

# The Strom Bryson Memorial Donor Quilt Handbook



Welcome to our most treasured project – the making of a donor family quilt. We invite all our donor families to participate in this tribute to their loved ones who have given the *Gift of Life*.



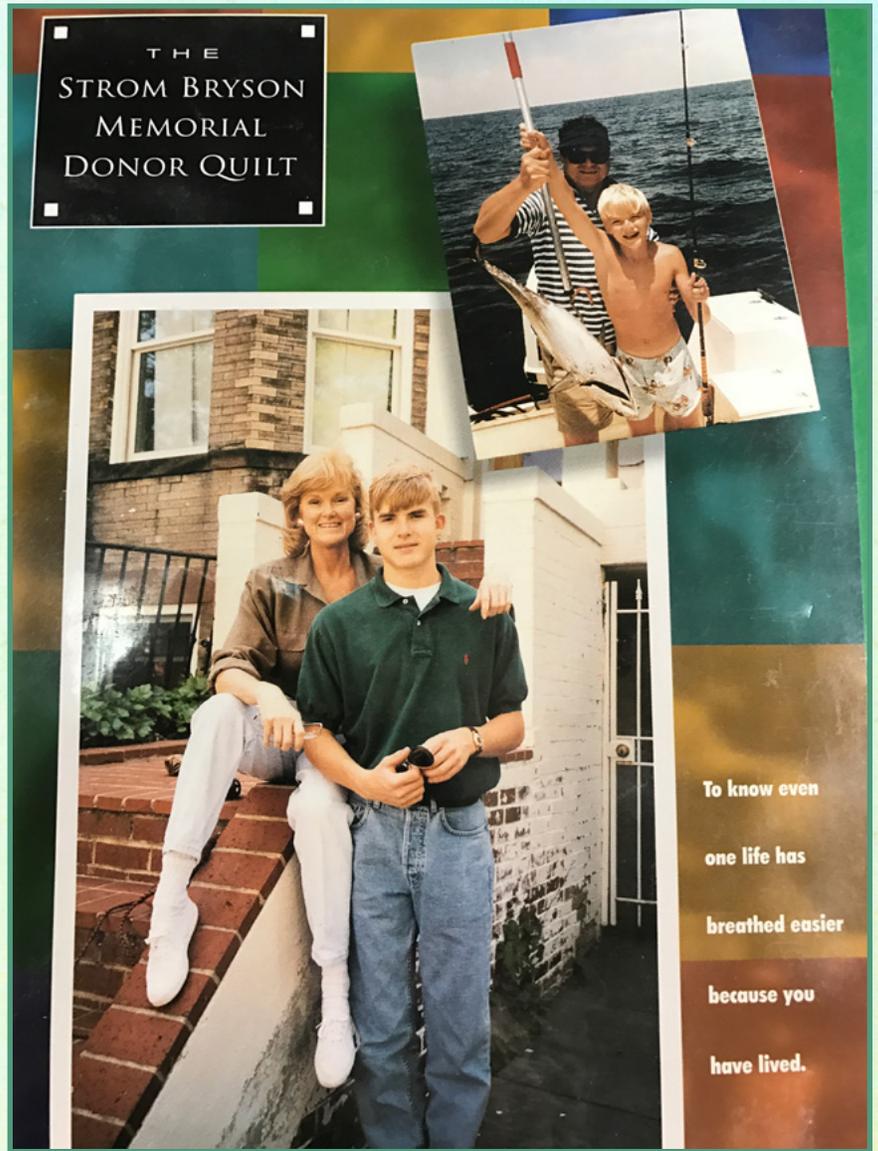
## INTRODUCTION

LifeQuest created this handbook to walk you through the process of making a square that will be joined together with squares made by other donor families. Each square offers a glimpse into the personality, hobbies, passions and legacy of the donor or his or her family. Collectively, the panels show how so many caring and compassionate people gave hope and life to others through organ donation. Each panel also has a scrapbook that tells the story behind the square. What a wonderful way to honor and remember your loved one who has given the ***Gift of Life!***

# HISTORY

This project began nearly two decades ago as a collaborative effort between LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services, a local tissue bank, and a donor family. The quilt is named for Strom Bryson, a young man from Tallahassee who was both an organ and tissue donor. Strom's mother, Martha, often told the story of how Strom did not just have a security blanket as a child, but an enormous quilt that he would carry around with him. So as a tribute to her son, it was entirely fitting that she helped us get our donor quilt project launched.

