

2408 Linden Drive
Havertown, PA 19083
May 18, 2022

Ms. Lauren Sustersic
The Community Foundation
900 West Sproul Road, Suite 101
Springfield, PA 19064

RE: COVID MEMORIAL QUILT

Dear Lauren:

We met a few years ago when I was a member of Project W. I am not here to ask for a grant or for any financial assistance. I do hope, however, that you can assist me in spreading the word about the project that I am involved in with another Delaware County volunteer.

Judy McKinney, and I have initiated a private project to honor those in Delaware County who passed away due to Covid-19 by creating memorial fabric squares and forming them into larger Quilts. The completed quilts will be displayed around the County with a related Web site to tell a short history of the person depicted in the quilt.

Delaware County Times featured our project in their issue dated Monday March 7, 2022. I am attaching a copy of the article for your reference. We also have a website with full information at www.DelcopaCovidQuiltProject.com

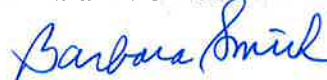
We are reaching out to prominent community partners to help us spread the word of this project. Due to HIPAA, we are limited in our ability to obtain personal family information, so we need to depend on word of mouth to make sure that all Delaware County residents can honor their deceased loved ones. We are accepting donations of 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" fabric squares with any décor to commemorate a lost relative; alternatively, we will accept clear photographs, drawings, poems, clear signatures, emblems, patches, sports logos and our quilters will design a fabric square for families.

I have enclosed a flyer with a form that we are using to gather information. Feel free to copy and distribute to anyone who may be interested. The submission can be mailed with any personal material or actual Quilt squares that people may wish to provide.

Over 1800 lives were lost in Delaware County to date from this horrific disease. If we can, we want to make sure that none of them are forgotten. We welcome squares from all who wants to honor anyone in our County who passed from Covid.

If you need further information you can call me at (610) 348-6175 or you can email me at barbe715@verizon.net. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Barbara M. Smith



DAILY TIMES

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 77
Low: 38

PAGE 10

Monday, March 7, 2022 \$2.95 FACEBOOK.COM/DELCO DAILYTIMES MediaNews Group delcotimes.com

CORONAVIRUS

A TIME TO HEAL

**VOLUNTEERS LAUNCH
QUILT PROJECT TO HONOR
COVID VICTIMS >> PAGE 3**

In this 1992 photo, people visit the 21,000 panel Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington. The Delco quilt project is modeled on the AIDS quilt.



Logo of the DelcoPA COVID Quilt Project



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Volunteers launch quilt project to remember COVID-19 losses

By Kathleen E. Carey

kccarey@21st-centurymedia.com

Two women and volunteer quilters have initiated the DelcOPA COVID Quilt Project as a way to permanently remember and honor the 1,800 lost to the virus in the country while also helping family and loved ones to heal.

Judy McKinney of Medina and Barbara Smith of Havertown have enlisted the help of Brandywine Valley Quilters and Undercover Quilters to create 8-inch by 8-inch panels for each Delaware County resident who died in the pandemic.

As of Saturday, there had been 1,827 deaths related to COVID in Delaware County, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. McKinney and Smith have both been long-time volunteers.

McKinney was serving with the Citizens Corps of Delaware County as she volunteered at testing sites throughout the pandemic.

As case numbers have begun to decline, even though she personally didn't know anyone who had died from COVID, she asked herself, "What can we do to help heal? It's time to start healing."

McKinney recalled the

Cleve Jones in 1985 to commemorate a memorial for those who died of AIDS in a way to create understanding for the impact of this disease. Two years later, it was displayed on the National Mall in Washington. By 2012, the quilt was seen for the last time at the National Mall as it has gotten too large to be displayed all at once.

"That's what came to my mind," she said when she was thinking of what she was the next thing to do. "It was kind of natural to me to think of that. It felt as the appropriate gesture to start this process."

So, she and Smith spearheaded this volunteer effort, enlisting the help of the Brandywine Valley Quilters and Undercover Quilters and creating the website and Facebook page last month.

They haven't yet had a panel made. "It's hard to find out about people who passed away," McKinney said, explaining limitations with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, better known as HIPAA, in acquiring information about the deceased.

There's also sometimes hesitancy for loved ones to acknowledge the death related to COVID-19 or ex-

hope that this will provide family, friends and loved ones with an avenue of remembrance and healing, particularly as mitigation requirements prevented many from traditional viewings and funeral observances.

These volunteers see the quilt as a way "to provide an outlet to friends and families who never got that final chance to say goodbye by offering a meaningful way to permanently memorialize their loved ones."

Each person will be represented in a 8-inch by 8-inch Memorial Square. These squares will then be combined with others to create a 42-inch by 50-inch quilt, each having 20 or 25 squares on it. The organizers anticipate that more than 60 larger quilts will be made.

