



First Quarter 2018

Perspectives by Patty:

I was honored to assume the role of Executive Director of the Project Linus organization the summer of 2016. With that role came many responsibilities, but most importantly came the opportunity to lead an amazing group of local chapter coordinators and volunteers.



Volunteering provides you the opportunity to help ensure children in your community and around the country receive handmade blankets, just like beloved Linus had, during illnesses, traumatic situations, etc. If you are not already a volunteer, I encourage to find your local chapter and check into opportunities. Don't sew? Don't have time? That's fine, too. Your local chapter and the national office can always use financial donations or in some cases donations of time to deliver and pick-up blankets and more. More info about donating follows in this newsletter or check with your local chapter.

Project Linus would not be successful without our local chapter coordinators, volunteers across the nation, local and national businesses that support us, our partner organizations that serve children in traumatic situations and ensure these children receive a Project Linus warm blanket hug, and many others. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the information about how some of these individuals, groups and businesses are an important part of Project Linus.

If you have a question or I can be of assistance, feel free to contact me at Patty@ProjectLinus.org or (309) 585-0686.

Patty Gregory

**Blankets donated since 1995:
6,789,789**

Local Chapter Highlights:

- In December, Project Linus of Phoenix, West Valley (Coordinator Eveline Buck) announced distributing over 40,000 blankets since March 2010.
- In October, the South Bay / San Jose, CA chapter (coordinator Sharon Lee) surpassed 80,000 blankets donated since its inception in April 2002. They celebrated with a cake at their Fall Make-A-Blanket Day.
- The McHenry County, IL chapter of Project Linus celebrated their 15th anniversary in November and hit the 20,000th blanket distributed mark.
- The Sacramento, CA Chapter (Coordinator Claire Gliddon) now has two 100+ year old blanketeers this year – still crocheting! (The “most senior” is 111!)



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Coordinator Corner:

Each Project Linus Chapter has a local coordinator. Contact info for local coordinators can be found at: <http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/> Local coordinators provide an array of services including blanket collection/distribution, local fundraising, volunteer recruitment and much more.

Jane Stephens is coordinator of the Dearborn/Wayne County, MI chapter. The chapter was formed in May 2003 by Cathy Hodyka and Jane started working with the chapter from the beginning. In 2007, Jane took over as the coordinator. The chapter has distributed 17,444 blankets through December 2017.



The chapter meets at *Sandy's Make It Sew* in Livonia, MI monthly where 15 – 20 volunteers check blankets, sew on labels and receive updates about Project Linus. Volunteers are a diverse group of retirees, individuals still working and a nursing student that crochets as a break from her studies. One volunteer joined the chapter after her grandchildren received Project Linus blankets. Jane's husband Greg is a quilter and also is a volunteer. At each meeting, one volunteer hosts an activity where they bring materials for volunteers to learn and make something new such as a quilt block pattern. The chapter has a number of men volunteers that help to sort and bag blankets and provide blanket deliveries and pick-ups. Another volunteer makes blanket kits so the fabric is ready to be made into blankets.

While Jane "gives" a lot of her time and talents to Project Linus, she says she receives so much more in return. This includes her volunteers that Jane describes as the "BESTEST Blanketeers ever". Jane's volunteers don't just make blankets, they also distribute them and perform a host of other duties. The people she meets bring Jane so much joy. Recently, the chapter delivered blankets to grandchildren that had lost their beloved "Poppa". As the children looked at the blankets, each told of ways the blankets reminded them of him – Halloween for his favorite holiday, Snoopy for his love of the sweet beagle and blue for his favorite color. One of Jane's favorite projects to which they donate blankets is a group that provides beds to children that do not have them – donations come in for beds, pillows, sheets, etc. and the Dearborn/Wayne County Project Linus chapter provides the blankets. The chapter provides blankets to a number of organizations that serve children in traumatic situations including homeless shelters, soup kitchens, orphanages, mental health facilities, and grief camps.