The first panel was created in November 1999, and we celebrated its debut by bringing it to hospitals throughout our service area and



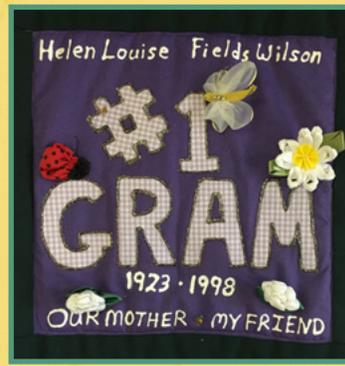
The Strom Bryson Memorial Donor Quilt began in 1998 as a tribute to organ and tissue donors. It is a showcase of their hobbies and talents, passions and characters, with each square hand-made by the donors' loved ones.

Strom Bryson, a young man from Tallahassee, died in 1995 and gave the Gift of Life through organ and tissue donation. His mother, Martha, helped launch this project. In 2009, she also gave the Gift of Life.

<p><b>Martha Bryson</b></p> <p>December 21, 1939</p> <p>May 10, 2009</p>	<p><b>Strom Bryson</b></p> <p>October 21, 1977</p> <p>June 7, 1995</p>
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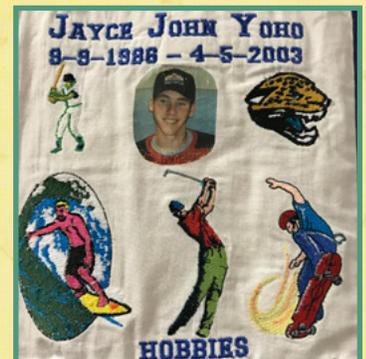
hosting unveiling ceremonies. This gave our hospital partners an opportunity to learn more about the patients who they once cared for and went on to become life-saving organ and tissue donors. It also reinforced to the hospital staff how important the donation process was to so many donor families who were given that opportunity to donate.

Our tenth panel was dedicated to both Strom and Martha, who sadly passed away in 2009. Our eleventh panel is under construction, we hope to have it completed in 2017.



## HOW THEY ARE USED?

The quilt panels are used by LifeQuest as a way to share the legacies of our generous donors. They are displayed at health fairs, seminars, special events and hospital-related functions. Each one is unique and without question becomes the visual focal point of any display we have set up. Creating a quilt square and viewing the finished panel contribute to the healing process for donor families, and provide inspiration for others.



# PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

## Quilt Specifications

- The final product should measure 10" x 10".
- The personalized area, where you put your design, should measure exactly 8" x 8".
- There should be a minimum 1-inch margin around the entire square for hemming. This should not contain creative work, your design; the margin will not be seen.
- The preferred fabric is 100% woven cotton. Knit fabric tends to pucker.
- All materials should be dry-cleaning "safe." Items like beads or sequins can be damaged in the dry cleaning process.

## Suggestions for the creative area include:

- The name and dates of life
- Depictions of hobbies, sports or special interests
- A favorite poem or special saying
- A photo image (please use cold water transfers only)
- A section of fabric from a favorite garment
- An embroidered monogram
- A drawing or message from a sibling, friend or other relative
- Creative use of school colors

