

The girls who were held hostage wanted to show how what started in one classroom expanded to impact an entire community, so the corners showcase insignia of agencies that helped that day—Park County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, police, fire department, and medical/crisis personnel.

We at Great American Quilt Factory were honored to help design and construct this beautiful quilt and hope that working on it helped in the healing of all involved. What an incredible group of young people. We hope that the quilt will represent the beauty and greatness of the Platte Canyon High School Community. Thank you for letting us be a part of this life-changing project.

### **The Emily Maureen Ellen Keyes Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Fund**

The state of Colorado, beginning in 1998, has asked driver's license applicants to donate \$1 or more to the Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Fund to promote the state's donor registry. Since its inception, the percentage of people agreeing to become organ donors has risen from 33% to 60%.

The fund, which would have expired in 2008 without new legislation, took in \$326,400 last year. Just this month, April 2007, the fund has been extended for ten years and renamed the Emily Keyes Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund.

### **Many Thanks**

Many thanks to the Great American Quilt Factory family of employees who helped with this project. Our designers, Lexie Foster and Susie Johnson, took all the students' ideas and incorporated them into the layout of this beautiful quilt. Thanks to Ann Petersen who pieced and appliqued much of the quilt, and Sandi Fruehling who quilted it. Many others gave generously of themselves—stitching, cutting, binding, teaching sewing machine skills, and providing snacks. Thanks also to Mitch Jelniker of Channel 7 News and Claire Martin and Andy Cross of the Denver Post for their sensitive coverage of the process. It was truly a community effort.

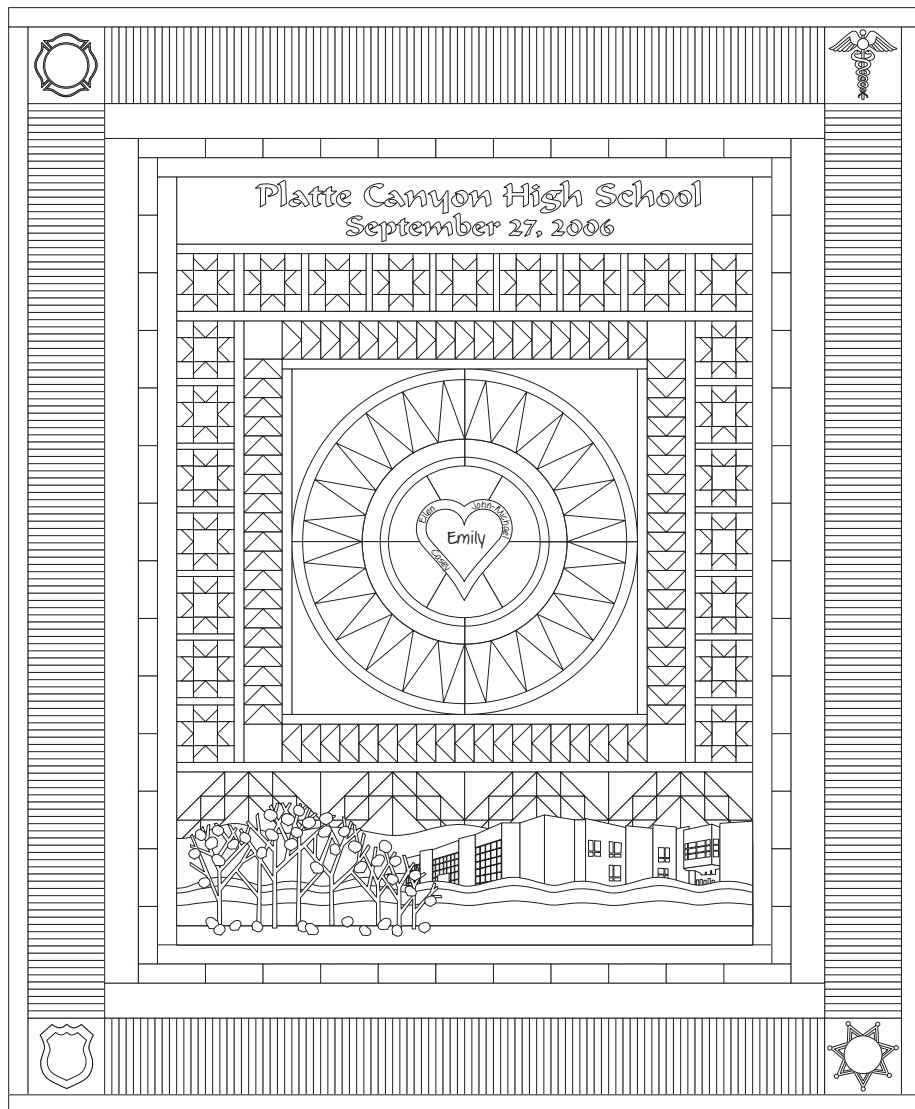
## **Platte Canyon High School Quilt in Memory of Emily Keyes**



### **Great American Quilt Factory**

8970 East Hampden Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80231  
303.740.6206 • [www.greatamericanquilt.com](http://www.greatamericanquilt.com)

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Denver, Colorado



## The Quilt's Evolution

A month or so after the horrifying day of September 27, 2006, Sandra Smith, teacher of the AP English class held hostage at Platte Canyon High School, sent an email to several Denver area quilt shops requesting fabric and supplies to make a quilt. Mrs. Smith thought that making a quilt might help her students work through the process of grieving. Nancy Smith and Lynda Milligan, owners of Great American Quilt Factory, offered their assistance in any way possible—fabric, supplies, design—whatever was needed.

In November, Sandra Smith and the six girls who were held hostage met at Great American Quilt Factory for a brainstorming session on the design of the quilt. The girls talked about and sketched the ideas they wanted represented. The design staff at Great American Quilt Factory also made suggestions. This beautiful quilt is the result of this session.

Sandra Smith, her class of AP English students, a staff member, and a mother came to Great American Quilt Factory on January 23, 2007 to begin stitching the quilt. All of the stars surrounding the center medallion, the strips for the piano key border, and the cutting of most of the applique pieces were finished by the students that day.

The pink heart in the center represents Emily Keyes, the young lady who lost her life that day. It was her favorite color and also represents her desire to be an organ donor. In fact, her corneas were donated to a man in North Carolina, and there is now a signed bill to guarantee another ten years of funding for promoting organ donation—the Emily Keyes Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund. Surrounding the pink heart is another heart embroidered with the names of her mother, father, and twin brother. The circle surrounding the two hearts consists of six fabrics, each chosen by one of the hostages. The next circle represents their teacher, Sandra Smith. The 24 points surrounding the center represent the students in the class. The school colors of blue and silver follow.

Below the center medallion is a patchwork and applique section that highlights the school, the aspen trees in the fall, and the mountains. Above the center medallion are the school name and the date of the tragedy. The first light blue patched border is signed by faculty and staff members. Quilted in the dark blue border are the words that Emily texted to her family—I love u guys! The individual strips in the light blue “piano keys” border are signed by students in the school.

Continued on back page.