The chapter's main fund raiser is participation in an Alternative Christmas Fair. Volunteers make and sell a variety of items (bowl cozzees, potholders, bags, tooth fairy pillows, luggage tags, mug rugs, etc.) to sell with the profits benefiting Project Linus.

The mix of a good leader/chapter coordinator, wonderful volunteers, community and business support, and more, are what make a Project Linus chapter a success. The Dearborn/Wayne County chapter is definitely one of those successful chapters thanks to Jane Stephens and her wonderful volunteers.

JOANN's Partnership

Project Linus and Joann Stores have been partners for years. Volunteers are able to take advantage of the JOANN *in store* Volunteer discounts. Simply get a Project Linus Membership Card from your Coordinator then visit the web page to sign up: <http://www.joann.com/discountcardform/>

Now Volunteers can take advantage of bulk purchasing discounts from JOANN's for materials needed to make Project Linus blankets. First make an account with your email and a password (see below). You will see prices listed, these prices are the maximum you will be charged as the amount you order increases you will get a better price. If you have issues, there is a number on the site you can call for help. These prices are good on this site only and you have to buy in bulk to get the good prices.

Creating an Account: The first thing you will do is go to the site <http://plus.joann.com/> and click on set up an account. Click Organization, then I'm a consumer and continue. Type in your email address, it won't know your address the first time so click sign up. Click organization again and fill in your personal information, make sure you write down your password you chose so you don't forget. click continue, then fill in:

Business name: Project Linus

Business type: Nonprofit group

EIN: 84-1362696

website URL: www.projectlinus.org

Business revenue: \$100,000 -\$500,000

Employees:<10

You Do NOT qualify for tax exempt, don't check Email promotions (up to you on whether you select)

Check I have read the terms and conditions

Click create account, sign in and start shopping

Remember for these prices to be great you have to order in bulk and the first time or so you might want to look at the site, see what you think you might like, and then call them and have them walk you through the pricing. Also, please remember these discounts are for materials to make Project Linus blankets.

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements about the Project Linus and JOANN's partnership.

Serving the Children of Our Active Military and Veterans:

Project Linus is honored to serve the children of our soldiers and veterans through a number of initiatives. One of these initiatives is the **Tragedy Assistance Program** (TAPS – www.taps.org). This organization serves the children of soldiers that have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service of the United States. These children are invited to Washington DC each Memorial Day weekend to help them learn about “service to country” and why their loved ones volunteered to serve, engage with other children facing similar issues, and more. Project Linus chapters from around the country provide warm security blankets for these children. Blankets are often fleece patterns representing the branches of service, patriotic blankets and quilts, camouflage and other patterns as well as child friendly blankets with cartoon characters, sports themes, etc. Each child is provided the opportunity to select a blanket of their choosing. It’s just one way to help them know, their country appreciates the service of their loved ones and help them feel secure through a warm blanket hug. Contact your local chapter coordinator to learn specifics about blankets needed for this effort. Donations to local chapters are always appreciated to help funding the shipping of these blankets to Washington, DC each year.

Future *Blanket Beacon* editions will feature other ways Project Linus serves these children of our fallen heroes.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Project Linus every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The easiest way to shop at AMAZON SMILE and make sure that your purchase benefits Project Linus is to click through the link on our [home page at projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org). Or, you can simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.



www.projectlinus.org/store/

The Project Linus store offers a good variety of items including some with the Project Linus logo. These include totes, t-shirts, lapel pins, cookbooks, fabric, Christmas ornaments, pens, notepads, and much more. Be sure to visit the online store to select items to show your support of Project Linus.



Project Linus National Board Member Profile:



Peggy Kane has served on the Project Linus National Board for over 8 years. She brings great expertise to the board particularly in regard to contract reviews/negotiations and marketing. For example, she reviews the all-important contract for use of the “Linus” logo and for the partnership with JOANN’s.

Peggy served as the local coordinator of the Chester and Delaware County chapter for over 18 years and delivered just under 30,000 blankets. She recently turned the reigns over to a new coordinator but will continue her active involvement on the national Project Linus board.

