



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE NEWS

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**PRESS RELEASE
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Friends of the Quilt at Lafayette College
**To Host a Display Of
The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt
April 26-28 At Kirby Field House**

Easton, Pa.--A portion of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, an international memorial to those who have died of AIDS, will be on display April 26-28 at Lafayette College, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Kirby Field House.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt began in San Francisco in June 1987 as a personal response to the seemingly endless tragedy of the AIDS epidemic. Today the Quilt continues as a powerful international symbol of the health crisis in our midst. More than 15,000 individual panels -- each one celebrating the life of someone who has died of AIDS -- have been sewn together as a visible reminder of the tragedy we continue to face.

Each of these 15,000 individual panels is made by a friend, lover or family member using memorabilia such as clothing, photographs, fine needlework, silk flowers, feather boas, leather, stuffed animals and records. People in every U.S. state and 26 different countries are represented in the Quilt.



Locally, a portion of the Quilt will be on display at Lafayette College in Kirby Field House. This display is sponsored by Friends of the Quilt at Lafayette, a student committee whose main objective is to educate students about this disease, and to promote a more tolerant environment on campus.

During the opening ceremony on Sunday, April 26, guest speakers will read aloud the names of the persons memorialized in the Quilt panels on display.

Donations collected at the Quilt display will be distributed equally among four local AIDS service providers (AIDS Outreach, AIDS Service Center, Latino AIDS Outreach Program, and Religious Coalition on AIDS) who provide necessary funds and assistance to people living with HIV or AIDS, and to those who are caring for them.

The NAMES Project Foundation displays portions of the Quilt worldwide to encourage visitors to better understand and respond to the AIDS epidemic, to provide a positive means of expression for those grieving the death of a loved one, and to raise funds to assist people living with AIDS.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was nominated for a Nobel peace Prize in 1988. In 1990, *Common Threads*, a documentary film about the Quilt, won an Oscar. Since 1987, more than two million people have visited the Quilt, and more than \$1,000,000 has been raised for AIDS service organizations throughout North America.

The local Quilt display is free and open to the public. Community participation in this event is encouraged. Hundreds of volunteers will be needed before or during the display. For more information call the Lafayette College Student Activities Office at 250-5337.