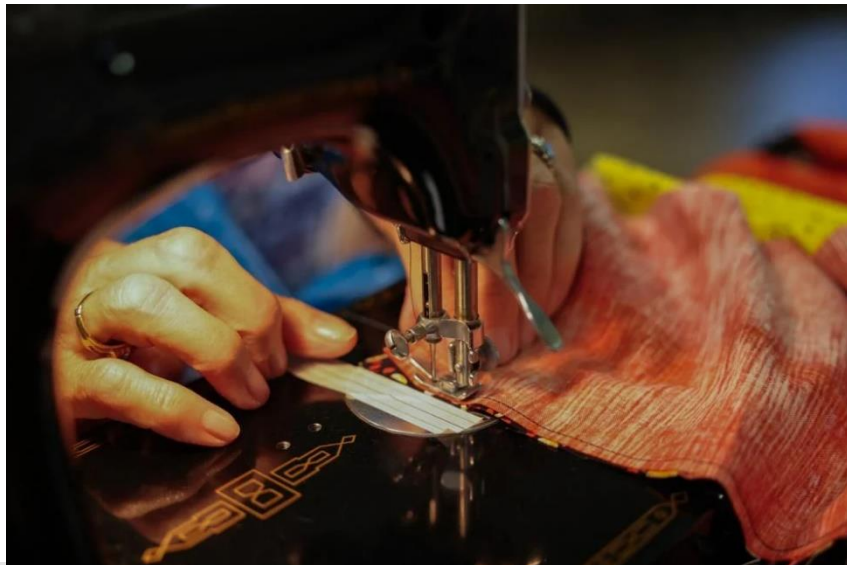


## Quilting for Longview Head Start Children

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A group of quilters gather every Wednesday to make quilts for children in LCC's Head Start program.



Quilter Diana Helton stitches a line on a quilt at Exodus Church on Wednesday, Nov. 1 in Longview. A group of quilters gather every Wednesday to make quilts for children in LCC's Head Start program. Longview resident Peggy Hofemann started the group in 2012 with two other quilters. At that point, according to Hofemann, the quilters were not yet proficient in the craft. "Back then they were made with more love than skill," Hofemann said. "Now, they're made with a lot of love and a lot of skill."

*Emily Urfer*



Quilters Janine Binn, left, and Terry Brown, right, lay out quilts at Exodus Church on Wednesday, Nov. 1 in Longview. The quilting group makes 125 quilts a year for the Head Start program children. Each child gets to look through the quilts and choose their own to take home.

*Emily Urfer*



Quilters Diana and Peggy Helton work on quilts at Exodus Church on Wednesday, Nov. 1 in Longview. Members of the Head Start Quilters are all driven by a common reason for why they put so much care into crafting these quilts: the joy on children's faces as they receive the quilts. "A lot of these kids never get anything that's just theirs," quilter Janine Binn said when discussing how excited the Head Start children are when they learn they can take the quilts home.

*Emily Urfer*



Quilted blankets sit, ready to be transported to LCC Head Start, at Exodus Church on Wednesday, Nov. 1 in Longview. The quilting group has also recently started making quilts for unhoused Kelso High School seniors, thanks to a Kelso Rotary Club grant. Each quilt takes around two weeks to a month to craft.

*Emily Urfer*



Children wrap themselves in their newly chosen quilts at Head Start on Tuesday, Nov. 14 in Longview. "When those little kids walk in there and get to choose their own quilt, you just can't explain their faces," Quilter Coralee Vansant said.

*Head Start Area Manager Danielle Gilchrist, Contributed*