## Supporting material for the scrapbook:

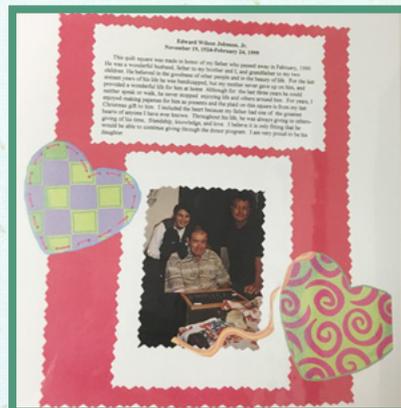
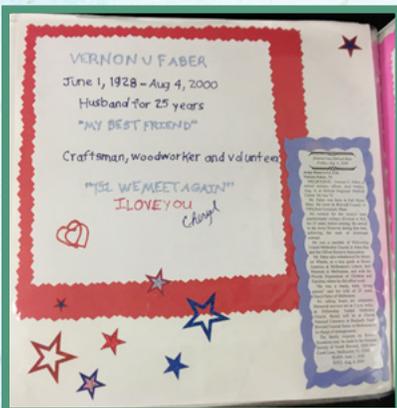
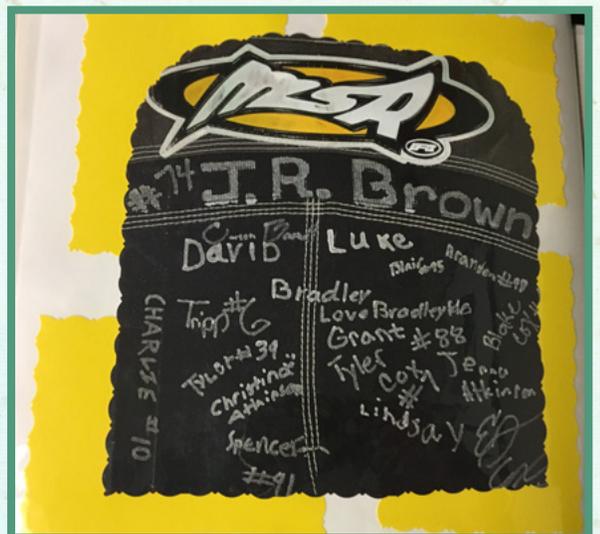
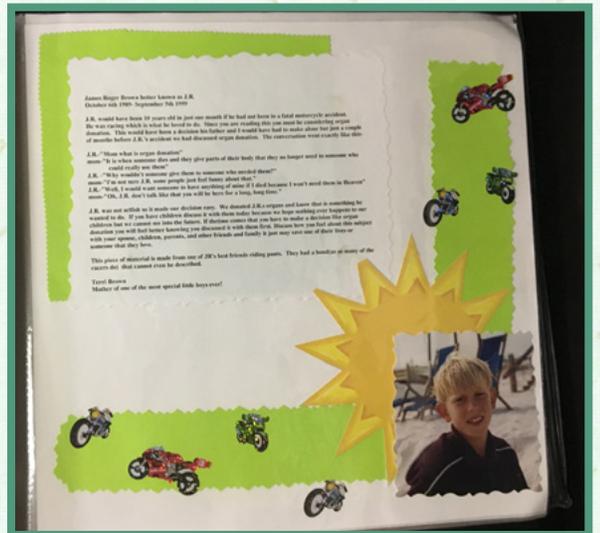
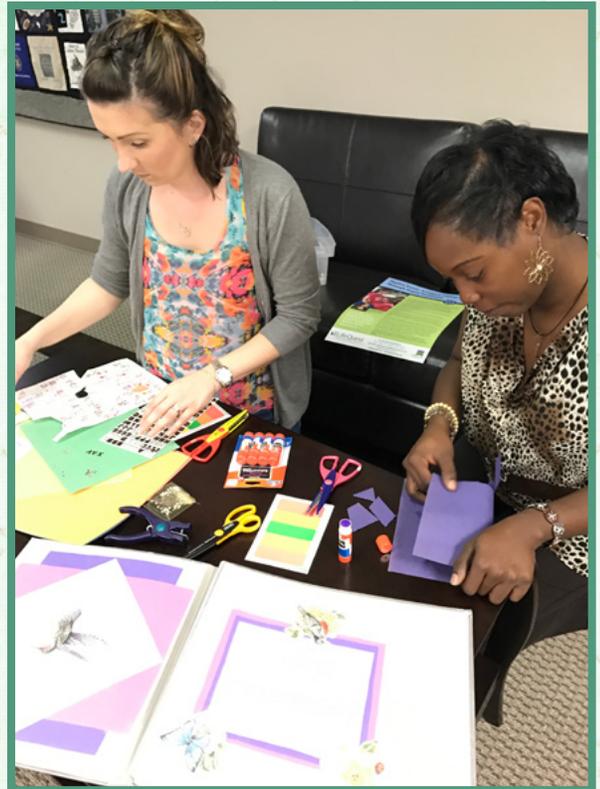
- Please include a brief description of the square, one that tells the story behind your square. The descriptions for each square in a panel will be compiled into a scrapbook that will accompany the quilt. The description should be limited to 200 words.
- Photos of donors also can be sent with the description for inclusion in the scrapbook. **Photos will not be returned.**

## Resources:

Florida Quilt Shops

[www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/Florida-quilt-shops.html](http://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/Florida-quilt-shops.html)

