

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The creativity of our volunteers who make things for Hugs and Kisses is incredible! We love getting to see all the different patterns, colors, designs, and textures in each handmade item that is donated.

I recently picked up three beautiful quilts from Carolyn who began volunteering with us last year. I wish you could see the quality of details in each piece she makes! Carolyn's quilts have been given to people in elder care homes, and also those in hospice. The comfort and encouragement they have been to those who have received them, and also to the families of these folks, has been a real blessing.

After the traumatic death of her son, and her husband's serious illness, she found comfort in the quilt that was given to her by a church quilting group. That inspired Carolyn to start making quilts for others. "Each quilt I make for others is made with love and care," she says. "I just want to make what I can make for others in physical or emotional pain, or just to give someone a hug."

We are so grateful for Carolyn's generosity in sharing her time and abilities!



PLANNING DAYS

I have recently realized that we have slowly become caught up in a routine of how The Encouragement Project has been running, so this year we have begun taking purposeful time out to organize, plan, refine, and simplify the process for each part of TEP — all the necessary things that most people don't see. This has been incredibly helpful, and is yielding very beneficial results! New structures are being set up to enable TEP to expand in better ways, and to function more smoothly. We are grateful for this time that God has given us to make sure we are doing what we do in the best ways possible — ways that honor Him.



Many are the plans
in a person's heart,
but it is the LORD's purpose
that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21

BUILDING UPDATE

Much prayer and effort has gone into the process of looking for a place for TEP to settle into and grow from for the next few years. We have clearly seen God's guidance and protection, and are now finding that He is taking TEP in a different direction than we had anticipated.

As we have watched other options fall through these past months, we have discovered an opportunity quite literally closer to home. God has swung wide the doors for TEP to purchase an outbuilding (similar to the one pictured below, but twice the length) and have it set on Stephanie's property. It's sizable enough to allow for the continued growth we foresee for a while. We are excited about this step, and look forward to the ways we will be able to serve and encourage those in the communities around us!



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