



Fourth Quarter 2018

Perspectives by Patty:

I'm always impressed and energized when I visit Project Linus chapters around the country. I just visited the Sacramento, Placer and Eldorado county area. I was able to visit with many local volunteers and 5 coordinators from surrounding areas. Thank you so much for meeting with me.

Chapters, volunteers and quilters around the country have also been busy making the PL Mystery Quilt – we can't wait to see the final quilts! Thanks to Mary Balagna for designing the quilt and facilitating this fun and educational fundraiser for PL.

As we approach the holidays, please remember to use www.smileamazon.com when shopping online with Amazon and to designate the Linus Project. They will be increasing the amount we receive to 10% during the holiday shopping season.

Project Linus now has an Instagram account, you can find us at [projectlinushq](https://www.instagram.com/projectlinushq).

Patty Gregory

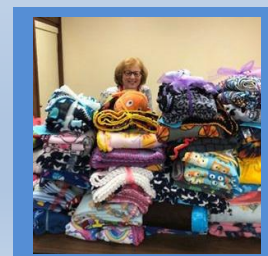
Blankets donated since 1995:
7,241,450

Local Chapter Highlights:

Hudson/Bergen (Northern NJ) Chapter (Coordinator Leslie Maltz): Their oldest blanketeer turned 100 years old in September. They celebrated with birthday cake and presented Annie with a crown since she is a special lady. Annie is still active and making blankets for the chapter.



Solano County, CA Chapter (Coordinator Laura Procter): The chapter just turned 10 years old and has donated 18,831 blankets.



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Coordinator Corner: Sharon Lee, South Bay/San Jose Chapter

Sharon has been South Bay / San Jose, CA chapter coordinator since 2009. Prior to that she was an active volunteer. The chapter has provided over 87,000 blankets to children in traumatic situations since they started in 2002 and over 60,000 blankets since Sharon became coordinator in 2009.



Besides Sharon, the chapter has hundreds of wonderful volunteers, an unofficial assistant chapter coordinator Barbara Ross as well as their meeting and bagging day host Mary Kelly (her home is their meeting place). Sharon's husband, Bill, also supports the chapter in many ways. Sharon's brother helps to deliver blankets, her mother teaches skip-stitch blanketeering at her retirement community and Sharon's daughter has opened her home up to be a blanket drop off location. It's truly a family affair!

Geographically, the chapter serves Santa Clara County (including Silicon Valley) which blesses them with many companies that are willing to do matching grants for employees that volunteer, hosts on site Make-a-Blanket Days, and more. This support continues to grow. The chapter also receives lots of blankets from the local school systems as students, some as young as elementary age, are required to do community service hours as a part of their education. Project Linus is a very popular project as blanketeering time can be very flexible around the students' busy schedules.

The chapter provides blankets to local hospitals, school health clinics, foster care groups, Ronald McDonald House, Camp Corral, the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPs), and more. Some of their newer recipients include Project Sanctuary - a unique non-profit that supports families of returning military personnel by holding family retreats and the Migrant Education Program. They also meet special requests for blankets in response to national disasters such as wild fires, hurricanes and mass shootings whenever they can.

The chapter meets monthly where they conduct show-and-tells to share blanket ideas, conduct blanket challenges to encourage volunteers to make blankets, label & tag, visit, and have a good time! The chapter holds 2 large Make-a-Blanket Days annually and members Sandy Crane and Marilyn Nickel each host a monthly "Sew Day", open to all.

Sharon is always looking for new ways to spread the news about Project Linus. In addition to their web site and Facebook page, the chapter frequently presents Project Linus to philanthropic organizations such as Lions and PEO, and at corporate service events. They also host a booth at Bark in the Park (where they sell doggy pulls toys made from fleece selvage as a fundraiser).

The chapter is aligned with other local organizations which can use fabric and yarn donations that Project Linus cannot. Nothing goes to waste.

