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SisterSong: A Quilt of Love and Support

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My name is Juanita Williams and I'm one of the original collective members of SisterSong. You see, I'm a crafter and quilter and these women are like a quilt of sisters. SisterSong is such a cultural experience. When I first became involved with the organization, I felt so secure and warm – that's what a quilt does. It surrounds you with warmth, love, and security. It also educates you and gives you a little history about yourself.

SisterSong is a collective of women from various parts of the United States with different cultures and backgrounds. They are colorful, bold, and strong women. They are sheroes that you just look at and say, "I want to be wrapped in that and be apart of those strong women binding together, giving support, and educating each other." Although we come from different backgrounds, we have very similar issues in dealing with reproductive health issues and rights, AND the difficult task of controlling our own lives in this male-dominated world.

The cultural experiences with SisterSong are phenomenal. SisterSong is made up of what we call mini communities. Each mini community is representative of the major ethnic groups in the U.S., including African American/Black, Native- American/Indigenous, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Latinas, and Arab/Middle Eastern. When mini communities host a meeting the theme of the meeting is its cultural background. This includes sharing the challenges of reproductive health issues and rights, working and running a non-profit organization, decorating for the meeting, planning the meals, and of course, gift-giving. We also discuss how it's best to work in our own community, using the tools that are indigenous to that culture. What a wonderful way to get a cultural experience without traveling to that country!

SisterSong is herstory, women of color gathered together for the first time to solve our own issues. Quilts are herstory, blends of beautiful material bound together to tell our stories and give us support. SisterSong blends beautiful women together bound by commitment to make social change happen and give each other support.