



It's Make a Blanket Day Time!

Hello blanketeers! Happy Halloween!

We had you mark your calendars months ago and now the day is almost here. We're looking forward to another great **Make a Blanket Day this Saturday November 4 from 9am-3pm** at St.Jude's Episcopal Church (20920 McClellan Rd Cupertino - our usual location).

* We'll have our meeting at 11am (including Show'n'tell and the 'Thank You' Raffle) followed by our wonderful potluck lunch. Please bring something to share.

* Quilters - bring your sewing machines - Barb will have 9-strip quilt kits for you to work on.

* Mystery Quilt participants (we have 15 signed up!): Remember to bring your Mystery quilts to show us your progress.

* Crocheters - we'll be teaching the skip-stitch technique (crochet-around-the-edge of fleece blankets). If you're not familiar with it, come try it out. You bring your favorite crochet hook, (Sizes G, H or I work well) and we'll have the fleece pieces and some yarn to practice with. The special skip-stitch rotary cutting blade will be available for purchase (\$15). This style of blanket is very popular with the children.

* Knit and crocheters (we have 4 Knit/Crochet-Along participants) - Our yarn donations have been quite small this year, but we'll share what we have.

* Skip-stitchers - We will have fleece pieces for skip-stitching but we do not have yarn available due to limited donations this year, so you can use up some of your stash with this season's fleece pieces (or arrive early and match your choice of skip-stitch fleece pieces to the limited yarn we have available).

* We'll also have brochures that need folding and "10 packs" (blanket labels and tags) - that need to be made up (during MABD or take some home for a TV time project...) :-)

* **==> We need help setting up on Friday Nov. 3 at 1pm (should take about an hour) and lots of help with clean-up.** Please plan to stay as more hands make it much easier. Please contact Sharon (sjlinus@comcast.net or 408-252-1858 if you can help with either. Thanks!

* **Remember** your Project Linus name tags (for those that have them), your potluck food as well as your empty ink cartridges. :-)

*** Looking forward to seeing everyone and having another great day of blanket making and fun!**

* (If you can't make it to Make a Blanket Day, you can see lots of great blankets as well as donors and recipients on the photo wheels on the top and bottom our homepage www.sjlinus.org.)

Extra blankets needed for the holiday season: We have some recipient groups that we only donate to at year-end. As you may have seen on our website homepage (www.sjlinus.org), Barb has received requests for a larger number of blankets than usual this year. In addition to the 9-strip quilts mentioned in our "Tip of the Month", we also need other styles of blankets. Finished blankets need to be received by us BEFORE THANKSGIVING to be included in the holiday/year end distributions. So if you're working on additional "year-end" blankets for us, **THANK YOU** and please be sure to get them to us before November 22. (Remember, **no** holiday prints please).

Blanket Stats: You, our generous blanketeers, continue to provide us with so many lovely, cuddly handmade blankets to distribute throughout the year so we can distribute year round. Thank You! Here are our stats for **3Q2023: 1,023 blankets received and 1,455 blankets given to our recipients groups for distribution** to the children.(Some months we have a surplus, but invariably we distribute them all soon after, especially in the summer months.) This quarter blankets were given to: CASA, El Camino Hospital-NICU, Georgia Travis House, Good Samaritan Hospital-NICU, JW House, Kaiser Hospital - NICU and Pediatrics, KAPFA, Lucille Packard - El Camino Hospital, O'Connor Hospital-NICU, Public Health, Ronald McDonald House, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services - Julian St. and King Rd., School Health Clinics, Santa Maria Urban Ministries and Valley Medical Center. To date, our chapter has provided **119,681 blankets** to local children in need of comfort.

Community and corporate groups returning - We're starting to see these types of groups holding blanket making events and providing blankets for us again (post pandemic). This month Saratoga and Foothill Club donated 244 tied fleece blankets and a new contributor, Okta, is holding events in multiple locations to provide blankets for us.

Giving Tuesday November 28 (and year-end donations): Please remember our chapter on Giving Tuesday this year. We depend on financial donations to keep our chapter running smoothly and enable us to provide some blanket making supplies.

* As you know, **JoAnn Fabrics and Michael's gift cards are always a great way to support the work of our chapter.** Most chapters don't purchase supplies, they just share donated items. Without the large grants we used to get (eg when I was working at IBM or when Walmart was being more generous) we don't have funds to purchase yarn at this point. We hope we will be able to continue to buy fleece for skip-stitching but we will have to reassess next year. If your company (eg Google, Intel, PG&E and Apple in 2023) offers **matching grants**, please consider making a donation through them and we'll be able to make twice the impact with your help. **(Remember - when**

making donations through the Project Linus website or matching grants, BE SURE TO include our chapter name: South Bay / San Jose, CA chapter) to ensure it gets into our account.

* We are also **requesting new fundraising ideas**. Some blanketeers have made donations by purchasing supplies for the chapter directly from our suppliers at cost (eg AAUW bought fleece and some of our quilters bought batting). Saratoga Retirement Community makes afghans to sell and all proceeds go to our chapter. Samantha Schroeter gives a % of her proceeds from her crafting Etsy business to the chapter; we share yarns that we can't use with her, and she makes adorable soft items to sell. Memorial gift remembrances are welcome. I requested a grant from my church's Social Outreach committee and got one. Companies you do business with often give to charity - let them know about Project Linus and your involvement, and they may choose our chapter in their next giving cycle. These are just a few ideas - let us know what you recommend. Feel free to reach out to Barb or Sharon to discuss your suggestions. Thank you for all your support in so many ways!

Next up - our **Holiday Meeting and finger-food potluck on Tuesday December 12 at Noon**: To close out this year we will be having our annual holiday meeting at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church (15040 Union Ave. San Jose - our usual location for this meeting).

* We will meet in the parish hall, sharing some goodies, showing our last blankets of the year and wrapping up 2023 while looking forward to 2024. Please join us!

Next Make a Blanket Day - Saturday March 1, 2024 - Mark the date today!

Please remind your friends and family that **we accept donation of yarns of all types, kid-friendly fabrics (fleece, flannel and 100% cotton) as well as batting and we provide tax receipts upon request**. These donations make a big difference to our chapter, and to many blanketeers who cannot afford their own supplies, but have the time and talent to contribute. If you have any questions about Project Linus, our blankets requirements or blanket making, check out our website www.sjlinus.org. There's so much great information there. If you need more help, you can always contact me or Barb.

Thank you for another successful year of helping provide comfort to local children in crisis. Together we make huge difference in our community.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and happy blanketeering!

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