

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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QUILT CREATED BY KENTUCKY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS

Census 2020: Every Person in Every County Counts

In the spring of 2019, the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association (KEHA) was asked to consider a special project. Representatives from the Census Bureau inquired to see if KEHA would take on the task of creating a quilt including a square from each of Kentucky 120 counties for use in promoting the 2020 Census. The challenge was accepted, and the project was initiated in May.

In four short months, KEHA members across the state designed and created quilt squares representing each Kentucky county. Marlene McComas, KEHA Past President, worked with Grant County KEHA members to piece and finish the quilt. Special thanks to Linda Evans who led the quilt top construction and quilt binding, with assistance from Linda Lawrence. The machine quilting was completed by Lillian Thompson.

The quilt block representing XXXX County was created by Xxxx Xxxxx. The design represents (insert specific block information here), an important part of our (county, region). (If desired, include information about how the design was selected and specific local homemakers who were involved.) A booklet providing photos and information about each quilt square is now available on the KEHA website and accessible via the quick links menu.

The completed quilt made its debut at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah on September 16th. In a dedication ceremony, Karen Hill, KEHA President, and Marlene McComas, presented the quilt to the Census Bureau.

The quilt is traveling around Kentucky through August 2020 in a partnership between the Census Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives (KDLA). A schedule will soon be shared on the KEHA website (www.keha.org) and on the Facebook page – *KDLA Library Development Branch*. The quilt will be showcased at the KEHA State Meeting in Owensboro, April 21-23, 2020. Once the year of travel around the state is complete, the quilt will be displayed in the KDLA Building in Frankfort.

This unique project has provided the 14,000 members of KEHA with an opportunity to showcase the organization's tenets of education, leadership and service. The quilt block

designs and explanations will help viewers learn more about our state while showcasing the creativity of KEHA members. In addition, the quilt reminds viewers that every person in every county counts – a key reminder for the 2020 Census. The project embodied leadership as KEHA members worked to make an idea a reality in less than four months. Service was on display as members volunteered their time and utilized their talent to create this beautiful fiber art. It is more than a quilt – it is an example of teamwork and achieving a common goal. Find more information about Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association at www.keha.org.

The Census takes place every 10 years, and is mandated in Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution. It will happen during a 6-week period between March and May 2020. The 4.5 million Kentucky residents will be counted as part of “the ultimate RSVP.” The Census will help determine how \$675 Billion is allocated every year for the next decade in the US.

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Suggested: Submit this article with a picture of the finished quilt and a picture of your county’s quilt block.