We extend a sincere thank you to all of you who have reached out to help the flooded quilters in the Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Zachary, Pride, Denham Springs, Livingston, Watson, Gonzales, Maurepas, French Settlement, St. Amant, Hammond, and surrounding areas. Obviously there are so many communities, it’s hard to name them all!

We know it’s hard to imagine what these ladies have gone through but after seeing it first hand, the loss is great. The washing of quilts and fabric was a great first start and we know, greatly appreciated. In our area alone, we’ve been notified that there are more than 50 quilters whose sewing rooms were totally flooded. The community at large has asked what they can do to help and what more can they do so we began working on a new project.

Onward to our new mission in the next step of recovery! Several people, in collaboration with the Gulf States Quilting Association, have organized a drive to help our flooded friends restock their sewing rooms. Because we are awaiting permission from Paul Simon to use the song title, the relief drive is tentatively called:

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Quilt Guilds Collaborative
Millennium Flood Relief for Quilters

Ilaine Hartman in New Orleans has had extensive experience since she lived through Katrina and she was successful in setting up a “quilt shop” from donations. She has valuable information on how to facilitate this and we called upon her expertise. Also many thanks go out to Tommie Morden since she was instrumental in securing a storage facility! That’s a major accomplishment.

We are now in the process of collecting sewing machines, fabric, fat quarter bundles, jelly rolls, charm packs, layer cakes, rulers, cutters, blades, threads, patterns, books, kits, cutting mats, notions, and other items that would help them replace items lost in this devastating flood. The collection of these items will begin shortly. They will be put in a secure storage facility until a time when these people can come and “shop” and restock their sewing rooms.

At a date in the future, most likely after the new year, when these flooded quilters are back in their homes and are able to get back to sewing, we will have a “shopping” day. By shopping day, they will be invited to come to the general store. Everything will be donated and there will be no cost associated with their shopping.

There will be a contingency plan for flooded quilters who cannot attend that “shopping day.” If they will be out of town on that day, a proxy of their choosing can come and “shop” in their place. All they will have to do is bring their invitation letter for admission to the “shopping event.” We don’t want anyone to miss the sale of the century. We envision the shopping day to be held possibly after the start of 2017.

It’s important that those quilters affected by the flood be identified so that they can be extended an invitation to this shopping event. We need names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. We’ve posted the list on Facebook but I’m certain we’ve missed some. If they prefer
not to be identified, please let us know in an email. jopaula311@gmail.com or reneehoeprich@yahoo.com

SEWING MACHINES: The machines can be used or previously owned but must be in good condition and fully operational.

KITS: If you’d like to donate a kit, please make sure the kit contains the entire fabric requirements as well as the pattern. The fabric pieces do not need to be cut. (I’ve rummaged through my UFOs and pulled a couple of kits that I know I won’t get to in my lifetime!)

FABRIC: Please make sure that the donated fabric is clean, intact, and is in yard increments. Please tag each piece of fabric with the number of yards. Jelly rolls, fat quarter bundles charm packs, and layer cakes make great donations! Fat quarters are okay also.

THREAD: If you donate thread, please make sure the spool is full.

RULERS: If you find that you have duplicate rulers that are in good condition or if you have 2 similar rulers or some that you seldom use, please consider donating those.

BOOKS and PATTERNS: We all have those books that we’ve bought thinking we’d make a quilt from a pattern in it. If you have had a book for a few years and never opened it, consider giving it.

NOTIONS: Needles, pins, chalk pens, tape measures, scissors…. You all know what notions are!

The following quilts shops (and quilter) are accepting donations. The response has been overwhelming!

The Happy Quilter, Charlene Harp, 5676 Ardmore Drive, Baton Rouge
Red Stick Quilt Shop, 5664 Stumberg Ln., Baton Rouge
MY Sewing Shoppe, 7630 Old Hammond Hwy, Baton Rouge
Quilt Corner, 13579 Hooper Rd., Baton Rouge
All Brands, 20415 Highland Road, Baton Rouge
Cottage Creations & Quilts, 7222 Bayou Paul Rd., St. Gabriel
Heirlooms Quilt Shoppe, 7175 US Hwy 61, St. Francisville
Mama’s Quilt Shop, 1511 Catfish Road, Independence
Lola Pink Fabrics, 123 Arnould Blvd, Lafayette
All Brands, 3541 Ambassador Caffrey, Lafayette
A&A Quilting, 817 Albertson’s Parkway, Broussard
All Brands, 4029 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie
Quilted Owl, 4600 Jefferson Hwy, New Orleans
Mes Amis Quilt Shop, 6505 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans
Stitched Up by Angela, 1730 Front St., Slidell
All Brands, 796 E I-10 Service Road, Slidell
Sew This!, 70117 Hwy 59, Abita Springs
All Brands, 2615 Dillard Loop, Lake Charles
Quilting Niche, 1220 St. Charles St., Houma  
Emily’s Closet, 699 E. St. Peter St., New Iberia  
The Quilt Cupboard, 101 Tournament Blvd., Berwick

If your item is freight intensive (i.e., sewing machine, cutting mat), arrangements can be made to pick it up from you.

If you would prefer to mail or drop off your items, please call Renee 760 815-5305 or Jo Paula 225 955-5480

What is not “bought” at the shopping day will be donated to The Giving Quilt, GSQA Community Service projects, Wasted Women or another charitable sewing organizations. Nothing donated will be sold or used for personal gain.

Many thanks for your participation in this endeavor. We want to help these ladies get back on their feet or rather, back at a sewing machine. This is one way if we all do a little we end up doing a lot!

Please feel free to share this with your friends or other guilds on Facebook! And if you are interested in serving with our committee we would love to have you join us. There are many opportunities for service available.

With kindest regards,

Jo Paula Lantier and Renee Hoeprich Co-chairs

Committee Members (and if you want to add your name here, there is a place for you!)

Cindy Champagne, GSQA President  
Tommie Morden, City of Central  
Ilaine Hartman, New Orleans  
Bonnie Moates, Baton Rouge  
Kate Byrne, Baton Rouge  
Rachel Bishop, Metairie  
Karen Milligan, Lafayette  
Joann Enright, Lake Charles  
Ro Bostick, Mandeville  
Diane Bascle, Houma  
Cheri Termini, St. Francisville  
Paula Toups, Baton Rouge  
Loretta Webre, LaPlace  
Anita Scott, Covington  
Rebecca Cundiff, Baton Rouge/New Orleans Runner