Besides making Project Linus blankets, Peggy enjoys other sewing and quilting projects, photography and is travelling the world with a recent trip to Africa and has plans for Patagonia and New Zealand over the next year. In January 2015, Peggy retired from General Learning Communications in Chicago where she was Vice President of Business Development – Healthcare. Peggy lives in Glenmoore, PA. Glenmoore is 15 miles west of King of Prussia – the location of the Project Linus national conference a few years ago.

Peggy has served as a great asset to both her local chapter and the Project Linus national board and staff. We look forward to her continued involvement with Project Linus.

Project Linus Links and More:

You Tube is a great site website. Go to it and search Project Linus. It's amazing what you will find. The national video and song detailed below, lots of videos on making PL crocheted edge and other blankets, etc. Take a few minutes to explore it - you will find some great information.

Project Linus Blanket Deliveries: Project Linus Coordinators and Volunteers make blanket deliveries to the agencies and organizations that provide blankets to children in traumatic situations. This video is a great example of how these deliveries take place across the nation every week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxD2YyzUqEk>

Project Linus Smiles Video: This video is a clear example of all the smiles Project Linus brings to volunteers and the children we serve. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KX6f1laDpRw>

The Project Linus Theme Song is *Covered in Love*: You can hear it on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUAW2bSjSvq>

Project Linus Website: www.ProjectLinus.org

Project Linus Facebook – We'd love to have you "join us": <https://www.facebook.com/projectlinus/>

Local Chapter News continued:

- Florida's West Central Coast (Coordinator Judy Fielding) has distributed 34,000 blankets since 2005.
- In December, Project Linus of East Tennessee (Coordinator Deb Miller) celebrated distributing their 30,000th blanket since their inception in April 2003.
- The Greater Twin Cities Area chapter (Coordinator Gail Baev) reached 2 milestones: In May 2017, they donated their 50,000th blanket, and in Dec. 2017, they celebrated the distribution of more than 55,000 blankets since they started in 2006!
- The Chapter serving Collin, Grayson & Rockwall Counties in TX (Coordinator Regina Forthman) as donated 68,000 blankets since their beginning in November 2004.
- The Portland, OR/Vancouver Chapter has reached 50,000th blanket since we started as a Chapter in 2001.
- In summer 2017, Project Linus of Hudson/Bergen Counties (Northern New Jersey) (Coordinator Leslie Maltz) participated in a blanket making event sponsored by the NJ chapter of HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth leadership organization). The one day event produced 300 fleece blankets.
- Project Linus, Montgomery/ Bucks Counties, PA Chapter (Coordinator Jackie Cain) was started in February 2002 and as of end of December 2017, has distributed 50,051 blankets. Lots of blankets, lots of labels, Lots of Love and Blanket Hugs!
- In December 2017, Project Linus of Hudson/Bergen Counties (Northern New Jersey) (Coordinator Leslie Maltz) celebrated distribution of their 40,000th blanket since its inception in 2001.
- The Hilo Hawai'i Chapter, on the Big Island of Hawai'i, (Coordinator Kathleen Stacey) is celebrating 20 yrs. of blanketeering in 2018!
- In December, the Solano County CA Chapter (Coordinator Laura Proctor) donated their 16,000th blanket since January 2009.
- Project Linus Springfield/Branson, MO is celebrated their 10th anniversary on Feb. 17, 2018 at The Child Advocacy Center in Springfield. Not only did they celebrate 10 years but celebrated 26,771 total blankets donated. The chapter started with 2 people, and now have close to 75 volunteers. They have been blessed to have help from college sororities/fraternities, church groups, social groups and people from every walk of life and all ages.



What is a Mary-Thon?

A Mary-thon is a way to “get moving”, “improve your health” and SUPPORT PROJECT LINUS all at the same time. There are currently two Mary-thon Events in which you can participate:

Ready for a Chocolate Challenge?