With all of these great activities, active volunteers, and Sharon's leadership, the chapter truly meets the Project Linus mission by providing blankets to children in traumatic situations and providing volunteer opportunities in the community.



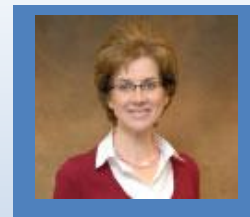
Registration is STILL OPEN for the 2018 Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge: "Sweet Violet's Bakery and Confectionery"!!! For those who would like to register, go to www.projectlinus.org/contest

NOTE: Once registered, webmaster Chad will email the login credentials within two days of registering. When participants receive their credentials they can go to the Mystery Quilt Clues Page (link is in their receipt) and download the pattern and videos. Don't forget to put YOUR CHAPTER NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE on the registration in order for the chapter to receive the entire \$15 donation. For updates, please go to our Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/848183768557929/>

Update: Our volunteers and supporters asked for it and It Is Coming! February 2019 there will be a *Knit and Crochet Along* immediately following National Make-a-Blanket Day. Stay tuned!

Project Linus National Board Member Profile: Jane Lawrence

Jane heard about Project Linus when her children were very small and she knew she somehow wanted to be involved. At the time Jane was not very familiar with a sewing machine and she didn't know how she could be of help to this organization. As her younger children entered school, she found the time to take on the national Treasurer responsibilities. Now Jane delivers blankets for her local chapter and continues to serve on the national board. Jane works as a CNA in the hospital Mother/Baby unit and gets to see the importance of Project Linus blankets. According to Jane, "I continue to love the Project Linus mission and see first-hand how much parents appreciate the blankets that are on the isolets when they go in to see the baby, often for the first time. It helps make what can seem like a cold environment feel warm and more inviting. Also, some of the most giving warm people I have met, have been at Project Linus events (other volunteers)." Jane has also been bitten by the quilting bug, learning enough to make a quilt for her daughter that is now in college. Jane attended Brigham Young University and has worked in the banking industry as well as with one of the country's leading professional outplacement services. She spent several years as a full-time mom, has had several leadership positions in her church, and spent time volunteering for her children's schools. Jane is currently working on her bachelors degree in Health Administration. She and her husband have four children – one graduated college, two in college and one in high school.



Project Linus Coordinators donate 100's of hours annually plus many donate space, miles on their vehicles, and much more. We asked some recently why they do it?

Sharon Thornton Garver (Santa Clarita Valley / Antelope Valley / Sylmar, Los Angeles, CA Chapter): I get interviewed a lot for Project Linus and the biggest question I get is some version of the question "why do you do it?" It's not a negative question, but typically one of confusion that I feel compelled to clarify. Why spend so much time and energy doing all this? I get that to most people it looks like I'm just making a blanket, that it's not a big deal. I'm not curing a disease or solving crimes. But I was not put here to do that. I was put on this Earth to spread love and hope because I know that when I have a really crappy day, or when I am in a world of pain, the only thing I want to do is crawl in bed or wrap up in a blanket and shut the world out. I want the warmth of that fabric to form around me like a hug. I want the softness to bring me comfort. A blanket doesn't judge, let you down, or hurt you. It comforts you. A blanket made by a stranger that says, "Hey, I get it and you are not alone," is unbelievably powerful because it is the promise that humanity has compassion and love rather than coldness... and I want to be the catalyst that connects the anonymous creator of that blanket of hope with the child that desperately needs his faith in humanity and hope restored. So yeah, maybe it is just a blanket, but it is my powerful contribution and as a mom who once held her extremely sick child in her arms, one that was fighting for his life with every breath, that blanket was the one beacon of hope that someone, who was not part of our family, cared. So for a child that faces abuse, massive medical pain, or any kind of trauma, I will make a blanket for you late into the night. I will be the person who will lead a community event of almost 400 people for 15 hours to bring you hundreds of blankets if you need them. I will try to bring you any anonymous comfort I can for as long as I can, simply because I can.