Families or loved ones can create panels themselves or they can fill out a form to have the quilters make it. There is no cost to submit a panel or to have one made.

Panel items may include clothing, logos from favorite sports teams, military or university associations, mementos from favorite bands or movies, handkerchiefs, bandanas, scarves or patches, baseball caps and even a signature in a

Other mementos can include images of favorite places, national or theme parks, cities or tourist spots. Poems, song lyrics and book titles can be incorporated into a panel. Images or photos of the person can also be placed on the panel.

"I think it's important that the families continue to heal," McKinney said. "This will provide them with a permanent remembrance of a family member."

Panels or suggestions for panels do not need to be submitted solely by family members. People who have lost another to COVID, whether family or friend, or simply someone who is inspired by someone who passed of COVID is welcome to make a submission. The project organizers also intend to honor groups such as nurses, teachers, essential workers, and front line workers in hospitals and assisted living communities.

"Once a panel is completed, we're going to have a tour around Delaware County," McKinney said. "We're going to display it in public venues."

The panels will also be able to be viewed on the quilt's website at delcopa-covidquiltproject.com. In the long-term, McKin-



People visit the AIDS Memorial Quilt on display as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, on Thursday, July 5, 2012.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

a permanent spot so that there will be a place for reflection.

"It's a living project, it's a living thought, so we'll evolve as it happens," she said.

They are hopeful to have panels to display at the Brandywine Valley Quilters' bi-annual show July 22 through July 24 at the Miranda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development at Neumann University in Aston.

"That's our first goal is to have something displayed there," McKinney said.

Their sustained mission is to provide healing and remembrance for those grieving and for the community as a whole.

For more information about the COVID

quilt, email info@DelcOPACovidQuiltProject.com or visit <http://www.delcopa-covidquiltproject.com>. There's also a

Facebook page at [DelcOPA](https://www.facebook.com/DelcOPA)



DELCO PA COVID QUILT PROJECT

MEMORIAL SQUARE INVITATION & SUBMISSION

You are invited to participate in the **DelcoPA Covid Quilt Project** which intends to honor the lives of our loved ones lost because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past two years, 1800+ families in Delaware County have lost loved ones because of the virus.

If you would like to participate but are not interested in creating a Memorial Square yourself and would like to have one made for you, please gather a picture or something that we can sew for you. The names and pictures of the Memorial Squares will be located on our website along with their story or at least their obituary, their Delaware County Municipality of residence and the Quilt Panel on which you can find the square.

Included with this letter is a Memorial Square Form to submit.
Go to our website: www.delcopacovidquiltproject.com for details and answers to frequently asked questions.

Once a panel is finished, we intend on displaying it at different public locations for others to see and perhaps submit their own Memorial Square for their loved one. By touring with the quilt panels, we hope to publicize the project with displays and events such as the Quilting Show in July to be held at Neuman College. The final home for the quilts is still under consideration, but we expect it to be a public forum where reflection and inspiration combine to make Delaware County Health a priority. Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from you soon.





DELCO PA COVID QUILT PROJECT
MEMORIAL SQUARE SUBMISSION FORM

(Please Fill out and enclose this form with your 8"x8" fabric Memorial Square or any materials you want to give us to prepare a Square for you. Can't print out this form? No Problem. Just neatly print this information out on any paper you have and include it with your submission. Place everything in a sealed envelope to keep it together.

Mail Your Submission to:
Judy McKinney, c/o DelcoPA Covid Quilt Project,
1167 West Baltimore Pike, Suite #114, Media, PA 19063

INFORMATION:

Contact Person in case of questions:

Name:

Email:

Phone/Text:

1) NAME OF PERSON TO BE HONORED ON THE QUILT?

2) HIS/HER DELAWARE COUNTY HOMETOWN?

3) DATES OF BIRTH/DEATH – MONTH & YEAR ONLY (MMM/YYYY):

DOB:

DOD:

4) SUBMISSION BY? (e.g.: Spouse, Child, Niece, Friend, Employee):

Please Check one: I enclose an 8"x8" Prepared Memorial Square, **OR**
I enclose materials for Quilters to use to design a Square, **OR**
I have no materials enclosed-please make a Memorial Square for me
based on information I have provided included on this form.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LOVED ONE'S LIFE & INTERESTS-Suggestions include:

Favorite Things: _____ **Sports or Sports Teams:** _____

Hobbies: _____ **Nicknames:** _____

Tell us what you would like history to know about your deceased loved one. (This is the information that we will upload onto our website for the public to view. Use the other side of this paper to neatly write about them; however, we reserve the right to edit material to fit. Please try to limit to approximately 100 words.) You can provide us with a link to their obituary if you prefer that summary: _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR OUR USE ONLY – THANK YOU!

REC'D DATE:

DATA ENTRY DATE:

QUILT # _____ SQUARE # _____

QUILTER ID: _____