

TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF

*Threads of Life Quit*



“We stitch together quilts of meaning to keep us warm and safe, with whatever patches of beauty we have on hand.” — Anne Lamott

Dear Friends -

For 25 years, the Threads of Life Quilt has brought people together to tell inspiring and touching stories of donation and transplantation. Constructed by hand with love, each square is a unique work of art. Since the first quilt in 1999, over 1,400 squares have been beautifully stitched together into 25 quilts. The stories represent our community: donor families, living donors, recipients, people on the waitlist, healthcare professionals, and all of those whose lives have been impacted by the gifts of life, sight, and health.

As we celebrate 25 years of quilts, I want to thank the hundreds of quilt square designers who have made this program possible. I cannot capture the grace, love, humility, and hope that is shared through their squares. Fortunately, the legacy of each quilt has been documented in the commemorative Quilt Books that share the story of each square in the designer’s own words. I encourage you to explore these books to learn more about the individuals that make up our phenomenal community.

The Threads of Life Quilts could not have come together without the help of our 12 volunteer quilters. Their craftsmanship has truly brought these stories to life! Additional thanks to the Threads of Life Quilt founder Mary Jane Hunt, whose vision for inspired action through art has made this legacy possible.

On behalf of all of us at Donate Life Northwest, thank you to all you that make our community strong. Together, we can save lives!



Jackie Wirz, PhD  
Executive Director  
Donate Life Northwest

# Quilt

1

1999



Selected square from the 1999 quilt  
HONORING  
BRIAN JACK ROBINSON  
DONOR



Brian was a terrific kid; he loved life and was always happy and smiling. He was a great son, brother, and friend; Brian demonstrated true kindness, compassion, and even wisdom at such a young age. He loved baseball; it was his passion. Every spring I am reminded how much it was a part of him, who he was and still is. Brian died in 1993 and was an organ donor.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Leslie (mother).

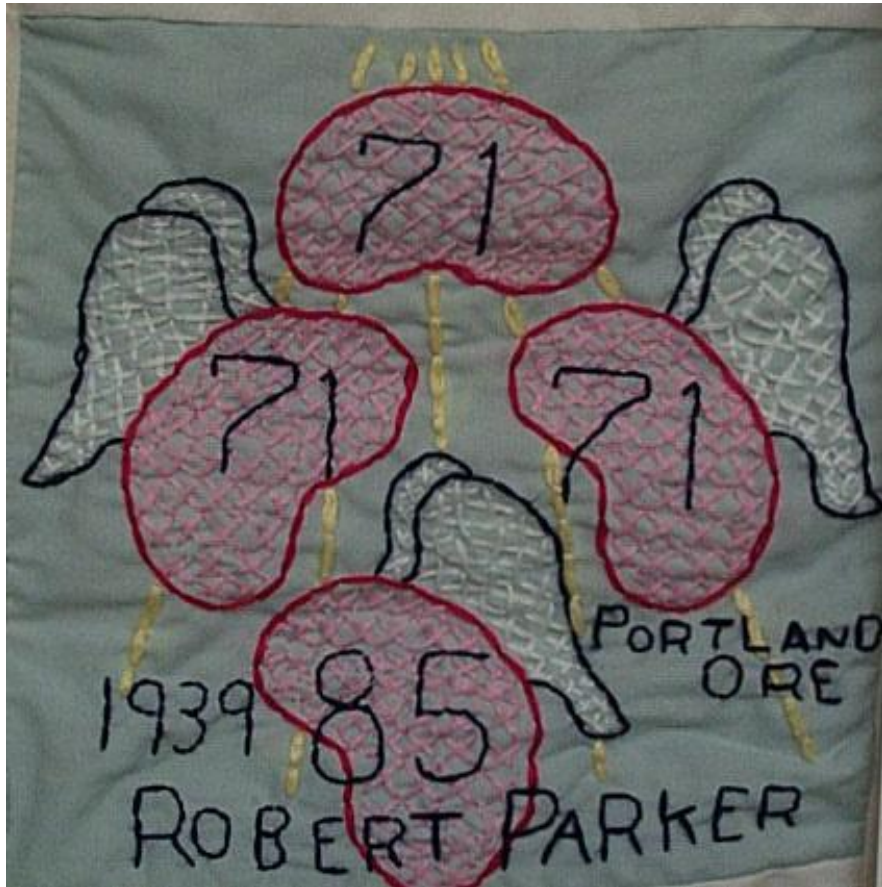
# Quilt

2

2000



Selected square from the 2000 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
ROBERT PARKER  
RECIPIENT



I was married to my nurse, Linda, for 22 years, 1973-1995. She also had a kidney transplant in 1968 and another in 1977. We both enjoyed our lives, extended by the gift. Thank you to those who gave theirs. I would like to meet and thank my donor.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Robert Parker.