Registration is now open for the Pick and Choose Chocolate Challenge and we would love to have you join us. February is known for “Picking and Choosing” our favorite chocolates and as yummy as that sounds, wouldn’t it be nice if we didn’t have to worry about the downside to eating those delightful treats? Well, we have the answer, and the benefits for our chocolate challengers AND Project Linus are well worth the \$19 registration fee. The challenge begins February 26, 2018 and goes through March 26, 2018 which means you have 30 days to complete the challenge. Here are the details:

1. Go to www.mary-thon.net and click on the “Challenges” Tab.
 2. Register for the Pick and Choose Chocolate Challenge
 3. You will receive an email each day, beginning February 26 for 26 days.
 4. The email will give you two choices and you will pick and choose your challenge for the day. You can pick the exercise demonstrated by our personal trainer Hannah or you can choose to walk, run, swim, elliptical, roller skate, ski, bike, etc. 1 mile (or more) that day. It’s your choice but if you choose the mile, you may only count 1 mile per day toward your Challenge.
 5. Remember: You have 30 days to get in 26 days of exercise.
 6. When you finish your 26 days and report in, you will receive a beautiful finishers medal, button and a chocolate!
 7. Project Linus receives \$6 for every registration and you can specify which chapter receives your \$6.
 8. AND...the coordinator of the chapter with the most registrations will receive a delightful fabric treat!
- We have had 2 challenges so far (our Summer Challenge and our Mary Mile Challenge) and they have been very successful! We hope you’ll consider joining us for some fitness fun and help Project Linus in the process!



Mary-thon Corral #2

Are you thinking about Spring and Summer and feeling the need to move a bit more? We may have your answer! Corral #2 of the Moving Forward Mary-thon begins April 2, 2018 and we would love to have you join us. If you’re not familiar with a Mary-thon – there’s no running required. You make a 26 week commitment to move and have 30 weeks to complete those 26 weeks. The daily exercises are your choice and the health benefits naturally follow. You decide whether you want to exercise 3 days per week for 30 minutes per day (Half Mary-thon) or 5 days per week for 30 minutes per day (Full Mary-thon). As your Mary-thon team, we will cheer you on, applaud you, send you weekly motivational emails, health tips and workout ideas and when you cross your finish line you will receive a beautiful Mary-thon Finishers medal and gym bag. In addition, Project Linus receives a portion of the registration fees (the amount depends on the number of participants).



If you’re interested in registering or would just like a little more information, go to www.mary-thon.net and click on “Registration”.

Donations: To support Project Linus (nationally or a local chapter) with a donation, simply go to our website (<http://www.projectlinus.org/donations/>). You can designate a local chapter if you want your funds to be directed locally. At the bottom of the home page, you will see opportunities to support Project Linus through the use of Amazon Smile and other organizations.

Corporate Connections:

Project Linus, on both the national and local level, is blessed to be supported by many businesses and national corporations. If your business or organization is looking for ways to support a worthwhile children's charity, we encourage you to consider Project Linus and contact Patty Gregory at our national office (Patty@ProjectLinus.org or (309) 585-0686) or a local coordinator (<http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>). A few of these businesses include:

- Missouri Sewing Machine Company supports both the local chapter and national efforts of Project Linus. This includes providing drop off locations, providing machines for prizes, highlighting Project Linus on their website (<https://mosew.com/>) and promoting the Project Linus Mystery Challenge event.
- Pat Catan's in Ohio has set up blanket making days on National Make A Blanket Day at each store including providing fleece for making blankets. They will also pay to ship blankets if there is not a chapter in their area. <http://www.patcatans.com/>
- In Kingston, TN, Worldwide Interactive Network, provides a storage facility for the local East Tennessee Chapter as well as other fundraising support.
- Many chapters receive press from local and regional papers such as this article from the Daily Democrat in Sacramento, CA. <http://www.dailydemocrat.com/general-news/20180212/project-linus-contest-features-woodland-quilter>
- Churches and other faith-based organizations across the country support Project Linus such as the Faith Family Church in Nevada, TX and Oakdale Wesleyan Church in St. Paul, MN.
- Harper Fabrics in Overland Park, KS has been a blanket drop off location for years and holds a monthly blanket making event.