Deb Miller (East Tennessee Chapter): When I was young, my Dad was sick most of the time. When I was nine years old, he passed away from leukemia. I was an only child, was very lonely, and missed him terribly. My life changed a lot over those next few years. During that time, my grandmother made me blankets. They became my security – I had one to match newly decorated bedrooms, in favorite colors, in school colors and, as I grew older, to match the interior of my car. These blankets were my sense of security. They got me through these rough and changing times. Grandma also taught me to crochet and that has become a lifelong passion. When I learned about Project Linus, I knew I had to help – first as a volunteer and now as a chapter coordinator. There are so many children out there facing health, family and other traumatic challenges – a warm blanket hug is just one way I can help!

Local Chapter News continued:

For the last three years, the **Greater Kansas City (MO) Area Project Linus** chapter has made and donated hundreds of weighted blankets to Children's Mercy. These blankets are distributed to several hospital departments (Developmental Medicine, Occupational Therapy, and the Beacon Clinic) for further distribution to children with sensory needs. Weighted blankets are often recommended by occupational therapists and psychologists to help children with sensory processing disorders, ADHD, and autism. The deep pressure given by weighted blankets can help calm sensory overload, anxiety, and aid in sleep. The donated weighted blankets are a blessing to families, because they can cost over \$100. Many families simply could not afford to purchase one for their child. Click on the link below to read an article titled, "Do weighted



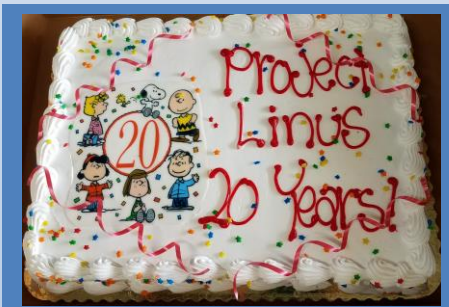
blankets work for anxiety?"

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/317037.php>

Please note not all chapters provide weighted blankets and they must be requested by a medical professional. Please check with your local coordinator for details in your area. Mary Cox of Project Linus (left), shown with Robin Jordan, BSN, CPN, Developmental and Behavioral Sciences, recently delivered two wagon loads of weighted blankets donated to Children's Mercy.



Hilo (Big Island) Hawai'i Chapter (Kathleen Stacey Coordinator): The chapter is 20 years old in 2018! Started in 1998 by Nicole Bautista as a high school senior project, it was carried on by Nicole's two younger sisters then taken over by their mom, Lynne. Lynne made the chapter into the powerhouse it is today. Kathleen took over as Chapter Coordinator a few years ago, and the chapter is looking forward to many more years of providing security blankets to Hawai'i's keiki. For all these 20 years, Bill Miller and the staff at Discount Fabric Warehouse have been great partners and the chapter's greatest supporters. With their help, the chapter has given out over 6000 blankets to sites such as Child Welfare Services of East Hawai'i, Hospice of Hilo, the Lions Club, and hospitals in Hilo and Kona. According to Kathleen Stacey, "Our blanketeers are the best, and we loved celebrating with a delicious cake on Saturday, October 27, 2018. It was our annual Blanket Drive day, and we got lots of lovely blankets donated, too!"

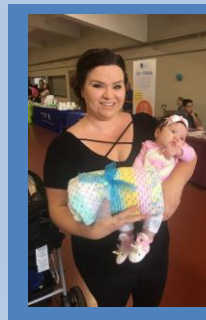


Yolo County, CA Chapter (Diane McGee Coordinator): The chapter is celebrating their 10th anniversary as being part of Project Linus. It all began in September 2008, when the chapter started as part of the Sacramento Chapter. On September 1st, 2010, Project Linus of Yolo County was born. Since its inception, the Yolo County group has donated over 12,000 blankets to over 30 groups in Yolo County alone. The chapter has also sent blankets to children of national disasters. A big THANK YOU to all the chapter *BLANKETEERS*.

