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Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters
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Stitching Comfort, Sharing Hope – One Lovie at a Time

Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters Celebrate 351 Lovies Donated to Local Organizations to Distribute to Children Throughout Southwest Michigan

KALAMAZOO, MI – November 17, 2026 – A handmade quilt, a cuddly stuffed animal, and a whole lot of love. For more than two decades, the Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters (KLCQ), a 501(c)3 non-profit, have been bringing comfort, warmth, and hope to children throughout Southwest Michigan through their heartfelt Lovie Project.

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, KLCQ guild members gathered with the 2026 Lovie Recipient Organizations at Westwood Christian Reformed Church for their Annual Holiday Party and Lovie Extravaganza, celebrating another year of friendship, generosity, and community giving.

But what exactly is a Lovie? It's a child-sized handmade quilt designed to wrap around a child, paired with a brand-new stuffed animal. Together, these special gifts offer comfort, security, and reassurance to children facing illness, trauma, emergencies, and other difficult life circumstances. Most importantly, they remind each child that someone cares.

The Lovie Project began in 2002 as Bears & Quilts, evolving over the years into what members lovingly call Lovies today. What started as a simple idea has grown into an extraordinary tradition of compassion. In November 2026, guild members donated 351 Lovies to local organizations for distribution to children in need. Since the project's beginning, more than 6,821 Lovies have been created and donated to organizations throughout Southwest Michigan!

Behind every Lovie are countless hours of volunteer work, creativity, and generosity. Throughout the year, guild members donate their time, talents, fabric, batting, and sewing supplies to create these special gifts, turning their love of quilting into meaningful acts of kindness.

This year's donations will benefit three local organizations:

- **Elizabeth Upjohn Community Healing Center** – Providing comfort to children and families navigating abuse, addiction, trauma, and behavioral or mental health challenges.
- **Comstock Township Fire & Rescue** – Equipping all three fire stations with Lovies to comfort children during fires, accidents, and other emergencies.

- **Van Buren County Sheriff's Department** – Providing deputies with Lovies to help ease children's fear and anxiety during stressful situations, including accidents, fires, and emergency responses.

Although the circumstances bringing these children into contact with these organizations may be difficult, the hope is that every child receiving a Lovie also receives a little reassurance, kindness, and love.

Community Kindness Makes It Possible

The magic of a Lovie is the combination of a handmade quilt with a brand-new stuffed animal to comfort children when their world turns upside down. As material costs rise and the demand for Lovies continues to grow, donations are more important than ever.

We are incredibly grateful to Edward Rose & Sons – Kalamazoo Regional Office and Be Well Yoga and Fitness for stepping forward to help. Both organizations hosted month-long stuffed animal donation drives, inspiring their employees and members to come together to help bring comfort, joy, and smiles to children in need. Thanks to the thoughtfulness and kindness of everyone who donated, the guild can continue creating more Lovies and sharing comfort with children who need it.

“We extend our heartfelt appreciation to every Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilter, our stuffed animal drive partners, Edward Rose & Sons and Be Well Yoga and Fitness, and the recipient organizations that work tirelessly to support children throughout our community. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this year a success,” said Marcie Virgo, Co-Chair, KLCQ Charitable Committee. “Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to help means more than words can express. It is because of caring community members like you that we can continue our mission and remind children that they are loved and cared for. Thank you for coming together to make a difference in the place we all call home. Your kindness truly makes a lasting impact!”

Since 1979, the Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters have been dedicated to preserving the art of quilting while making a meaningful difference through charitable service. What began with just six members has grown into a nonprofit organization of nearly 160 members whose mission is to promote quilting through education, fellowship, and community outreach.

More than 6,821 Lovies later, the mission continues – one quilt, one stuffed animal, and one child at a time. Because sometimes, the greatest gift we can give is the simple reminder that **you are loved, you are cared for, and you are not alone.**

To learn more about the Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters, membership, or opportunities to support their community projects, visit www.klcq.org or find them on Facebook at Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters.



Pictured from left to right: KLCQ President Cheri Butler; Elizabeth Upjohn Community Healing representatives Leona Brown-Insley, Children's Advocacy Center Supervisor, and Amber Walker, Clinical Supervisor; Comstock Fire & Rescue representatives Mike Meulman, Assistant Fire Chief, and Bri Lawson, Firefighter; KLCQ Charitable Committee Co-Chairs Stephanie Nunemaker-Butts and Marcie Virgo; and Van Buren County Sheriff's Department representatives Lieutenant Rich Rennhack and Undersheriff Casey Davis.

Representatives from the recipient organizations spoke with KLCQ Guild members about the meaningful impact Lovies have on the children they serve. Each organization shared how these comforting items provide reassurance and support to children during challenging circumstances. Following the presentations, representatives collected their Lovies to take back to their respective organizations for distribution to the children they serve.



Photo of Lovies for donation, made by Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters.

