

May 2018 Newsletter

Hi Blanketeers!

It's been a while since our last newsletter so I'll start with a brief update on my status and continue with the great progress we've made in the last couple months.

* **Sharon will be 'out of the (Project Linus) office' for the month of May-** as I mentioned at the April meeting (and in my email Auto Reply), I am taking on a significant new project at work and **I will not be available during May** for all the usual Project Linus activities that I regularly do daily/weekly/monthly. Barb is handling all the new requests and inquiries until she leaves on her annual 5 month travels starting late May. I am still doing things that only I can do as Chapter Coordinator. If you have an urgent request that Barb cannot assist with, she will get in contact with me and we'll get it handled. Thanks Barb for the coverage.

* **Blanket Stats:** In February, March and April, we received 327 / 678 / 671 blankets and we distributed 567 / 545 / 565 blankets. Recipient groups for these months included: CASA, El Camino Hospital – NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital – NICU, JW House, KAPFA, Kaiser Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Lucille Packard, El Camino Hospital, North County Public Health, O'Connor Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services, School Health Clinics, TAPS –Good Grief Camp and Valley Medical Center. To date, our chapter has donated 83,678 blankets to 83,678 children in need. (I'm starting to get questions on what we'll do to celebrate our 100,00th blanket! Any suggestions?) ☺

* We donated and shipped 109 blankets to **TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors)** this year. The first 55 were shipped on May 1st and the other 54 were shipped today. Thank you for your support through blanket making and the shipping cost donations we received. For more information on this wonderful organization which supports military families who have lost members in active service - see www.taps.org.

* We have our **new bagging teams** in place and I want to thank all those who stepped up to help. Becky Guillett (becky@guillett.com) is our new Thursday bagging day coordinator with Gerri Smoluk as her back-up and Cathy Walters (cathywalt@comcast.net) is our new Saturday bagging coordinator with Elizabeth Tang-Kong as her back-up. We also have some new volunteers to help on bagging days. We can always use a few more, so if you'd like to try it and see what it's like, contact the bagging coordinators for more details. A special thanks goes out to Elizabeth for the training as well as the transition assistance and guidance she provided.

* Our April **meeting** went well. We held it in Cupertino **at St. Jude's** Episcopal Church on Tuesday evening April 24 (same place where we hold our MABDs). We had a very good turn out and those attending agreed that having a **meeting in Cupertino periodically** would be good, so we'll look into it. (It's a counter commute for most of the attendees.) We also discussed the **need for additional fundraising to enable us to continue to provide supplies**. It was agreed that we'll try a fundraiser at Boudin's-Cupertino (which earns us 30% of the purchases including gift card purchases) the evening of our next meeting at St. Jude's (date TBD). Plan to stop by before the meeting for a good dinner. Please send your fundraising ideas to me and Barb – we're open to all ideas. Thanks.

Need help: We are looking for someone who can help out as a **back up for our webmaster** Isabelle Wimmers. Our new website was created in Wix which is quite straight forward to use. We need to have at least 2 other people who know how to work with it. I'll be trained as well but we need another person to help out too. If you're interested, please contact me (Sharon).

* Clara Chase has been hosting **'corporate' Make A Blanket Days** recently for groups that have requested assistance. She worked with San Martin Lions Club, Oshman Family Jewish Community Center and Thermo Fisher – Sunnyvale, as well as provided our 'scissor's box' of supplies for their events. Thank you so much Clara for your leadership with these corporate and charity groups.

* We received a couple **thank-you's** recently that I wanted to share with you:

- My name is Vannesa. I have my 16 month baby getting treatment at Kaiser Santa Clara. He was there almost 3 weeks ago (sorry I took long) and I just want to thank you for the blanket. I can't explain the feeling I got with the blanket. I feel so alone most days with cancer and to know that strangers have wonderful gift I'm really thankful have a great day.

- Thank you Project Linus for your donation of 40 blankets. Your handmade blankets become true treasures for our children, providing warmth and comfort during their difficult time in foster care. Child Advocates of Silicon Valley recruits, trains and supports volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to work one-on-one with children in the foster care system... Life for children placed in foster care is filled with many uncertainties and disappointments. Your gift allowed our children to experience a bit of joy and provided them with the knowledge that others care for them. Thank you for supporting our community, for ensuring that every foster child has the opportunity to become a healthy, independent adult. Warm regards, Karen Scussel, Executive Director Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

* In our **"reminder's for blanketeers old and new" topic** this month, we'd like to highlight for **EVERYONE** (including drop-off liaisons doing quality checks):

- Please remember that **Skip-stitched fleece** blankets **MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 2 ROWS** crocheted around the edge, and remember to **return any unused yarn** that you received from us when your skip-stitch and knit-crochet projects are done. We need it for other PL projects.

- Please **be sure your blankets lay flat** (eg edges, **corners (especially on skip-stitch)**) when finished. If not, please save us the time of returning them to you for repair and **fix any 'wrinkles' and 'wobbly edges' before turning them in.** We want a quality look on all our blankets, as they will be gifts.

* **Our next meeting** is currently planned for **Tuesday May 29th at 1pm** at the home of Mary Kelly - [1366 Milton Way, San Jose](#). Mark your calendars 'in pencil' as we're still confirming the schedule around their remodeling projects. ☺* Our **next bagging day** will be **Thursday May 31st**, so please drop your finished blankets off by then.

Thanks for being a part of our chapter and helping us accomplish our mission of providing comfort and support to local children in need through gifts of your wonderful blankets.

Happy blanketeering!

P.S. Here are a couple of recent requests I'm forwarding from Barb (you may have already seen them):

1. (Free) SHOPPING Days - Fat Quarter Frenzy: On Friday May 11 from 10am - 5 pm and Sunday May 13 from 1pm to 4pm are Fat Quarter Frenzy Days at [Barbara's House, 1240 Hanchett Avenue, San Jose](#). We have tons of Fat Quarters. Quilters - bring your patterns so you can find any coordinating fabric you need or Barbara will have some patterns available. In addition, there will be lots of 10" squares and fabric for cutting into 10" squares so you can make your own layer cakes. Be sure to bring patterns for these as well. Barb will have a few. No appointment required when picking up only fat quarters or 10" squares. **BUT if you want to shop for additional fabric** (which would be wonderful!!), **you must make an appointment** (sjlinus@gmail.com or 408-295-2287) so we can be sure there is more than one person to help at that shopping time. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PATTERNS**, so we know how much fabric you need.

Remember Barb is going to be gone from late May until approximately late October so **do lots of shopping NOW**. Norma will be available to help with your shopping while Barb is gone.

2. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: On **Wednesday June 20 from 9 am to 3 pm** (set up 8-9am) **Google is having a nonprofit fair**. They would like us to help them build and collect LOTS of no-sew fleece blankets. It appears **they will provide the supplies and food**. It is a great way to spread the word about Project Linus. Please **let Barb know if you can help** - contact her at sjlinus@gmail.com or 408-295-2287. We are in the process of getting more information about the fair, but we need to know if we have enough people to work it for all or part of the day. We could certainly have a **morning shift and an afternoon shift**. We anticipate needing at **2-3 people per shift**. If you can bring your sewing machine and sew on labels, let Barb know that too. The fair is to be held at [1365 Shorebird, Mountain View, CA 94043](#).