The Yolo County Chapter participates in a Community Baby Shower each year. The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency co-hosted, along with the Yolo County Children's Alliance, [Step by Step Program](#), the 3rd Annual Community Baby Shower Event on September 29th. The Event which show cases services available to families that are pregnant or have children. It has been widely attended in the last two years. The goal is to be able to provide a blanket to every pregnant mom that comes to the Event. Coordinator Diane McGee says, "I LOVE being able to hand them (blankets) out and I always tell our families where they came from and show them the special Project Linus label sewn into each blanket!" See Thank You note on page 9.



Kathleen Stacey, Chapter Coordinator, cuts the cake while Bill Miller of Discount Fabric Warehouse looks on



Orange County, NY & Pike County, PA Chapter (Julia Sullivan, Chapter Coordinator): On Saturday, November 3, the chapter, through the help of volunteers who help deliver blankets to the 4 hospitals in the county, delivered the 41,000th blanket since the first delivery on March 28, 2001!

Tragedy Assistance Program (www.taps.org) (TAPS)



The TAPS program provides an opportunity for children that have lost a loved one serving our country to come together to learn about why their loved one gave

their life in service to our country. They are able to bond with other children that share the same tragedy they have, tour memorials in Washington, D.C., and more. Project Linus chapters around the country donate blankets for the children to have as a part of their healing process and to feel a warm "Linus Hug" as they face moving forward without their loved one. The event is held each year over Memorial Day weekend in Washington D.C./Arlington, VA. Project Linus volunteers assist at the event. The blanket collection and distribution are facilitated by Annabelle Hammer, PL Coordinator in Fairfax County, Northern Virginia.

Helping Our Military Families: Chapters throughout the country find ways to support military families such as the Temple/Killeen, TX chapter (Coordinator Sandra Rowell) provides blankets to children in the hospital at Ft. Hood. The Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties, NC Chapter (Coordinator Mary Ireland) provides blankets to "Patriots at the Beach". It is a 3-day event for families of troops returning or getting ready to leave for deployment. It is held over the Memorial Day Weekend at Myrtle Beach. The chapter donates 200 blankets. They have a big sponsor following including businesses and hotels. They do a movie night for the kids on Saturday night - as the parents check them in - (they are in their pj's and have their pillows and they choose their blanket). The children are so excited when they are told - "this is your blanket and you can keep it" - what a joy!

Helping our Men and Women in Blue: The Lee County and Southeastern AL Chapter is honored to be able to partner with the Enterprise Police Dept. to provide blankets to the officers to give to children in need. Chapter Coordinator, Deborah Fillmer, said, "We are over the moon about this partnership with the Police Department and so proud of Sue's work in that area on the behalf of Project Linus." Sue Lancaster is the assistant Coordinator and pictured (left) with the officers.



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:

RePower Yolo donated \$500 to the Yolo County, CA chapter along with this nice note: Enclosed is a \$500 gift to Project Linus of Yolo County, donated at the request of an anonymous Repower Yolo homeowner. When homeowners in Yolo county go solar, we ask them to identify their favorite local nonprofit organization ... we hope this is the first of several gifts to Project Linus. Repower Yolo is a community group purchase program that reduces the cost and simplifies the process of going solar for homeowners. In 2016 we launched "YoloShines," a fundraising program for local nonprofit organizations (please go to www.Repoweryolo.com/community to learn more). Thank You for all you do to enrich our community.

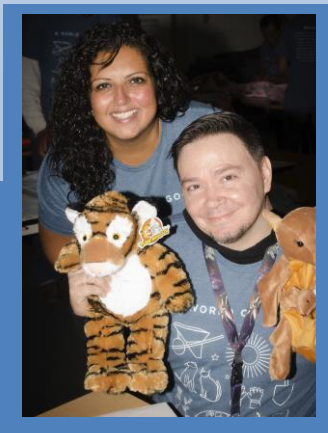
Best Regards, Chris Soderquist & John Walter, Directors



Annabelle Hammer the Coordinator of the Project Linus Fairfax County Chapter in Northern Virginia is pleased to announce a new corporate partner: Discovery

Communications of Sterling, Virginia! Discovery is a part of the Discovery Channel. In late September, they had a community service day called Impact Discovery and they picked Project Linus as their charity to support. They made 15 fleece blankets and 30 stuffed animals. The company paid for everything! The Ronald McDonald House of DC was the recipient of these adorable items.