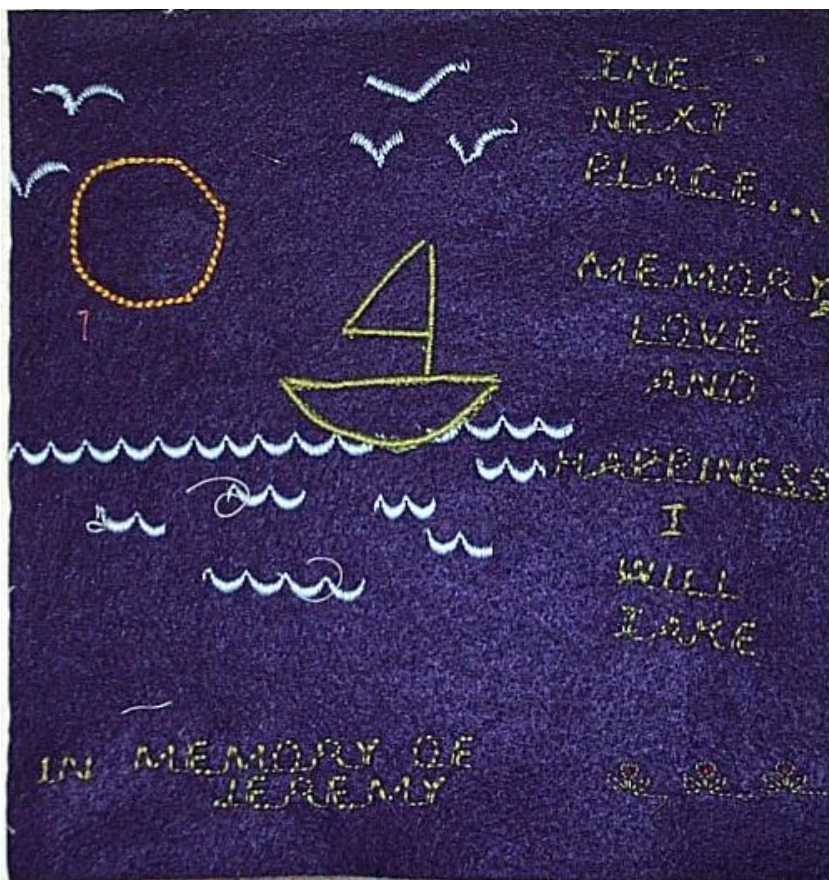
# Quilt

3

2001



Selected square from the 2001 quilt  
HONORING  
JEREMY SCOTT BULLER  
DONOR



Jeremy's personality inspired you to have faith in what tomorrow could be. His strength is beyond giving a second chance. "In this life anything is possible, the reasons are enigmatic, live life today". This was one of Jeremy's many phrases. Jeremy was killed in an auto accident in January 1999 and was a donor.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Angelica Romero (friend).



# Quilt

4

2002



# Selected square from the 2002 quilt

## CELEBRATING TRACY HOYLE RECIPIENT



Tracy Hoyle received a life-saving heart transplant thanks to the unselfish gift of her donor. If that wasn't enough of a miracle, just 6 weeks after her transplant, she became pregnant. One week shy of the 10-month anniversary of her transplant her son Trent was born.

Tracy has been blessed twice by her donor family. Once her own life is saved and the second blessing is her son, which she thought she'd never have. Tracy's donor family is her and her family's hero.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Tracy Hoyle.

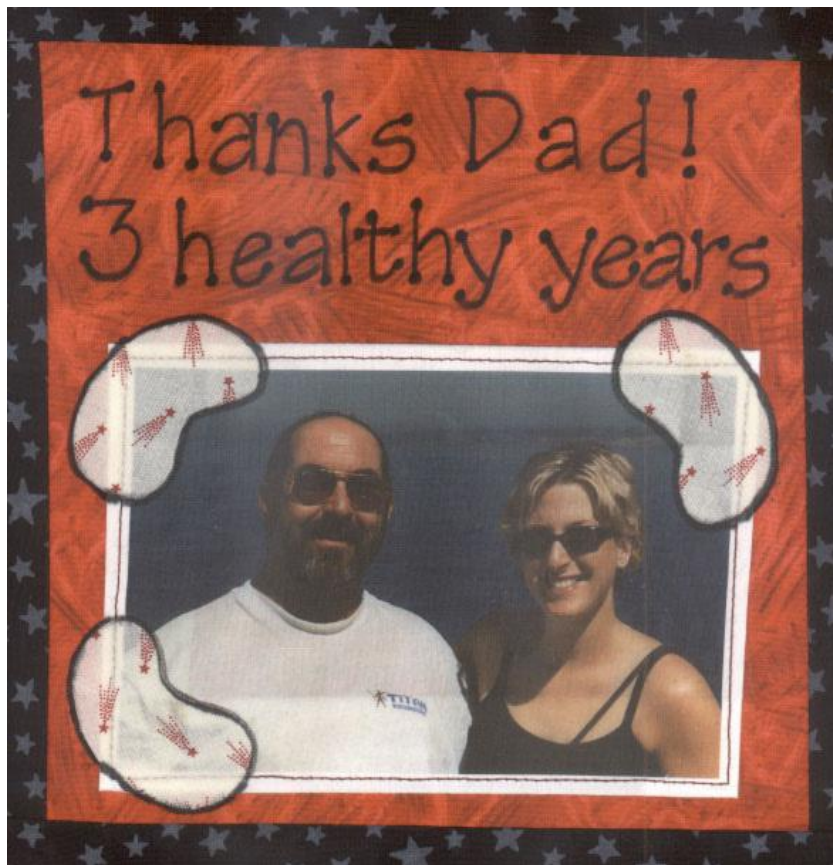
# Quilt

5

2003



Selected square from the 2003 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
HOWARD BENYAS  
LIVING DONOR



This square is made in honor of Howard Benyas, my dad and the man who gave me life twice. I am forever grateful for the 3 amazing years I have had since the transplant. It's been 3 years of new travels, new friends, new adventures, and cherished and continued love. I will forever be in awe of this amazing miracle, and will continue taking the best care of "our kidney".

