/poly (80%/20%) batting.

**100% cotton crochet thread** to tie the quilt. We usually use white.

**Other needs:** cotton thread for piecing, tying needles with large eyes, basting clamps to hold the quilt while tying it, and 4" squares to use as a guide for tying.

#### QUILT ASSEMBLY

1. **Cut fabric into 9" squares.** This size includes a 3/8" seam allowance. You will use 30 blocks per quilt.
2. **Create texture variation** within a block with embellishments. Choose some of the blocks with plainer textures and add trims or overlay eyelet to create more texture in the block. Trims can be placed in straight lines or in shapes. Use iron-on interfacing when possible and muslin for stabilizing fabrics such as dotted minky, velvet, and some light-weight flannels. Back laces with cotton squares that match the color of the lace.
3. **Making a pocket:** Cut a rectangle 6" X 9". Fold one of the long edges under twice and stitch. Stitch a piece of trim on the folded edge. Machine baste this rectangle over one

half of a square matching raw edges to create a pocket. Each quilt has two pockets placed in specific places.

4. **Lay out top with 30 blocks** – 5 across and 6 down. Use blocks that have high contrast to each other. Use a variety of different textures, colors, embellished blocks and two pocket blocks in the quilt. Be sure to choose some duplicates.

-If you use two pocket blocks, make sure they both open in the same direction. Place only block between two similar blocks. This placement helps develop “same” and “different”. The binding will go on more easily if the outer blocks have minimal texture. Put the thicker textures – fake fur, chenille, heavy terrycloth, and fleece – toward the center of the quilt.

Put blacks next to whites, brights next to colors that are more calm or subtle. Place the blocks to create the highest contrast and create some movement in the overall design.

5. **Stitch blocks together in rows using a 3/8” seam.** Press each seam open. Sew the rows together.
6. **Cut a backing** from the solid red flannel for ESD quilts and printed flannel on regular quilts. (44/45” X 57”/60”)
7. **Cut the batting** about 49” X 57”.
8. **Sandwich the quilt.** Smooth out the backing on a tabletop, right side down. Clip it down with basting clamps. Lay the batting on top, centering it on the flannel. Place the quilt top, right side up, on the batting and clip down.
9. **Tie the quilt.** Place a 4” square in the center of each block. Tie a square knot at each corner of the 4” square. Use a double thread of crochet yarn and loop it through the quilt twice before you tie a square knot. Tri ties to 1”
10. **Bind the quilt.** Use broadcloth for the binding. Cut enough 2 ½” strips to make 200” – 210” of binding. Use a diagonal seam to join the binding strips. Fold the binding in half, matching the long raw edges and press. Use ¼” seam allowance to attach binding to quilt.
11. **Finish the quilt** by attaching a label to the back. The label might include the maker, location, date, care instructions and a place for the child’s name.