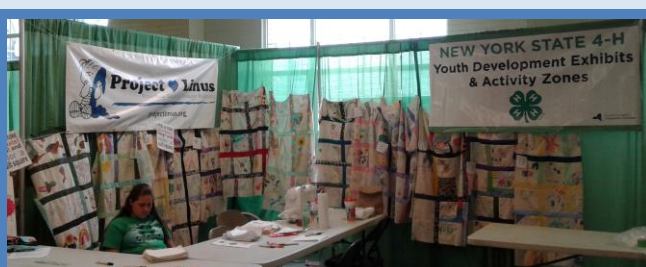
Thank you, Discovery!



Youth Helping Youth

The **Onondaga/Oswego/Jefferson/Cortland NY Chapter** (Karen Lathrop Coordinator) had a booth at the state fair in the 4H building. It was provided free to charge. The State Fair runs for 13 days. For 12 of those 13 days Blanketeers manned the booth helping kids color muslin squares that were sewn into blankets. Some of the blanketeers sewed the squares into blankets as the day progressed, and kids stopped back to check on the progress of the blankets and were extremely excited to see their art work already in a blanket. The chapter prepared over 1,200 squares for coloring and used just over 600. They were able to complete 14 blanket tops at the Fair itself, and another 5 after the fair. Volunteers met many local kids who had received a blanket at the local hospital and were excited to pay it forward. People from other chapters stopped by (Orange Co NY Chapter, a couple of Texas Chapters and the Chicago Chapter) and all had great things to say and thanked the chapter volunteers for their efforts. They showed a lot of 4H groups, school groups, and Girl Scout groups alternatives to making fleece tie blankets with the "Coloring Square Blankets", and they had so many requests for instructions they have added a page of instructions to the website.

<http://kiquilts564.wixsite.com/projectlinusonondaga> Chapter Coordinator Karen Lathrop said, "It was a great experience and if given the chance we will be doing it again."



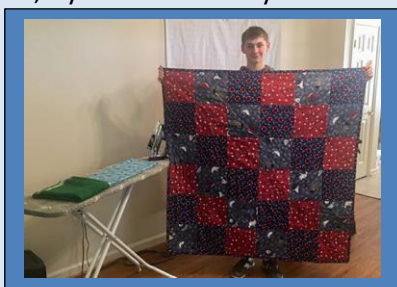
Every November, **Coordinator Annabell Hammer from the Fairfax County chapter in northern Virginia**, goes to Centreville High School "Wildcats vs. Cancer" club to help them make blankets for Project Linus. The club also helps with the chapter's September Make-a-Blanket Day. The club was founded by a young woman named Valerie, whose sister passed away from bone cancer at the age of 14.

Valerie has since graduated and gone on to college, but other young ladies are keeping the club active. They also conduct fundraisers for local hospitals treating pediatric cancer.



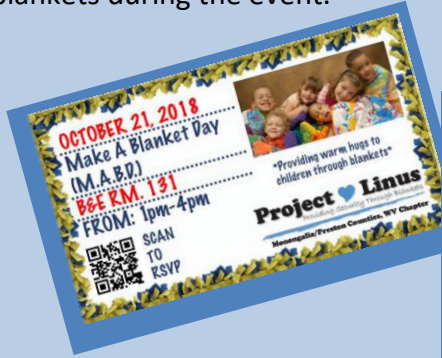
Annabell Hammer also wrote us about a unique young quilter in her chapter: "Dylan R., a high school student, made 3 quilts for our chapter as part of his community service. There are not many male quilters, so I think Dylan is just awesome for sharing his talent with Project Linus.

