

2017 Year End Newsletter

Happy New Year, Blanketeers! Hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Our chapter closed out the year with our annual December holiday meeting including yummy holiday treats and lots of fun. At the meeting, Samantha Schroeter presented the chapter with a \$100 JoAnn's gift card. As you may remember, when Samantha started her Etsy page (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheatricalCrafts> - check it out!) a few years ago, she committed to donating 10% of her sales to our chapter. Well this year she had sales over \$1000 – congratulations Samantha and thanks for sharing so generously with Project Linus.

The chapter had another outstanding year thanks to your support. We received 6,714 blanket donations and distributed 6,807 blankets. That's a lot of warm, snuggled and comforted children – well done!

- Blanket Stats: In December, we received 605 blankets and we distributed 558 blankets. Recipient groups for this month include: El Camino Hospital – NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital – NICU, Individuals (3), KAPFA, Kaiser Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Lucille Packard – El Camino Hospital, O'Connor Hospital – Pediatrics and NICU, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sacred Heart Layette Program, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services, School Health Clinics and Valley Medical Center. To date, our chapter has donated 81,473 blankets.
- We are in need of some extra Skip-stitch fleece blankets this month. We do have some donated supplies available to assist with this request, so we are offering some fleece/yarn kits ready for pick up at my house ([11061 S Stelling Rd Cupertino 95014](#)) or Mary Kelly's house (366 Milton Way San Jose 95125) through Saturday January 14. (There is a limited number, so first come, first served.) The blankets need to be finished and turned in by the January 23rd meeting. If you'd like a kit (or a few kits), you need to contact me (sjlinus@comcast.net or [408-252-1858](tel:408-252-1858)) and let me know how many you can finish by the Jan. 23rd meeting and what day and date you'll be by to pick up the kits, and at which location (my house or Mary's). We'll have them bagged (with your name on the bag) and ready for you to pick them up on the day you select. Thanks for helping out with this special request.
- We have some sad news to share about one of our drop-off locations – Beverly's Fabric and Crafts store ([1830 Hillsdale Avenue San Jose, CA 95124](#)) will be closing. Our web master, Isabelle Wimmers, who works at Beverly's just told me that their "Going out of Business Discount" (20% off everything in the store) is now in effect. Stop by for some bargains and please thank them for their years of support for our chapter.
- Each year end we have a huge requirement for 9-strip quilts for some groups that we deliver to just once a year. For 2018 we would like to ask those making quilts to make 1 extra (9-strip) quilt per month and we'll set those aside 'til year end. This will help minimize the year-end crunch and enable us to plan better for this annual need. Barb and her team of kit-makers will have some 9-strip kits available at each meeting for the taking, and Barb and I will have some in the Project Linus boxes at our homes ([1240 Hanchett Ave. San Jose 95126](#) and [11061 S Stelling Rd Cupertino 95014](#)), so feel free to stop by and help yourself when you need one. If you've never made a 9-strip quilt, we have instructions for making one. (I'll send them out in a separate email.) Any questions about these simple to make quilts, contact Barb (sjlinus@gmail.com or [408-295-2287](tel:408-295-2287)).
- At the December meeting, Erma Linn shared with us that she'd made some small kennel quilts for the Nor Cal fire victims' pets. She reminded us that animals are also in need when disaster strikes. I'm including the link provided by Erma for anyone who would like to help out in this way on their own: <http://www.quiltpatternmagazine.com/program/KennelQuilt/> .
- A special thanks to the handful of blanketeers who use our eScrip (formerly SHARES) program year round. This year you helped us raise nearly \$1000 for the chapter just by entering your phone # (or mine – [408-981-5426](tel:408-981-5426) – anyone can use mine!) at check out when shopping at Lucky, SAVEMART or FoodMaxx...at any of their locations, near or far... that buys a lot of fleece and yarn for us! If you'd like to join this easy fundraiser, go to www.escrip.com/SHARES/ to register (or just use my phone # at the stores). Any questions? Just ask Sharon.

- If you're still thinking about making a New Year's Resolution, here's an idea shared by one of my fellow chapter coordinators – I thought you might enjoy adding this to your list... get a She-shed.
<http://www.westchestermagazine.com/Westchester-Home-Blog/May-2017/She-Sheds/>
- REMINDER: Our website www.sjlinus.org is under 'RE-construction' due to our current software's inability to make some required updates, so please excuse the outdated info currently still on our site regarding 'upcoming' events. The website work as begun and we hope to have it redesigned and current within a couple weeks. IT MAY BE UNAVAILABLE BRIEFLY during that time. Most of the info on the site is accurate and still very helpful; it's just the event dates/details and blanket total that are outdated.

In the meantime, please mark your calendars for OUR NEXT MEETING on Tuesday Jan. 23 at 7pm at the home of Mary Kelly - [1366 Milton Way San Jose](#). Also we are planning a Make a Blanket Day on Saturday March 3 9am-3pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Cupertino – details to follow. All of our events are optional but those who attend have a really good time, getting together with other blanketers, enjoying the potluck lunch, and seeing all the beautiful blankets that are being worked on and turned in at the (11am) meeting that day. Hope you can join us for some or all of the day.

In closing, I'm including a special update (below) from one of the other chapter coordinators. She updates this each year with the current national information. I've added our local chapter info so you can see how we fit in. If you could factor in all the blanketer hours too, it'd be even more astounding! I hope you enjoy it.

We're looking forward to a great 2018 for our chapter. Thanks for being a part of it and helping us comfort and support local children in need. Together we're making a big difference in our local community.

Sharon
sjlinus@comcast.net
408-252-1858

and

Barb
sjlinus@gmail.com
408-295-2287

- **PROJECT LINUS... DID YOU KNOW? (2018)**

Here are some interesting facts and figures about Project Linus:

- Karen Loucks started Project Linus on December 24, 1995. The South Bay/San Jose, CA Chapter began on April 12, 2002.
- Project Linus nationally has been 'in business' for 7,672 days as of January 1, 2018.
- Project Linus National has had nonprofit status since May 12, 1997.
- Our Chapter of Project Linus donated 6,714 blankets in 2017. Since we started, we have donated 81,473 blankets!
- Project Linus nationally has officially collected over 6,673,024 blankets as of January 1, 2018.
 - + If 60% of them are fabric, that translates into over 12,011,443 yards of fabric.
 - + If 40% are afghans, that is over 21,353,676 skeins of yarn.
 - + If each blanket is an average of 60" long, and we laid them end to end, they would stretch 33,365,120 feet or 6,319 miles. That is as tall as 1,151 Mt. Everests, 23,010 Empire State Buildings or as long as 92,680 football fields!
- Assuming each delivered blanket so far had a label, the cost for labels would be \$200,191.
- As of January 1, 2018, Project Linus has about 295 chapters in the United States. We have 295 wonderful, compassionate coordinators.
- If each of our 295 wonderful compassionate coordinators donates an average of 20 hours per week to their chapter, that would mean about 1,040 hours per year each. And that's just coordinators!
- Think you're not making a financial contribution to Project Linus? How much money is your time worth? Even at minimum wage (\$8/hr), 20 hours per week is a salary of \$8,320 in donated time per year, per coordinator. If you are talking about 295 wonderful, compassionate coordinators, it is a value of \$2,454,400 per year.
- And if we tried to add in our blanketers' hours... it'd be off the chart! Thanks so much for being a part of Project Linus!