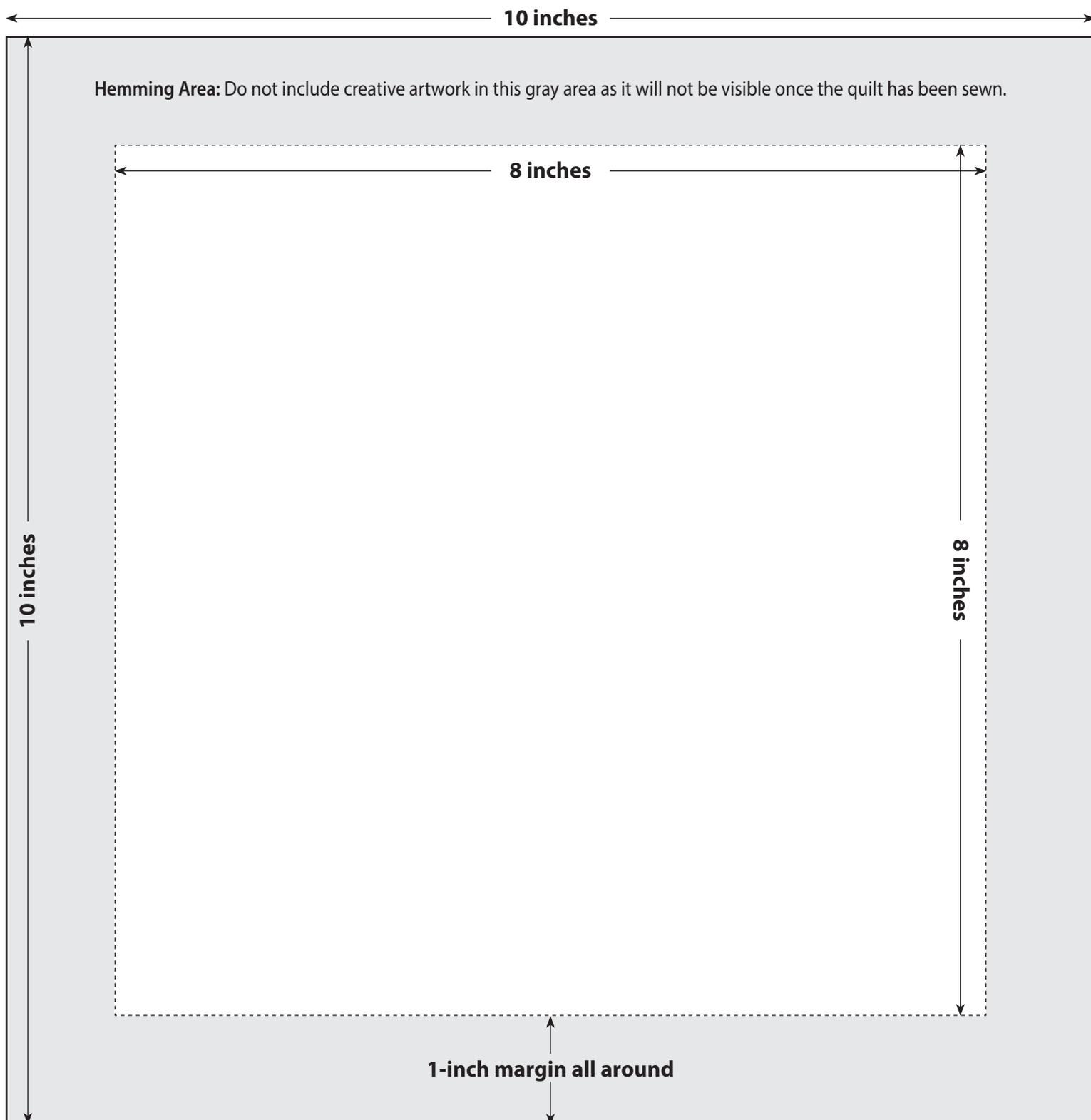
[www.floridaquiltnetwork.com/shops.html](http://www.floridaquiltnetwork.com/shops.html)

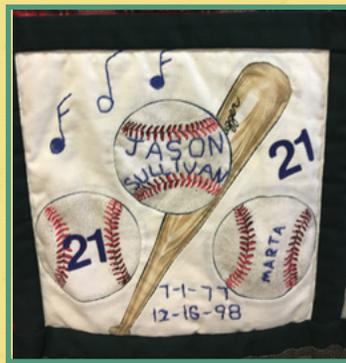


# Donor Quilt Square Design Template

**NOTE: Template is NOT to scale.**

Your finished square should measure **10 x 10 inches** which includes a **1-inch margin** all around the design for hemming. The margin (indicated in gray below) will not be seen once the quilt has been sewn, so please don't include any creative design in that area. Please keep your design within the **8-inch square creative area**.





## AUTHORIZATION FORM

The quilts and scrapbooks are sometimes on public display. Because they may contain personal information about the donors, we ask that all participating families submit their signed authorization form along with their square.

**To obtain an authorization form, please contact us at [PRDept@lifequest.ufl.edu](mailto:PRDept@lifequest.ufl.edu).**

***Send your finished square and authorization form to:***

**LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services  
Donor Family Services  
720 SW 2nd Avenue, Suite 570 North  
Gainesville, FL 32601**





## SUMMARY

Thank you for considering participating in this project as a way to honor your loved one's legacy. Our families find it to be a rewarding experience and creative outlet for expression. If you are interested but don't know how to start, contact us about participating in a quilt-making workshop, which we can schedule based on family interest.

*If you have any questions, please contact Donor Family Services at the Gainesville LifeQuest office, 352-733-0350 or [PRDept@lifequest.ufl.edu](mailto:PRDept@lifequest.ufl.edu).*