Thank you very much, Dylan! And thank you to his mom, Jennifer, for helping too by delivering the quilts to assistant coordinator, Ginny M."



Youth Helping Youth continued

Monongalia/Preston Counties, WV chapter (Coordinator Carole Kiger): Students in the freshman Introduction to Business course at West Virginia University partnered with the chapter to organize, market and hold a blanket day for their service learning project. There were 43 attendees including college students, National Honor Society members from Morgantown High School, and children as young as five. The group watched “Happiness is a Warm Blanket Charlie Brown” and made 151 blankets during the event.



Why do Coordinators donate so much time and effort to Project Linus? (continued)

Chris Spilker, West Central Coast of Florida Chapter: “I love being a Project Linus coordinator. On September 15th, 2017, my family was devastated by the sudden death of my husband at the young age of 67. We were all in shock and after 43 years, I was widowed. I had retired as an elementary school reading specialist in December 2016 and was looking forward to the next chapter in our lives. As life throws us curve-balls, it also opens doors. Perusing Facebook about a month after my husband died, I saw a post from a high school friend showing some photos of her chapter's blanket day. Being a sewer since the age of 12 and also looking for a way to "give back", I was intrigued. So, I contacted her to find out what this Project Linus was all about. When she told me what it was, BINGO, it was a win-win as I love children and I love to sew. I then contacted the coordinator in my area only to discover that after 12 years, she was looking for her replacement. The rest is history. I have met so many wonderful people and that hole in my heart is now filled, thanks to Project Linus.”

Annabelle Hammer, Fairfax County VA Chapter: Well, all I can say: “No one else wanted to do it! Under the previous chapter coordinator, who resigned around Christmas 2017/New Year 2018, there were 3 of us assistant coordinators. The other two said they would support me, if I took the job, especially as my husband had bought an RV and we planned to spend a lot of time traveling. Fortunately, as it turned out, most of the time we had cell coverage on the road and I could keep up with the emails while traveling. During this previous summer, the two ladies, Denise and Ginny, did a tremendous job during the 6 weeks my husband and I were rolling around the country, mostly around the Southwest. They did the heavy lifting of collecting, labeling, and distributing the blankets during that time. Previous to my becoming heavily involved with Project Linus, I had been a blanketeer off and on while my kids were growing up. (They are now 26 and 24.) I had a 31-year career as a CIA analyst and manager in the Washington DC area. When I retired in summer of 2016, I started making more quilts for the Fairfax County chapter. Then I became the chapter's longarm quilter, next an assistant coordinator, and finally the actual chapter coordinator. I never had such a fast promotion in my previous career!! So although Project Linus is a very different job than my previous one, as it turned out, all those management and leadership courses I took during my career are paying off as I try to keep the chapter organized, funded and visible in the community. Thank you, Uncle Sam!”

Thank You Notes and Emails:

Thank you to the Yolo County Chapter of the Linus Project for providing blankets that were given to approximately 30 families at our 3rd Annual Yolo County Collaborative Community Baby Shower. Every pregnant mother or family with an infant received a beautiful new blanket and a handout to educate them about "Tummy Time", a time to place their infant on their tummy while awake and while being watched by a caregiver. Many times, new parents have not heard about the importance of "Tummy Time" as a way to begin helping their baby to grow and develop appropriately. By having a blanket to provide to these families, our program was able to help them learn about this important activity. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible. Together we can help the babies in our community grow into healthy children, and it all starts with a blanket!

Diane Sherwin, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency

Nurse Home Visiting Program

See article on page 4

Dear Project Linus,

I wanted to send a HUGE THANK YOU to you all for what you do. My 5 yr old went into the ER in Truckee with a split chin after a fall. It was a traumatic experience for her and when the nurse came in with a blanket it put a huge smile on her face. She got one with butterflies on it - which was one of the things her grandma loved. THANK YOU!!!!!!

