

# *News from Genoa Main Street*



For more information contact:

Genoa Main Street, Inc.  
Mim Evans, Executive Director  
327 West Main Street  
Genoa, IL 60135  
(815) 784-6961

For Immediate Release  
May 18, 2011

## *Area Farmers, Crafters and Entrepreneurs Combine for Unique Market*

### **Quilts of Valor Return to Genoa at May 28 Open Air Market**

The response was tremendous when Genoa Main Street, Inc. and Basketcases Unlimited of Clare offered visitors to Genoa's Quilt & Needle Arts Walk the opportunity to help make a Quilt of Valor (QOV) last January. Now Basketcases Unlimited has completed the quilts and is bringing them to Genoa for everyone to see before they are presented to their ultimate owners.

The quilts will be displayed at Genoa's Open Air Market on Saturday, May 28 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. They will then move to Genoa's Veterans Home where they will be displayed through Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. Following these displays they will be donated to Quilts of Valor, a nationwide program that gives quilts to wounded military veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During an event planning meeting, Carolyn McQuillan of Basketcases Unlimited suggested adding the Quilts of Valor project to Genoa Main Street's annual Quilt & Needle Arts Walk. Visitors to the event picked up free fabric squares, sewed them into nine-inch blocks and returned them to Genoa Main Street, Inc. Basketcases and Main Street volunteers then donated their time and material to put the blocks together to form 11 quilts.

"We got started in November, 2003 with the goal of making quilts that would both heal and comfort our war wounded," says Catherine Toberts, founder/executive director of the QOV Foundation. "The most frequent remark from a QOV recipient when awarded their QOV is that 'they didn't know anyone cared'."

In the years since the organization's founding, plenty of people have demonstrated just how much they do care. Nearly 40,000 quilts have been distributed since 2003. The Genoa project will contribute another eleven quilts.

(more)

“When we proposed the Genoa project we had no idea that so many people would participate,” says Carolyn McQuillan, owner of Basketcases, Unlimited. “We had hoped there would be enough blocks to make a quilt. We were able to make eleven.”

One of the quilts is unique because it was made entirely by children. Pat Barger, a Main Street volunteer, provided instruction to the children, along with the free fabric squares. The children did their handiwork at a downtown Genoa restaurant, Joe’s Pizza & Pub, on a Saturday afternoon. They had the added incentive of a drawing for a free pizza to be awarded to one lucky child.

Genoa’s Open Air Market is located in the municipal parking lot at the corner of Main and Genoa Streets in downtown Genoa. The Veteran’s Home is located at 311 S. Washington Street in Genoa. For more information on market space rentals contact Genoa Main Street, Inc, at 815 784-6961 or [genaomainstreet@atcyber.net](mailto:genaomainstreet@atcyber.net), or go to [genaomainstreet.org](http://genaomainstreet.org).



**Caption for Perry Quilt Photo:**

Leea Perry of Genoa, winner of a free pizza, points out her block in the children’s quilt made for Quilts of Valor. The quilt, along with 10 others made by visitors to Genoa’s Quilt & Needle Arts Walk, will be donated to wounded veterans. Basketcases Unlimited, of Clare, IL donated material and their time to complete the quilts. Dan Harroll, (left) owner of Joe’s Pizza, hosted the children’s quilt making activity. Genoa Main Street, Inc. volunteer Pat Barger (right) coordinated the children’s efforts. The completed quilts can be seen on Saturday, May 28 at the Open Air Market in downtown Genoa. They will also be displayed at the Genoa Veterans Home for the remainder of Memorial Day Weekend.