

JACQUELINE & JOAN



Highmark Caring Place Volunteers

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Twin sisters Jacqueline and Joan indulge in a passion that is sewn together. Both are avid quilters and enjoy sharing the challenges and benefits of their craft. In 2001, Jacqueline’s daughter suggested that her mother and her aunt use their talents to help grieving families heal at the Highmark Caring Place. “My daughter works for Highmark,” Jacqueline said. “She told me that the Caring Place was looking for quilters. I liked the idea of helping the children with their quilts.” Joan liked her niece’s suggestion, too. “My niece told us they needed quilters, and I love to sew,” said Joan. “I was happy to volunteer.”

The twins believe that the healing power of quilting is universal. “Regardless of age, family members have a common focus when they create their quilt squares,” Jacqueline says. “Each age group is unique, and I appreciate their differences.”



Joan shares her sister's philosophy. "Working together on the quilts lets all age groups know they're not alone," she said. "The families come together and form a common bond," Jacqueline says. "They learn to live with their losses together."

Jacqueline and Joan agree that their time at the Caring Place has been a rewarding experience. They recommend volunteering to others. "The Caring Place brings families together at a time of great loss and sorrow," says Joan. "The best part of the experience is when the children are able to talk about their loss."

"The feeling that we've done something for others is important," Joan said. "It has opened our perspective on how children cope with loss in so many different ways."

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