

Grace Filliman and the Quilt Bank

Grace and her husband, Dick, arrived on Cape Cod with their four daughters in 1964 from Clifton, New Jersey. They first settled in Wellfleet, where Dick bought nine fishing shacks and over the next thirty years built a thirty room motel, The Eventide, ten cottages and three houses.

Grace taught each of her girls to sew, each making their own clothes. A life long passion began when her daughter, Lisa, came home from school and declared she wanted to make a quilt. Like many first time quilters, they used scrapes from their clothing fabrics for the quilt, with a sheet for backing. That was the beginning of Grace being hooked on quilting. It was in 1975 that she joined Bayberry Quilters and at that time attended the evening group.

Following the death of her husband, Grace moved to Harwich and at a Guild meeting, volunteered to take home six boxes of fabric for outreach quilts. That was the birth of the Quilt Bank. She began meeting at her church, teaching friends to Quilt. It soon was such a large group that they moved to the Harwich Community Center. Grace now has a basement filled with fabrics and takes responsibility for a group of 35+ women, who meet weekly to make quilts for those in need. Their efforts, with contributions from Guild members, produce about 500 quilts a year. Donations include Memorial Day Quilts to local veterans, annual donations to the Wounded Warrior Program at Ft. Belvoir, nursing homes, Cape Cod Pediatrics for drug dependent babies and others in need. This is truly a tremendous accomplishment for one woman, who began by taking six boxes of fabric, and a loosely organized group of woman, which has grown into a well run group that makes hundreds of quilts a year.

It is for this tremendous accomplishment and dedication that we honor Grace Filliman. Her commitment to those in need, her organizational skills and her support of the Guild members, who contribute to the Quilt Bank, are to be admired and are greatly appreciated by the community at large.