

# Alabama Quiltmaker raises \$5,300 for Alzheimer's research

Betty Donahue of Talladega, AL, made a \$1000 Promise to the Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative (AAQI). She promised to donate as many mini quilts as it would take to raise \$1,000. But this septuagenarian didn't stop there. Donating more than 120 small quilts to the AAQI's auctions, Donahue has raised more than \$5,300 for Alzheimer's research. The quilts pictured here were all made by Donahue.

"Betty is absolutely amazing," said Kathy Kennedy-Dennis, AAQI board member from Houston, TX, who helps sell Priority: Alzheimer's Quilts at the International Quilt Festival each fall. "We had the privilege of meeting her in 2006 at the Quilt Festival. At that time she had made one quilt for each year of her age plus a few extras. Her quilts show such variety from boa feathers and buttons to exquisite embroidery to intricate paper piecing. As she learns a new technique, she turns her sample of that work into a quilt for Alzheimer's. She is an inspiration to all of us!"

The idea for the \$1,000 Promise came from Joanne Guillemette of Shelburne, VT, who has raised more than her \$1,000 pledge too. This project is an extension of the Priority: Alzheimer's Quilts project where people "make finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease a priority" by creating mini art quilts in any theme with a maximum size of just 9" x 12" (so that it fits a USPS Priority Mailer without folding) So far, 53 other quiltmakers have joined Donahue. Collectively they have raised more than \$40,000 since January 2006.

Auctions of Priority: Alzheimer's Quilts are held the first 10 days of every month see the Web site ([www.AlzQuilts.org](http://www.AlzQuilts.org)) for details. To see the list of people making the \$1,000 Promise or to join them, go to [www.alzquilts.org/1000.html](http://www.alzquilts.org/1000.html). All profits raised are donated to Alzheimer's research. Quilters Stitch Together, Jarnark Laboratories, and Embellishment Village have all generously donated prizes which are given to everyone who reaches the \$1,000 goal.

The Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative is a national, grassroots organization whose mission is to raise awareness and fund research for Alzheimer's disease. Priority:

Alzheimer's Quilts and the \$1,000 Promise are two of its efforts. The AAQI has raised and donated more than \$157,000 for Alzheimer's research since January 2006.

Ami Simms of Flint, MI, is the founder and executive director of AAQI and curator of the exhibit. Her mother has Alzheimer's. For more information, contact Ami at 1-810-637-5586; [ami@alzquilt.org](mailto:ami@alzquilt.org). ☺



*Just Playing*



*Mom, A Fading Star  
Surrounded by Love*



*Azalias*



*From Chaos  
To Beauty*



*America*



*Biscuits Anyone*