Priority Solutions (headquartered in New Jersey and a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific) employees make blankets for Project Linus annually. These are Memphis, TN, employees displaying their blankets.



Many companies hold "volunteer days" to help their employees obtain more info about ways to volunteer in their communities. This includes Scripps Howard in Knoxville, TN where 3 Project Linus volunteers staffed a table to share info with employees.

- Many local and regional fabric/craft stores support Project Linus such as the Michael's in the Westchester-Rockland, NY area and the Sew and Quilt Stores in Killeen, Temple and Waco, TX. They host weekly meetings, donate supplies and support the chapters in many other ways.
- Chapters across the country work with businesses to conduct in-house blanket making events. In 2017, the Fairfax County, VA, chapter partnered with Volkswagen in Herndon, Ritz Carlton in McClean and Booz Allen Hamilton in Mclean and the Logix Federal Credit Union in Santa Clara, CA, held a community day event benefiting Project Linus.
- JOANN's is a Project Linus national corporate partner. That partnership continues to grow. See details in this newsletter and watch for more exciting announcements soon. Also, local JOANN stores provide support such as 3 of the Sacramento, CA stores allow Project Linus to hand out brochures on National Make-A-Blanket Day.



Stony Brook Sew & Vac in Bordertown, NJ allows PL to use their classroom on a monthly basis to hold Blanket Fun Days.



In Birmingham, MI, The UPS Store donated shipping to allow the Oakland Chapter to send blankets to support Hurricane Harvey

New Chapter Coordinators and New Chapters:

Welcome to our New Chapter Coordinators and a Big Thank You to those turning their chapters over to these new leaders:

Carol Perret Orange Co. CA, Carol Perret, from Patty Krause
Sheila Speekin, York and Cumberland Co. ME, from Melodie Provost
Alisha Hall, Carroll Co. VA, from Sarah Melton
Theresa Short, Parker and Lapaz, AZ, from Margie Ward
Annabelle Hammer, Fairfax Co., VA, from Karen Walters
Chris Spilker, West Central Coast FL, from Judy Fielding
Melanie Gulish, Chester/Delaware Co. PA from Peggy Kane
Mary Lou Andersen, Lincoln, Lancaster Co. NE, from Jamalee Humphrey
Lisa Kepf, Central KY from Maryann Overturf
Laura Gerber, Henry and Rock Island Co. IL, from Doris Conrad
Janet Walter, Boise/SW Idaho, from Donna Aten
Karen Marcus, Northern Utah, from Jill Johnson
Beth Emrich, Durango, Co., from Regina Hogan
Marsha Drescher, Louisville KY, Shelia Meredith

Welcome to our New Chapters and their Coordinators:

Barbara Hoyt, Garden City, KS
Traci Cawman, Comanche County, OK
Suzanne Smacker, Broome and Tioga Counties, NY
Emma Lutton, Washington DC
Sandra Grant, Riverside County, CA
Barbara Conway Owen, North West MO
Dotty Raleigh and Frederick County, MD
Margaret Fredericks, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, NY
Janet Raper, Halifax County, VA
Sandra Craven, Augusta, Rockingham, Rockbridge Counties, VA
Cheryl Roberts, Hartford County, CT

You can find contact info for these and all Project Linus chapters at:

<http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>

2017 Hurricane Harvey Relief: 6,608 blankets were sent by local chapters to Missouri Star Quilt Company plus 2,396 blankets were donated through local channels for a total of 9,004 blankets sent for Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts.

Pictured: Project Linus Central IL (Mary and Terry Balagna) delivered 600 blankets to Missouri Star Quilt Company. This picture was taken in the Missouri Star Quilt Co. warehouse where blankets were received and stored before being shipped to Texas.



