

Dearest Esteemed MQSC Board Members and Membership,

When I wrote the Board Members late February asking for an **Ask** for the Lombardi Baby Closet, I had no idea where it would lead or even if it would go anywhere. Imagine my surprise when the leadership had an idea sew much better than mine. My Lady Marilyn L, the MQSC Community Relations Chair, called to share the good news with a proposal of a one-time gift of 50 baby quilts! I am still speechless - which is very unusual for me.

I wrote a letter to the Board asking for the one-time gift, attended their board meeting which held a vote that was approved, then attended the business meeting via Zoom where a vote of the general membership was tallied with applause and about a week later 50 amazing, beautiful quilts (no larger than 40"x40") were hand delivered by Marilyn to me and Monique "Mo" M, Support Services Coordinator and liaison of Santa Rosa Community Health Center. We posed for photographs to showcase the beautiful work of MQSC members. I wished all of you could see the smiles on our faces under our masks. Then I saw the pictures and I believe the smiles are conveyed through our happy eyes. I am still basking in gratitude, wonder and the generosity shown through the precious quilts made for precious babies. Marilyn had presented the quilts divided into sets of five with an unscented dryer sheet in between each labeled, folded, and safely packaged-for-travel quilt. Mo and I split the quilts, 25 each, for washing, drying, and stowing.

There are phrases I like that go something like this; 'It takes a made-up mind,' 'The universe conspires to help us,' 'Build it and they will come,' and 'Believe in your sacred purpose.' The day after receiving the quilts, Mo and I had a Zoom meeting with the Lombardi Site Director, Stephanie, and Lead Perinatal Health Educator, Mónica M, who had particularly good news. Initially, space was so tight we were delighted to get just two shelves. We now have a closet! It is a walk-in closet with a combo lock. I can get in and out of it and it has cabinets with lots and lots of storage - perfect to receive all the baby loot we have been collecting. Also, more good news, the Baby Closet will open officially to the folks who need it the most May 1<sup>st</sup>! SRCH has requested 10 bags a month. Each bag, quilted diaper bag style, includes a Receiving Blanket, Cat Friend, small security blanket, bibs, socks, a journal and encouraging supportive words. (Plus, MQSC linked their website Community Relations page to SRQG's website for easy access to the patterns we are using.) But wait...there is more! The closet will also include toddlers and preschoolers in that the siblings will get a Cat Friend and a dolly blanket, so they do not get left out.

I want to offer a heartfelt 'Thank you a thousand times' to Moonlight Quilters of Sonoma County for this especially wonderful blessing of 50 baby quilts for the baby Closet. Mo would like to express gratitude to this generous community of quilters. Each one of you will be positively impacting mothers and babies of Sonoma County and setting them up to lead healthier and more successful lives. Your kindness is not overlooked. The momentum is increasing, we are riding a wave and I love it.

Thank you ever sew,

Rhonda Denny