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Contact: Jennifer Pond
(801) 205-4701
jennifer@hmqqs.org

8th Annual HMQS Hosts Outstanding Quilt Display & Thousands of Visitors in Salt Lake City

(SALT LAKE CITY)— The 8th annual Home Machine Quilting Show (HMQS) held May 5th through the 7th at the South Towne Exposition Center in Salt Lake City, Utah hosted nearly 5,000 attendees again this year! HMQS—the premier consumer exhibition and hands-on educational show for machine quilters, embroiderers and those who love to sew— featured more than 500 extraordinary quilts on display, a judged quilt competition with \$26,000 in cash awards, a Vendor Mall of 200 booths, special presentations and quilt trunk shows, and 100 classes on a variety of quilting & sewing topics.

“Our class registrations were at an all-time high this year. We just keep growing! We took more exhibit halls at the Expo Center and still barely had enough space for the increased number of quilts submitted. Each year the show is more outstanding, and truly, our hats are off to all who participate,” said Jennifer Pond, Show Manager.

Of this year’s show, Ann Collet, Show Director and Founder said, “The quilt exhibit is always the highlight of the show. This year’s quilts were even more exceptional than before. Showcasing tremendous quilting, rewarding outstanding quilters, and offering the highest quality machine-quilting and embroidery education is the entire purpose of HMQS. We were thrilled with this year’s show across the board.”

The show started off with a bang Thursday with the Entertainment & Awards Night. Attendees enjoyed desserts and a hilarious quilt-related presentation by Ami Simms, and viewed the 2011 award-winning quilts on the big screen. \$26,000 in awards was given out this year, thanks to generous sponsors. “Best of Show” for \$2,000 in cash, sponsored by Handi Quilter Inc., was awarded to Sue McCarty of Roy, Utah for her spectacular “Harmony Within” quilt – truly a masterpiece. A complete list of the quilt award winners is available on the HMQS show web site. Quilt Photo CDs can be ordered online to view all the 2011 quilts. Perhaps no one was prouder at the awards ceremony than Fran Ogden, the high school teacher from Council, Idaho who helped her students prepare 22 quilts to submit to this year’s Youth category.

Also recognized during the ceremony was the winner of the 2011 “Best Booth” award – Cranberry Quiltworks / Fresh Picked Fabrics, a fun and unique booth showcasing gorgeous fabrics. Gina Halladay, owner of Cranberry Quiltworks, put together a truly festive and inviting booth – complete with cabana chairs to hold her cabana quilts. Cranberry

Quiltworks / Fresh Picked Fabrics is a California-based company. To see Gina's products go online to www.cranberryquiltworks.com.

And HMQS was pleased to present the third annual "Teacher of the Year" award, sponsored by the International Machine Quilters Association and Ruby River Steakhouse, to Kim Brunner. Kim was honored during the ceremony for her exceptional teaching, talent and professionalism. "Kim is a terrific teacher! Her experience and knowledge of quilting make it easy for the students to learn and her enthusiasm makes it fun. She can appeal to every learning style with visual examples, lecture facts and technology skills that really put the class material over to everyone. Kim's teaching expertise exemplifies what a great teacher should be," says Ann Collet, HMQS Show Director. Kim also sponsored student scholarships at HMQS 2010 and 2011 – generously offering complimentary classes to any youth interested in learning about the art of machine quilting. HMQS thanks Kim for her dedication to furthering quilting education.

The 2011 *Riley Blake Designs* Fabric Challenge & Auction, sponsored by Christensen Wholesale, with batting sponsored by Pellon Consumer Products, spotlighted quilts made by individuals and machine-quilting guilds from all over the nation. The challenge quilts were judged, \$1,000 in cash awards was given out to the winners, and the quilts were live-auctioned off on Saturday from the main stage. An astounding \$5,350 was raised at the auction and throughout the show for the official HMQS 2011 show charity – Lifting Liberia. Lifting Liberia is a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing school for children in sub-Saharan Africa as the key to ending the cycle of poverty and suffering. HMQS sincerely thanks all attendees who gave generously to the show charity. A special thanks to Christensen Wholesale and to Brad Silcox of Silcox Auction. And thank you to Roberts Manufacturing for donating their beautiful sewing table for a special drawing to benefit the charity. More information about how to help Lifting Liberia can be found on their web site, www.liftingliberia.org.

HMQS attendees also enjoyed 21 special exhibits at this year's show. Highlights included quilt displays by Marilyn Badger, Machine Quilting Unlimited, Irena Bluhm, City Stitchers and the Maple Mountain Quilt Guild. Also on special display will be Mini Quilts by the "12 x 12 Project," antique quilts by Sandra Starley, Gaye Ryon's "Monster Quilts" and more! Two challenges were also part of the Special Exhibit – the 2011 Quilting Treasures Machine Quilting Challenge with batting sponsored by Winline Textile Products LC and the SewBatik Fabric Piecing Challenge with batting sponsored by Hobbs Bonded Fibers. Special stage presentations were offered during the show by Susan Gilgen, Mary Anne Ciccotelli, and Joshua Creek, local award-winning music group.

HMQS wishes to thank all the sponsors, teachers, vendors, quilters, volunteers and attendees who make HMQS possible and successful. A special thanks to our 2011 major sponsors – the Home Machine Quilting Association, Nuttalls' Sewing Centers, MediaOne of Utah, Handi Quilter Inc., Pellon Consumer Products, Brother International, Gammill Quilting Systems, Rocky Mountain Electric Quilters, Machine Quilting Unlimited, A-1 Quilting Machines, Viking Sewing Gallery and Innova / Teryl Loy Enterprises.

HMQS is hosting a contest to help choose the 2012 show theme! If you have an idea for next year's show theme e-mail it to ann@hmq.org by June 1st. The winner will receive a 3-day admission to next year's show or a complimentary class registration fee – their choice. See you at next year's show – May 10-12, 2012!

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