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Stories of our past stitched into Touchmark's Quilt Show; Auction benefits Alzheimer's Association

BISMARCK, N.D. – Pieces of North Dakota's rich history will be on display at Touchmark's Quilt Show and Auction from Oct. 10 - 14. Residents and friends of Touchmark have shared family heirlooms and the stories behind them, and there will be quilts of all shapes and sizes on display. Passed between generations, many of the quilts tell the story of the immigrants who helped to build North Dakota. A variety of items will be on display and available through a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

Touchmark is located at 1000 West Century Avenue in Bismarck. Quilts can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A wrap-up social will be held Friday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. at which time the highest bidders will be announced

Amma's Quilt will be one of many stories shared during the Quilt Show. Touchmark resident Eve Schultz inherited an unfinished quilt top from her mother and Iceland native, Gudbjorg Benson. When Gudbjorg arrived in North Dakota around the turn of the century, she made many quilts from scraps of clothes she had made and other material. The quilts helped keep her family warm through the bitterly cold winters.

Recently, Schultz passed her mother's unfinished eight-pointed star pattern to her daughter, Nancy Thomas. As Nancy worked to finish the quilt, she discovered more of the history of her ancestors. She recognized pieces of fabric in the pattern had come from a feed sack and scraps of material used to make Schultz's dresses. She realized the uneven stitches and lines meant the quilt was constructed out of necessity. Now with the inscription "From a mother to her daughter, from a daughter to her mother," the finished quilt is back with Schultz and more than ever embodies the care and attention of generations of North Dakota women.

Schultz will be wearing one of two dresses whose material scraps are part of Amma's Quilt on Friday, Oct. 14 during the social hour. The other dress will be on display by the quilt.

For complete details or questions, call Touchmark Life Enrichment Director Amy Miller at 701-323-7000.

About Touchmark

A full-service retirement community, Touchmark on West Century offers a range of homes and lifestyle options for people 55-plus years. An on-site health and fitness club is open to anyone over 40 and features a variety of fitness options. For more information, visit

Touchmark.com.

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