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
by Laura Ellsworth (daughter and kidney  
recipient).

# Quilt

6

2004

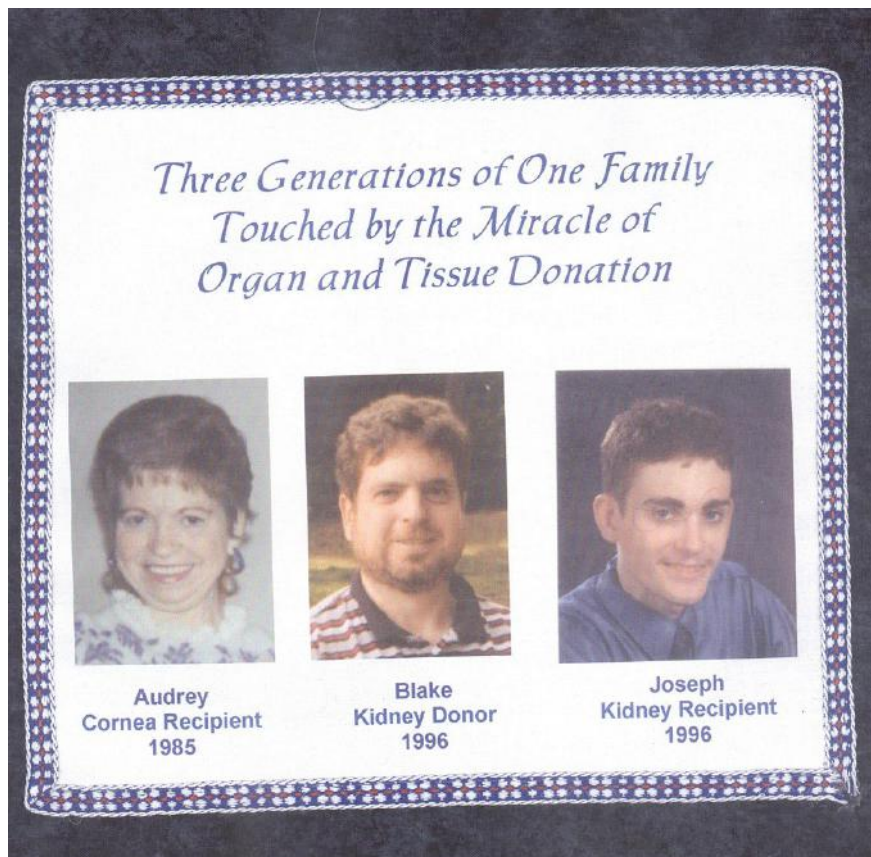


# Selected square from the 2004 quilt HONORING THE ADAMS FAMILY

This quilt square celebrates the miracle of organ and tissue donation that has touched three generations of a family.

In 1985, Audrey returned home from her cornea transplant to learn that her second grandchild Joseph, had just been born.

Of ten grandchildren Audrey claims today, the one whose birth coincided with her tissue transplant became the one whom needed an organ transplant later on. Joseph Adams was barely 9 years old when he was hospitalized with renal failure but in 1996 Joseph received his father's left kidney.



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Blake Adams (donor).

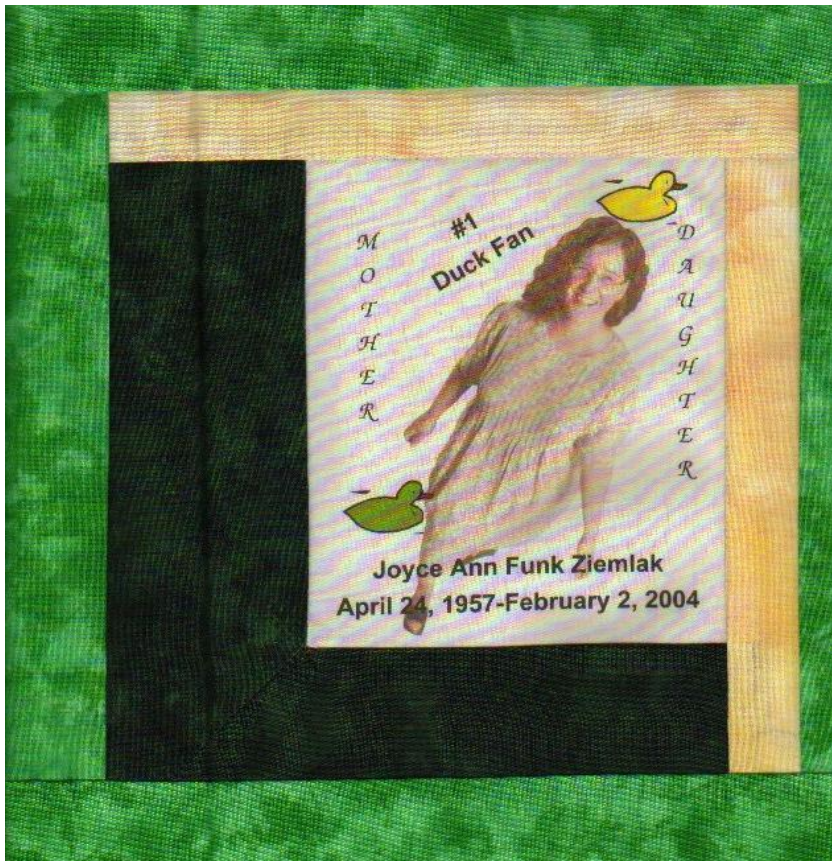
# Quilt

7

2005



Selected square from the 2005 quilt  
HONORING  
JOYCE ANN FUNK ZIEMLAK  
DONOR



Joyce was a real angel of a daughter. She was an avid DUCK fan and could hardly wait for football season to arrive. Joyce Ann Funk Ziemiak was a very giving person and so she was a donor. Her eyes went to two different people who are now able to see. Her heart went to a father of four. Her liver and both kidneys went to three others. Her pancreas was used for research. While we miss her greatly we are comforted by the fact that she goes on living in the bodies of others.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Diana Funk (mother).



