

The Quilt Ministry began in 2001 as a one-quilt Vacation Bible School project, designed and sewn with love for street children in Brazil. That one quilt became two the following year, and then three. We continued sewing, and began sending the quilts around the world. In 2005, we were asked to participate in the Columbia County Fair's Heritage Village, where craftsmen demonstrate their skills and exhibit their wares. Our booth allows young people to see and be part of the quilt-creation process, by producing original drawings on fabric squares. Volunteers from the church sew these squares into charming, colorful quilts.

The first year at the fair, we expected to make about six quilts. But Hurricane Katrina hit during the fair, and interest was so high, we were able to make 29 quilts from the squares the children designed. Those quilts were sent to a Baptist church that distributed them to children affected by the hurricane.

Since then, we have continued our presence at the fair each year. Quilts from the fair have been sent also to India, Ghana, Uganda, the Philippines, Haiti, and the Alpha Pregnancy Center in Albany, New York. We have been privileged to have many of them hand-carried to their destinations. Most of the quilts go to children in orphanages and to missionaries, who faithfully share the Gospel when distributing the quilts. This tangible evidence of God's love has opened many doors for outreach.