

THE WESTERN PATCHWORK QUILT FOR PEACE

When MARY ROBINSON WAS PRESIDENT OF IRELAND. SHE WAS VISITING THE WEST OF IRELAND. IN SPEAKING TO THE WOMEN, SHE ENCOURAGED THEM TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING TO GIVE THOUGHT, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE WOMEN OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND WHO WERE LIVING IN VERY STRESSFUL TIMES DURING THE TROUBLES.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP GOT TOGETHER AND FORTH TO STARTING THE FAMOUS OLD ART OF QUILT MAKING. OVER 20 COMMUNITIES TOOK PART. TWO LADIES JANE JOYCE AND PATRICIA STEPHENS SUPERVISED ITS COMPLETION AND THE GREAT QUILT WAS BORN. THEY ARRANGED A MEETING OF MYSELF AND THE MAKERS OF THE QUILT. WE ALL HAD A RECEPTION IN THE CITY HALL IN GALWAY AND THEY GOT THE MAYOR OF GALWAY TO PRESENT ME WITH THE QUILT FOR ALL THE WOMEN OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

SO MUCH WORK, THOUGHT AND EFFORT HAD GONE INTO THE PROJECT AND IT IS A LASTING IMAGE FOR THE WOMEN OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO SEE AND THINK OF THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT WERE FORMED IN THE MAKING, ASCENDING, AND IN THE DISPLAYING OF THIS GREAT QUILT WHICH BROUGHT JOY AND THE HOPE OF PEACE TO NORTHERN IRELAND.

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N.I. PEACE QUILTS COORDINATOR.