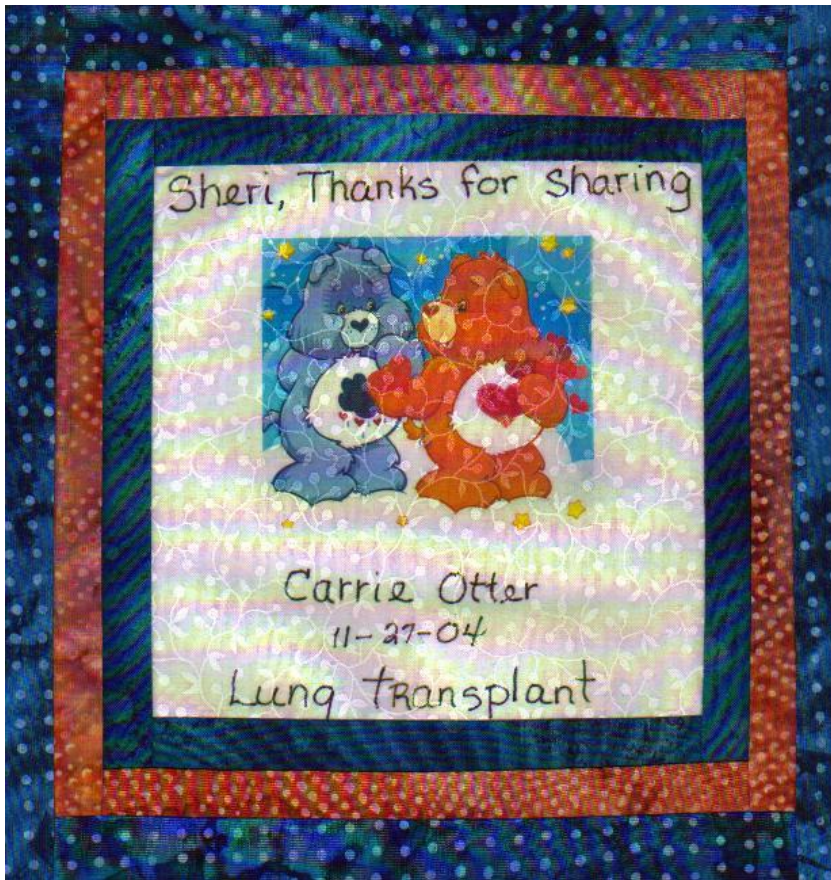
Quilt

8

2006



Selected square from the 2006 quilt  
HONORING AND CELEBRATING  
CARRIE OTTER  
DONOR AND RECIPIENT



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Elizabeth (mother).

Carrie, who was born with Cystic Fibrosis, received her lung transplant on 2004 after waiting nearly two years. The transplant gave her an opportunity to enjoy life again without oxygen strapped to her back. She returned to Community College, went on several trips, tried wake boarding again, joined the gym and in general began living like any other 23 year old. Sadly, Carrie passed away on 2005, due to complications related to her liver. She was able to donate her eyes and tissue. Our family feels very lucky to have had Carrie in our lives.

