Hi! I’m Heather, founder of the Baltimore Modern Quilt Guild. I was humbled when Cherri asked me to guest blog about the quilt drive she and Melissa orchestrated for South East Baltimore Early Head Start (SEEHS). I have a small role in this, but will gladly update you on what’s been happening.

As you might know, back in March, Cherri put out this Call to Quilters. She knows you generous quilters all too well! You answered the call and quilts started arriving at SEEHS within weeks!
What a wonderful response! But there was a bit of a dilemma. Cherri is in Texas. Melissa is in Baltimore, and a full time student and about to graduate. Who would see this program through and insure that it continues? That’s where I come in. Cherri contacted me through the Baltimore MQG website and asked if our guild could take over. We were thrilled to participate! About that same time, Maria O’Haver of Faithful Circle Quilters got in touch with me. Barbara, also a member of Faithful Circle, found out about Cherri’s project and reached out to Maria, who is in charge of their charity quilts. Next thing you know, Faithful Circle donated 40 quilts to the project! Wow!

A few weeks after that, it seemed like we were close to our goal of 53 quilts. One April morning, Melissa and I paid a visit to SEEHS to check on the “inventory”. We met up with Gayne Barlow-Kemper, director of SEEHS. It was like Christmas, as we opened up package after package of beautiful quilts. Oooos and ahhhs were plentiful. Gayne selected one beauty to use as a raffle quilt for an upcoming fundraiser.
And this is Melissa and me, chilling with a pile o’ quilts.

After a bit of math, we counted over 60 quilts in the stash! Well over our initial goal!

Fast forward to last Thursday – giveaway day! It was a dreary, rainy day that turned to pure sunshine when we were greeted at the door by Gayne and her staff.
After Gayne rounded up the toddlers and moms, Melissa was given the honor of distributing the quilts.

Here are the moms and babies, waiting patiently for their surprise! (Well, as patiently as 2 and 3 year olds can wait!)

Our first recipient!

A quilt makes a great cape!
How cute is she?
And this is what it was all about: moms cuddling up with their babies to read a good book.
Thanks to your generosity, every child at the center received a quilt and a book! As the babies and mommies were sharing some quiet time, I asked Gayne what else the center might need. Her immediate answer: Books! Sturdy toddler-proof books. My mind immediately went to cloth books. (It’s always about fabric, isn’t it?) Yes, yes, yes, she said! Cloth books would be perfect. If you’re interested in donating board books or cloth books, you can reach me at baltimoremqg@gmail.com or heatherkojan@gmail.com or leave a message on my blog quilt.cook.keep. The books will be well used and well loved. And if you still have a quilt you’d like to donate, please do! The three year olds will graduate soon, and there will be a new “class” starting in the fall!

As Cherri gets ready to pass the baton to the Baltimore MQG, I want to thank her sincerely for all that she does. Because of her warm and giving heart, these little ones have something all their own to give them warmth, comfort and a head start!

Heather