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## American Women Use Quilts to Support Refugees in Jordan



The squares for the [refugee quilts](#) were made at the Hope Workshop in Jordan and assembled in the US. The first refugee quilt was shown at the Workshop for the first time in April (photo).

In a striking act of compassion towards refugees, an international network of American women overseas has raised \$4,960 for refugee women in Jordan by turning their embroidery into a spectacular quilt and wall hanging.

The money will help to support training and other services at the [Collateral Repair Project](#) (CRP), which

supports refugees in Amman.

The women's network is the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas ([FAWCO](#)) and its sister organization ([FAUSA](#)) for FAWCO members who return to the US.

The squares for the quilt and hanging were made by refugee women at the Hope Workshop, a cooperative run by CRP in Amman. The cost was covered by [Reina Sultan](#), a Peace Fellow of The Advocacy Project (AP) who raised over \$10,000 for CRP in 2017 from crowdfunding.

As well as generating badly-needed funds, this collaborative initiative shows how quilting can bring women together across continents in support of refugees at a time when some irresponsible politicians are disparaging global solutions and demonizing asylum-seekers.



**Carol Lalani bought the Hope wall hanging for \$1,150 and re-gifted it to raise more money for the refugee artists in Jordan.**

Six squares were assembled into the Hope wall hanging by Julia Warner in Dusseldorf Germany, and auctioned for \$1,150 at FAWCO's main event of the year in March. Carol Lalani (photo) bought the hanging and re-gifted it to the annual FAUSA gala on October 6, where it sold for another \$500.

Meanwhile, sixteen other squares were assembled into a large quilt by FAUSA members Leslie Nelson and Kay Miller, and raffled off at the FAUSA gala for \$3,310.

The raffle winner, Susan McKinley, returned recently to the US from the Netherlands and said she was "absolutely floored" to win the quilt. "I appreciate the theme," she said. "Refugees are coming from a place of desperation, but they need hope if they are to build a new life."



**Susan McKinley (second from right) won the Hope quilt in a raffle which raised \$3,310 for the refugees in Jordan. She is seen with other FAUSA members in Houston. Therese Hartwell is far right.**

Ms McKinley now lives in Houston, where tens of thousands of people were displaced by Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Partly as a result, there is considerable sympathy for refugees in the Houston area. Therese Hartwell, the president of FAUSA, has used the first refugee quilt at [events in Houston](#) to illustrate the violence that forces refugees to seek asylum. Ms Hartwell also

serves on the CRP Board.

The money raised by AP for CRP will be used to upgrade training at the Hope Workshop. The trainees are already selling bags in Amman, showing once again that a thoughtful investment in refugees can produce an impressive return.

- \* [Click here to see the refugee quilts and Hope hanging and meet the artists](#)
- \* Learn more about advocacy quilts [here](#)
- \* See how we use quilts for advocacy [here](#)
- \* Contact us to exhibit quilts or get involved.

***Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our 2018 program***



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