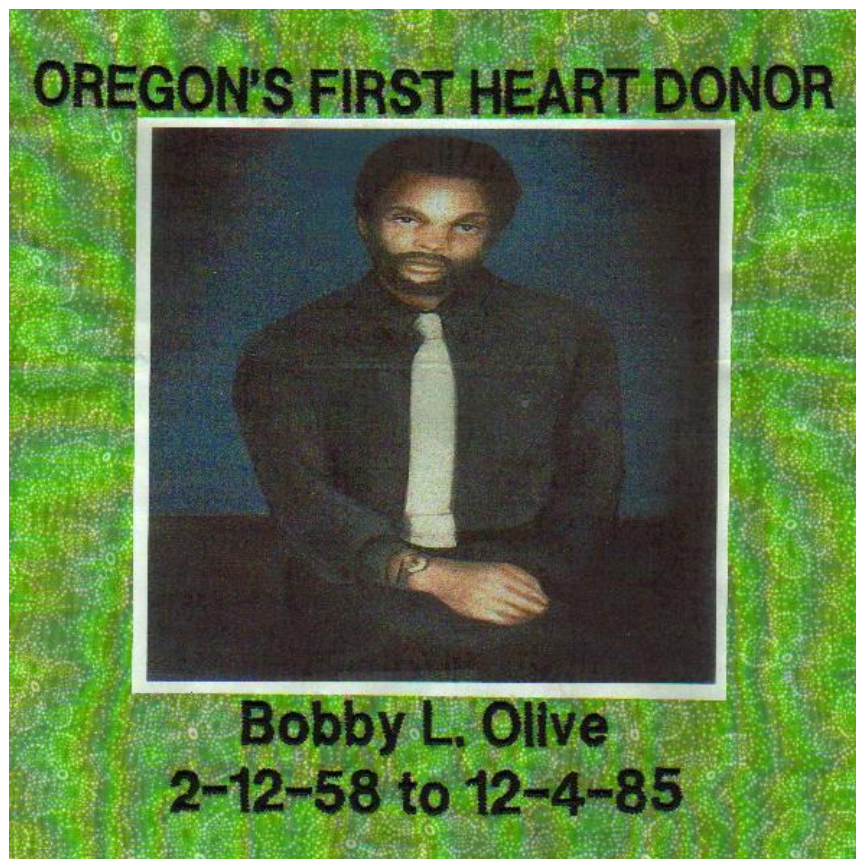
Quilt

9

2007



Selected square from the 2007 quilt  
HONORING  
BOBBY LEWIS OLIVE  
DONOR



Bobby Lewis Olive was known to family and friends as Bobo. Bobby's proud parents, Martha and Herbert Olive, had six children. Bobby was number five. Bobby was loved so much. He had a very unique personality. Bobby's life ended so soon. He was 27 years old in 1985. It was 21 years ago when his heart was given to Wesley Merrill. The beat went on. It seems like yesterday. We love you Bobby and we miss you. The Family 2007.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Balinda Olive-Beltran (sister) .

# Quilt

10

2008



Selected square from the 2008 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
KATHRYN LANGSTON  
RECIPIENT



My square is dedicated to my sister for the gift of life she received on February 19, 2003, and her love of cats. Had it not been for the family that made the decision to give the gift of life, my sister might not be here to love her cats and play with her 6 grandchildren.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Nelda Copsey (sister).

Quilt

11

2009



Selected square from the 2009 quilt  
HONORING  
COLTON LEROY POULSEN  
DONOR



The cowboy boot is to remember a special little cowboy. The picture is of Colton being himself, always on the go - with attitude. Colton was a special boy. He did everything early in life. He lived every minute of every day to its fullest. He touched everyone he met in special ways. Even until the end and in death he was still reaching out and touching people he didn't even know. This saying fits him best: "Live, Love, Laugh".

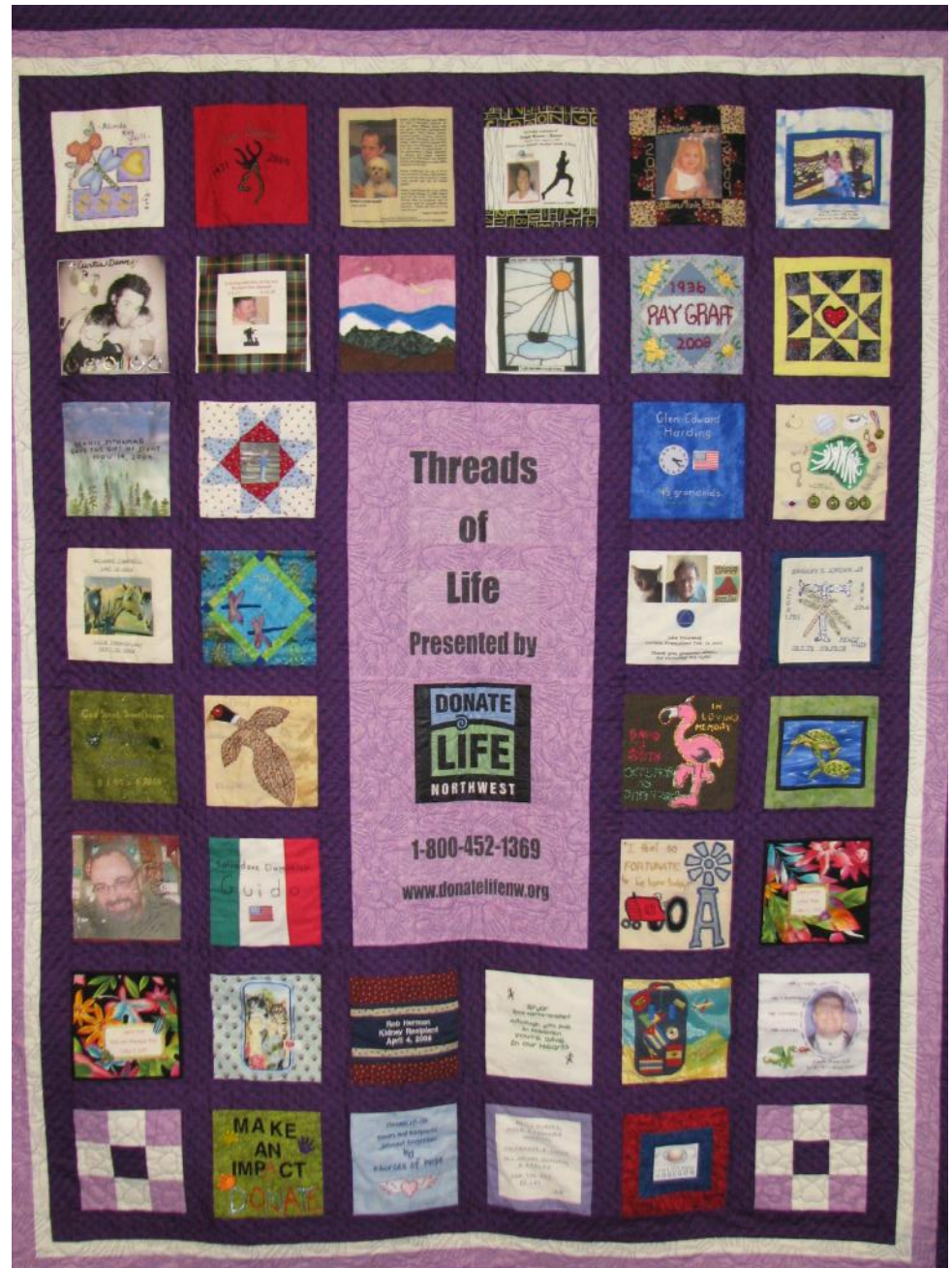
Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Grandma Poulsen, and Clare and Carrie  
Poulsen



