

Okaloosa County News Release

Flying Needles Quilt Guild to Display Quilts at the Fair *Chance to Win a Quilt*

Visit the Flying Needles Quilt Guild booth at the Okaloosa County Fair **October 26th to the 30th**, and purchase a raffle ticket to win a the Award-winning 2010 Opportunity Guild made by guild members, and a Crazy-Quilt. View the other quilts, including the Quilts of Valor, created by the Guild.

Raffle tickets, 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00, will be available, and Guild members will gladly show the work that they truly love to do.

Both of these quilts are part of their biannual raffle drawing, where funds are raised to support supply costs for charitable items the Guild makes and donates to local organizations. Also displayed will be the **Quilts of Valor** that will be **sent to recovering wounded military** personnel in November. These Quilts of Valor will be sent to appropriate recipients through the national Quilts of Valor Foundation. The Guild's annual goal is to make 12 Quilts of Valor in addition to the dozens of charitable quilts and hundreds of Christmas stockings, so any and all new members are encouraged to attend.

The Flying Needles Quilt Guild, a 503 c (3) organization, sew for many charitable events throughout the year. The items, all made by the 100-plus members, are quilts, drawstring tote bags, smaller zippered cosmetic/school supply bags and filled Christmas stockings, are given to shelters throughout the area for distribution to children; wheelchair lap quilts, given to the VA Hospital or nursing homes and adult-size easy on/off bibs for Alzheimer seniors in nursing homes.

The **2010 Opportunity Quilt**, measuring 75" x 90", is comprised of 12 different stars blocks, built on foundation-paper, in hand-dyed fabrics of rich gem shades on black. A wide black border has bias-stem swirls appliquéd with shaped blooms and "buds" in the same rich, eye-catching hues. This quilt was given a "Best Innovation" ribbon award at the Greater Jackson (MS) Quilt Celebration 2009, and was magnificently quilted by Guild Member, Patty Butcher of Katydid's Quilting Service of Niceville, Florida. Professional Appraiser Alma Moates gave this quilt an appraisal of \$3,400, and the rich combination of reds, greens, yellows, golds, blues and purples make this a true feast for the eyes.

The **Crazy Quilt**, measuring 54" x 67", is a wonderful combination of 7" square blocks sewn with 5 colors (beige/whites, yellow/golds, blues, light blue/greens and reds), with 4 blocks meeting together having the red points create a star. Machine quilting, hand-quilting, embroidery, beads, and machine-guided written words in the center of most blocks (Love, Hope, Faith, Charity, Church, Country, etc.) make this quilt look more than 50 years old although it was created in the spring months of 2010. Members will eagerly "hunt up and show you" the blocks that they made when you come to visit the Guild booth!

The Guild has a website at www.flyingneedlesquiltguild.org, and Guild members meet every second Thursday at 9:30 at the Niceville Church of Christ, directly across the street from Niceville High School. Please contact Sandra Congleton, **862-8588** for more information.