Buffalo Boogie T-Shirt Quilt: A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

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In preparing for the 25th annual Buffalo Boogie run, planners decided auctioning a homemade quilt would be a great way to raise money for the event. As someone who appreciates the time and energy required to create a quilt—and who has a friend who would jump at the chance to design a piece of artwork for the Nature Center—I gladly accepted the challenge.
When I mentioned the idea of designing a quilt to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Buffalo Boogie to my friend, it took me nearly fifteen minutes to bring her back to earth. She was ecstatic about being part of such a masterpiece, not only because she loves to tell a story through her love of the needle, thread, and material, but also because she and her husband are avid supporters of the Nature Center.

Lisa Gromelski and her husband, Norbert, have been visiting the Nature Center for more than 30 years and have been members since 2006. They have served as volunteers for Monster Bash—Lisa as a storyteller and Norbert in charge of the tire toss activity—and have been bringing their children to the Nature Center for years. They are continuing that tradition through their grandchildren. In fact, two of their grandchildren came to the Summer Natural History Adventures last year for the first time! If you have worked here for any length of time, you have probably met them coming or going. They love to canoe or kayak through the waters of the Nature Center, hike the trails early on a weekend morning, or just breeze through what they consider their big backyard.

Lisa and I spent considerable time discussing the size and style of the quilt, looking at material and deciding what message we wanted to convey. Anyone who quilts, knows someone who is a quilter, or has ever been given a quilt as a gift appreciates that each piece of scrap or material tells a story of its own. When the pieces are cut and stitched together, it’s as if the memory of an event comes to new life. We decided what better way to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Buffalo Boogie than to construct the quilt from t-shirts from the past 25 years of races, including this year!
Stay tuned to the Friends’ and Nature Center’s websites for information and photos, or visit either of us on Facebook. The quilt will also be on display at Buffalo Boogie. The live auction will be held Saturday, May 13 at the end of the race, and you can also bid online at https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/buffalo-boogie-2017-2130 beginning Saturday, May 6. Until then, start gathering your dollars so you can be part of this memorable occasion. Remember, whether you are a runner or a spectator, entry to the Nature Center itself is free the day of the race until the park is cleared of race traffic, usually around 12 p.m. Hope to see everyone May 13!