# Quilt

12

2010



Selected square from the 2010 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
LINDA RIGERT & JENNIFER RIGERT  
LIVING DONOR & RECIPIENT



“When I found out I could donate my kidney to my daughter Jennifer, I was overjoyed. It was one of the best gifts I've ever received. She honors me daily by being the strongest, most amazing person I've ever known. Love you.” – Linda Rigert

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Linda Rigert (mother) and Jennifer  
Rigert, (daughter).

Quilt

13

2011



Selected square from the 2011 quilt  
HONORING  
AMY BENSON  
DONOR



This square was made with love in honor of my little sister, Amy. I chose bright and happy colors because Amy brought so much joy to our lives. The moment she was born I recognized a special sparkle in her eyes. Her beautiful brown eyes could penetrate my heart from day one. The sparkles on the square represent her impact on my life. Even though she's gone, her eyes, her sparkle continue on.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Jessica Rader (Sister).

# Quilt

14

2012



Selected square from the 2012 quilt  
HONORING  
EVERETT P. SMYTH  
DONOR



This design represents Everett's love of boating and sailing. We owned motor boats for many years. The guiding themes of his life are listed on each of four points:

FAITH, FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by Anita Cate Smyth (daughter-in-law) and Shirley Smyth (wife).

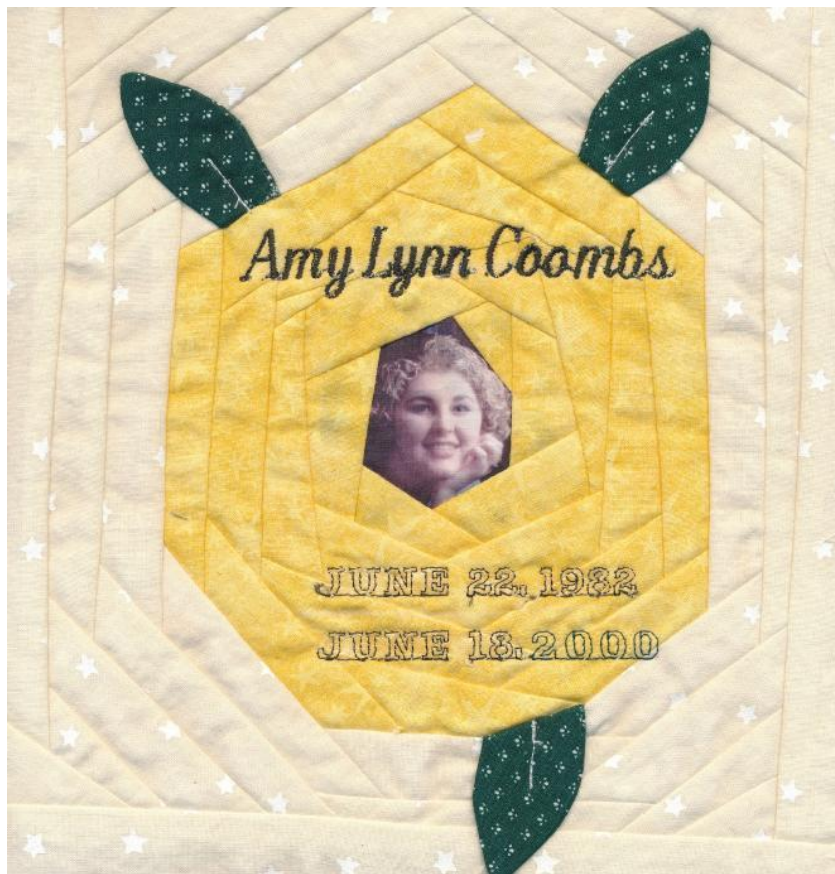
# Quilt

15

2013



Selected square from the 2013 quilt  
HONORING  
AMY LYNN COOMBS  
DONOR



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Terry Hegerle (mother).

Amy was a very intelligent and caring young woman who gave back to her community. Although her life was short, she was able to accomplish a great deal. Her acts of kindness were plentiful, and her service to others could be seen throughout her community. Dying too soon Amy's generosity continued through donation. In 2000, Amy was able to give the ultimate gift of life through organ, eye, and tissue donation. Amy's family is grateful for the gifts she was able to make and continues to honor her legacy through telling her story and advocating for donation.



# Quilt

16

2014



Selected square from the 2014 quilt  
HONORING  
ALLEN KERR  
DONOR



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Shirley Kerr (wife).

Allen was active in churches all his life, enjoyed working with youth at day camps, leading backpack trips, and teaching archery.

