

Warming Hearts of Strangers



Ellie Menz
IOWAY Director
807 W. South Street
Jefferson, IA 50129
515.386.8420
ellie.menz@idwlcms.org
www.idwlcms.org/ioway.htm



How do you warm the hearts of strangers with God's love? Dorothy Kern from Fenton has been doing this for many years, one warm quilt at a time.

Dorothy, a lifelong member at St. John's Lutheran Church in Fenton, started making quilt tops 30 years ago. She doesn't know the exact number she has made, but does know there were years when she sewed 150 or more quilt tops. That is a lot of material and a lot of hours spent piecing and sewing. Dorothy started making quilts while living in a farm house where she and her late husband, Lloyd, raised their four children. While her children were growing up, she used her sewing talents to make clothes for her daughter and leisure suits for her sons. She has made quilted throws for her nine grandchildren. She is also the proud great grandmother of eight.

Dorothy's basement home in Fenton has stacks of beautiful quilt tops and material to be made into quilts.

The red hearts (pictured left) on the denim quilts bring a smile as they cover a hole in the blue jeans they are made from.

People in the Fenton community bring bundles of material including blue jeans to Dorothy. She strips the clothes of zippers, buttons and trim. She then designs and sews quilt tops that will be given to people with local emergencies and the rest are lovingly given to people throughout the world through Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief works daily to provide basic needs to people in 35 countries around the world. Check out www.lutheran-worldrelief.org to learn how quilts bless the lives of many people.

When a family's life is disrupted, a quilt not only brings physical comfort, it also brings emotional comfort. It's a tangible symbol of God's love.



Dorothy makes the quilt tops and backs her labor of love. Then once a year, the Ladies Aid members from St. John's and a few friends get together at church to tie and to hem the quilts. The women usually work for two weeks to complete the project.

IOWAY Mission Team



The IOWAY mission team recently warmed the hearts of strangers in Pasadena, CA and Tijuana, Mexico. They volunteered to decorate the Lutheran Hour and other floats for the famous Rose Bowl parade and to serve God's people in Mexico. Go to page 34 for details on their amazing mission outreach.

8 Pictured above is the team as they just crossed the border in Tijuana on January 2, 2009.