

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Barn Quilts of Washington County is to celebrate and promote the culture, heritage and progressive nature of Washington County by placing quilt blocks on barns and other suitable buildings throughout the county.

Objectives:

- 1. Agricultural Architecture and Preservation:** This project will bring attention to the unique architecture and history of barns and other significant buildings in our county. By drawing attention to these assets we hope to encourage the preservation of these structures for future generations.
- 2. Cultural Identity:** Because Washington County is home to an Amish community noted for its quilting tradition we want to promote quilting as a form of art. By placing quilt squares on buildings we hope to showcase the symbolism and heritage of the patterns that provided warmth and comfort for generations as well as a socialization outlet for Midwestern women.
- 3. Agri-tourism:** This project provides us with opportunities to showcase the various aspects of agricultural production and businesses. We hope to encourage opportunities for education and hands on experiences relating to agriculture and our growing alternative energy industry.
- 4. Economic Development:** We want to encourage promotions, marketing and grant writing for local businesses and farmers who want to link their new or existing small businesses to the Barn Quilts of Washington County.
- 5. Community Sustainability:** We will create four separate tour routes which will travel through each community in the county. Emphasis will be placed on attracting traffic off of Hwy 218 running through the east edge of the county, into the county. The Barn Quilt project will provide a climate favorable for local entrepreneurs to develop and initiate products that service the influx of new tourism in the county. Proceeds from the project will be used to maintain the quilts and promote tourism and economic development in the county.