He was the father of two children adopted from Korea and has three grandchildren. In the days prior to his death, he heard a Southern gospel song entitled, "He Saw It All" and really enjoyed it. It is fitting that his donation allowed someone else to see, as the song tells of a blind man who saw.

# Quilt

17

2015



Selected square from the 2015 quilt  
HONORING  
ABIGAIL ROBINSON  
DONOR



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Susan Dieter-Robinson (mother)

Abigail Robinson was eleven when she went, along with her 6-year-old sister Anna, to Heaven on October 20, 2013. Both girls loved life and were loved by everyone they encountered.

Both Abigail and Anna loved to dance, listen to music, spend time with their family, and loved “hanging out” with their friends every chance they got.

Rainbows and hearts mean the world to us, we see them everywhere and feel that they truly are a sign from God that our girls are taken care of.

# Quilt

18

2016



Selected square from the 2016 quilt  
HONORING  
BYRON BALL  
DONOR



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Patrice Ball (wife).

Byron was a beloved family man, a kind soul, and a gifted high school science teacher. He loved sharing his enthusiasm for the natural world with his students in the classroom and beyond. His corneas have provided the gift of sight to two recipients who can now enjoy the beauty of nature: birds and animals, the sun and stars and sky, green spaces, waterways, and—probably most importantly—the faces of their loved ones. His name will live on in two natural settings near Portland: The Byron Ball Educational Forest in Sandy, Oregon, and on a memorial bench at Coon Point on Sauvie Island.

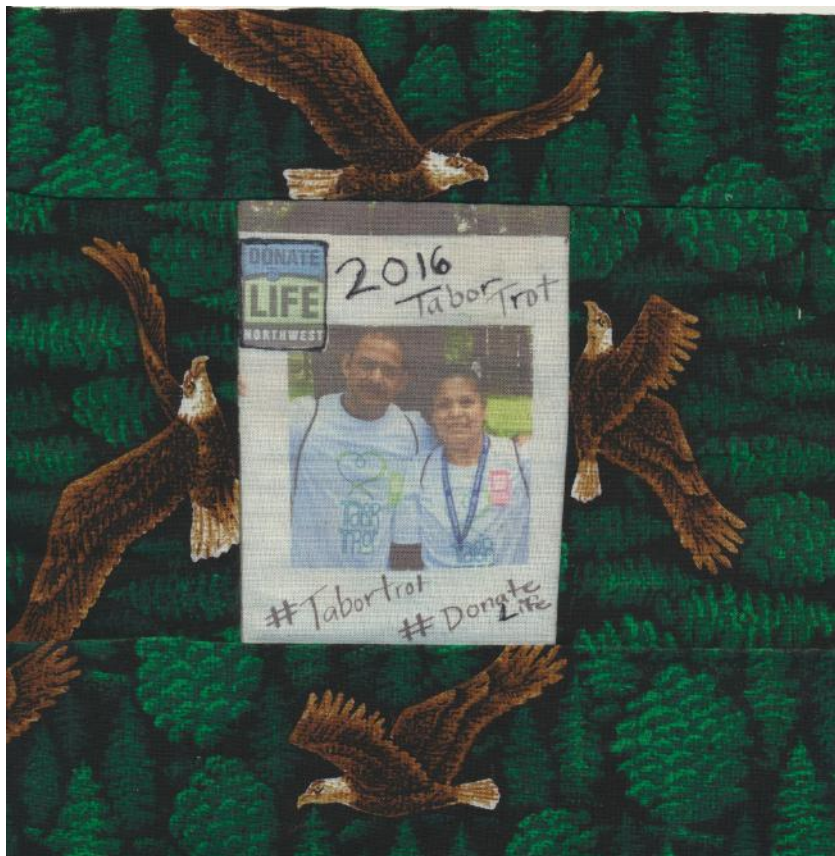
# Quilt

19

2017



Selected square from the 2017 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
MARIA SOREQUE  
RECIPIENT



Firstly, I am very grateful to God after having yearned for five and a half years for the gift of life through a kidney transplant. My life changed greatly on June 4th 2015 when I received the transplant. I am a very grateful woman for this new life that I am living thanks to God and everyone that makes transplants possible. With all of my heart, thank you!

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Maria Soreque.