Serving Children Impacted by Weather and Other Disasters:

Often times, local chapters can serve the needs of children impacted by weather and other disasters. In some cases, they can reach out to nearby chapters to help them meet the need and ensure children impacted by these disasters receive a warm hug through the gift of a Project Linus blanket. This was the case in recent disasters where children in Florida were impacted by hurricanes and children in Las Vegas were impacted by the shootings.

Other times, local chapters and volunteers across the country come together to meet the need for warm blanket hugs of larger numbers of children impacted by disasters.

This was the case when Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coastline. Many chapters sent blankets through local church and other social service organizations to Texas. Additionally, through local chapters and the generous support of Missouri Star Quilt Company, blankets were sent to Texas for these children. Missouri Star provided warehouse space for the blankets to be shipped and stored and then provided transportation for getting the blankets to Texas. Local volunteers helped to sort and package the blankets to ensure they were delivered to the appropriate agencies, organizations and churches serving these children.

As this newsletter is being finalized, Project Linus Chapters across the country are sending blankets in response to the school shooting at Marshall County High School in Kentucky. The need there is being met with over 1,300 blankets.

Linus Love Notes:

Linus Love Notes can be found on YouTube. These are thank-you notes that are in a short video. These notes are updated regularly and you can “subscribe” so you will receive an alert when they are updated. Through these notes, it’s easy to see the real impact a Project Linus blanket has on a child and the family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-ywG-rtBUA> In addition the national office and local chapters receive “Thank You Notes” on a regular basis. While none of us expect to be “thanked” for the opportunity to ensure children in traumatic situations receive a warm Linus blanket hug. However, the notes do demonstrate the value of the blankets and the impact they have.

“My 3 year old son who attends St. Rose Preschool in Santa Rosa received a lovely blanket from the Linus Project and we can't thank your organization enough! We lost our home and his school in the wildfires. So great to know there are such wonderful organizations. The blanket means a lot to us. Thank you.”

“My son would like to thank you for the quilt he got when he had to get stitches last night. He held it all night long.”

“My daughter was recently admitted to the hospital for 3 days due to diagnosis of type 1 diabetes. She was very sick at that time. No blankets or clothes were brought as it was an unexpected hospitalization. Her face lit up when she received a flaming tie blanket. 4 months later it is still near and dear to her heart and she sleeps with it every night. It gave her such comfort that day she received it. Thank you!”

“Hello. I received one of your blankets from the hospital. I got it when I had a rape kit done shortly after a rape... I haven't slept without it since. It makes me feel... Protected and strong. It reminds me of how far I have come in life and how something small can help anyone. Truth be told I fear the day that my blanket will be unusable.... I don't go anywhere without it and I refuse to sleep unless I have it. According to my family I have slept much better at night and seem at ease when I have it with me. The blanket and the project is an amazing thing.”

“Just wanted to send you guys a message of thanks! I received a Project Linus blanket two years ago...I never felt more like a lost child then the morning by mom suddenly passed away. The responders brought me that blanket and I clung to it for weeks. It took me a while to even discover the tag and your organization. I definitely plan on donating soon! I felt I needed to share with you just what a difference that small blanket was for me. You're a fantastic organization and I wish you all the best!”

“Hello- I am a mom of a heart warrior who recently lost his battle with CHD. My friends have all rallied together to make baby blankets in his honor. They remember me telling them about how I received a blanket from Project Linus during my son's first hospitalization and how much the blanket meant to us...Thank you.”

“I have a Project Linus blanket from when my sons were in the NICU at University of TN hospital. We thought it was a beautiful quilt and started crying crocodile tears when the nurses told us we could take it home. We loved that some cared enough about our children before they were even born to make a quilt. Now 4.5 years later, my boys are wild little men. I have also started quilting and I hope to be able to donate some quilts to help someone else thru those rough times.”

If you have not signed up to receive the *Blanket Beacon*, please go to www.projectlinus.org . Scroll to the lower left corner of the home page for information on how to sign up for the *Blanket Beacon*.

Blanket Beacon editor: Deb Miller, Project Linus of East TN Chapter Coordinator

Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org