Hearing that one of Iowa’s most famous historic sites might be closed because of lack of funds, some Iowa kids took action last summer. Overlooking the northeastern town of Clermont, the Montauk historic site was built in 1874 by our 12th governor, William Larrabee. He filled this elegant 14-room mansion with furnishings from around the world.

Kids from the Windfield Summer Session in Cedar Falls thought that they could make and sell a quilt to help save Montauk. The quilt was designed and constructed by the group in an attempt to keep Montauk open. The quilt will be raffled off with all of the money going to the Clermont Historical Society. “It’s important that other children see those things,” said student Whitney McGinn. “We want to keep it open.”

**100,000 Pines**

Each square in the quilt represents something from or about the Larrabee house. “We’re making this quilt to keep Governor Larrabee’s mansion open,” said Leslie Montz, “because we like it and so our parents can see it.” Nicole Corbett made a seashell design in honor of Anna Appelman Larrabee’s seashell collection. Ben Bottke sewed a square with a picture of one of Governor Larabee’s canes. Matthew Emerson used a pine tree to represent one of the 100,000 pine trees on the 46-acre estate.

“It’s neat that they kept everything that they had in there,” said Emily Rechkemmer. “I liked their home,” added Heather Carlson. “I could live there.”

Montauk remains open thanks to the concern expressed by the public statewide, support from Clermont community members, and the efforts of these young history buffs.