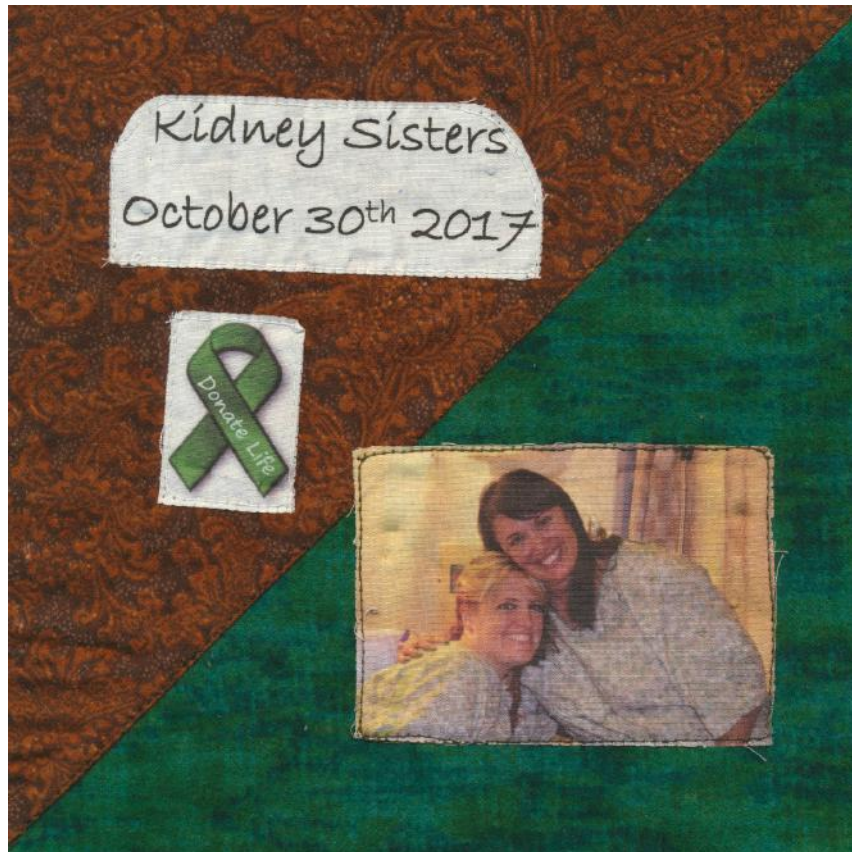
*Quilt*

20

2018



Selected square from the 2018 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
CAROLYN DAVIDSON & SARAH HOLTZ  
LIVING DONOR & RECIPIENT



Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Nancy and Sarah Holtz.

My (Sarah's) Mom, Nancy, made this quilt square out of pieces that she had used to make a gift quilt for my donor, Carolyn Davidson, during our transplant hospital stay. Carolyn was my altruistic donor and revealed the news to me at a surprise staff meeting at the high school I have worked at for over 11 years. I had been on peritoneal dialysis for 12+ hours a day while teaching full time until Carolyn's selfless act of donating her kidney. She is also a teacher in a neighboring school district.

Quilt

21

2019



Selected square from the 2019 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
ALYSIA YAMASAKI  
RECIPIENT



This quilt square honors my organ donor, my angel who gave me life. This piece also honors my Mom and my boyfriend, Josh, who have supported me through my journey. Thank you to my donor, my donor's family, and my family and friends for loving me and caring for me.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Alysia Yamasaki.

# Quilt

22

2020



Selected square from the 2020 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
MARILYN TOVAR  
RECIPIENT



This quilt square was made to honor the generous kidney donor who saved her life.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Marilyn Tovar.

# Quilt

23

2021



Selected square from the 2021 quilt  
HONORING  
THE ANONYMOUS TISSUE DONORS  
FOR NEVAEH DEWITT



I received two ligament transplants to be able to run, play softball, and live my life to the fullest. I am ready to fully heal and join my high school softball team. Thanks to my two deceased donors, my knees are able to fully function and let me be an active teen.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Nevaeh DeWitt.



Quilt

24

2022



Selected square from the 2022 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
REBECCA S.  
RECIPIENT



I am a two-time cancer survivor and tissue graft recipient.

I am so grateful to have received these gifts, which have given me back my mobility.

Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Rebecca S.



Selected square from the 2023 quilt  
CELEBRATING  
LUISA SERRANO  
RECIPIENT



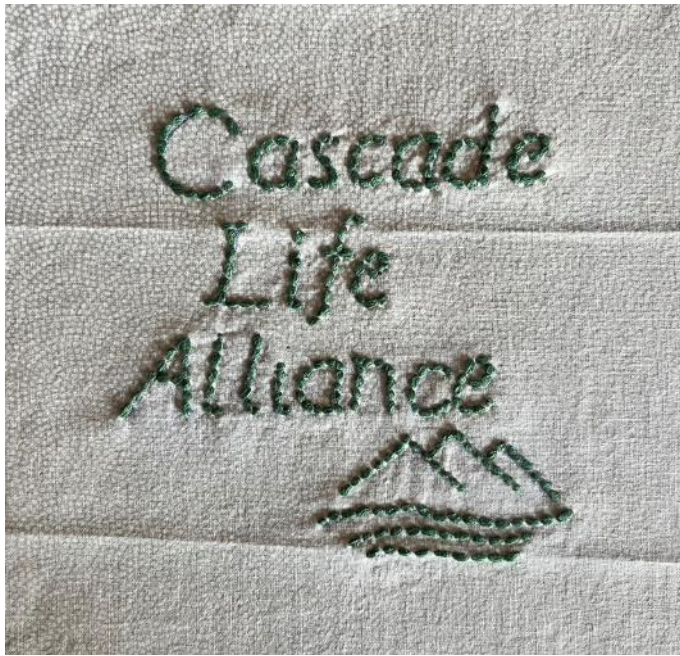
Quilt Square designed and submitted by  
Luisa Serrano.

Tener un riñón nuevo es como nacer de nuevo. Trato de vivir cada momento lo mejor que puedo, y todos los días doy gracias a Dios por esta segunda oportunidad.

Gracias a Mathew, mi donante, estoy sano y tengo una hermosa familia.

Having a new kidney is like being born again. I try to live each moment the best I can, and every day I thank God for this second chance.

Thanks to Mathew, my donor, I am healthy, and I have a beautiful family.



## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Cascade Life Alliance

Selected square from the 2023 quilt

Community Tissue Services

Selected square from the 2019 quilt

VisionGift

Selected square from the 2018 quilt





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[www.donatelifenw.org](http://www.donatelifenw.org)