Good Afternoon,

I am a mom of a NICU graduate (born at 31 weeks while on vacation 1500 miles away from home). My daughter spent 66 days in the Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, CO and was the recipient of a few Project Linus blankets. Those blankets were such a comfort to us in stressful times and have kept them for our daughter. I crochet and would love to contribute to Project Linus. I make afghans and hats. Please let me know how I can get involved in donating to NICUs and other families in need. Thank you!

Jenny W.

I just wanted to send a hearty thank you to everyone engaging in this project. My daughter is 14 months old and has spent so much time in medical facilities from infections due to being immune deficient. She has received (since birth) a total of three gifts of blankets from Project Linus and each has been a blessing. The 1st was for her 1st Surgery. The 2nd for pneumonia. The 3rd for a double ear infection and pneumonia. They make her so happy. The 1st is in a keepsake box and featured in her baby photo book. These next two will be featured in her 2nd year photo book as well. They made my baby smile when she was in pain and scared and I appreciate the thoughtful gifts.

My mom found Linus tag on the blanket. I looked it up on my phone. My big sister Tara passed away in 1993 of Cystic Fibrosis. We will Treasure this blanket forever. Thank you so so much for making these blankets. I also have a sister that has M.S.... Thank You Again.

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. 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 on recipients and their families.

Let’s Get Moving with a Mary-thon: The “Mary Mile” challenge is now open. Go to <http://www.mary-thon.net/challenges> to register and be sure to designate your local chapter as a recipient of \$5 of your registration fee. This is a great way to “get moving” and support Project Linus!

New Chapter Coordinators and New Chapters:

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

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

New chapters

Rakshan Moosavi Gloucester Co. NJ
Martha Urbaszek So Fairfield Co. CT
Teri Bishop, Springdale, Washington Co. AR
Lori Maron, Ingham Co. MI
Angel Ortiz, Johnston and Harnett Co, NC

Transfer

Melanee Burns W Chicago/Wheaton/Winfield IL took over for Jaque Bartell

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.

Project Linus Links and More:

You Tube is a great 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=nUAW2bSjSvg>

Project Linus Website:

www.ProjectLinus.org

Project Linus Facebook – We’d love to have you “join us”:

<https://www.facebook.com/projectlinus/>

Project Linus Instagram: projectlinushq

Look What’s
New!

It Takes a Village to Make Project Linus Successful – Businesses and Business Organizations, Community Organizations, Schools and Youth Groups, Churches, Quilting groups, Volunteers and more:

Fairfax County Chapter (Annabelle Hammer Coordinator): The Welcome Club of Northern Virginia and its special interest group supports Project Linus. They have been a long-time, strong supporter of the chapter. Denise Maykrantz is head of this special interest group. From their website: "Members gather to knit, crochet, sew labels on blankets and enjoy lunch together once a month. Blankets are donated to local hospitals and other facilities dedicated to the care of critically ill and/or injured children. Our Club's group has donated over 3,400 blankets and counting!" Denise is also an assistant chapter coordinator and her house is a drop-off location. Thank you so much to you, Denise, and your group of wonderful ladies at the Welcome Club.



Renasas Electronics in Palm Bay, Florida (Near Melbourne) is allowing the **Brevard chapter** to receive and store the Snowball Express blankets at their facility. They are a large international semiconductor company. Their donation of space for chapters from all over the country to mail blankets to for Snowball Express is a key factor in helping Snowball Express serve the families of our military heroes that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Julia Sullivan, Chapter Coordinator Orange County, NY & Pike County, PA Chapter: "The Monroe Woodbury School District Transportation Department for several years have made blankets between shifts for Project Linus. This year before the school year started, I got to speak to the department during one of their training sessions. I left behind a Project Linus pin stuck into our chapter's business card and the rest was history! This year is the most blankets the Transportation Department, with the help of Inspire (20 blankets) and Ed Center (20 blankets), have made and donated - a total of 405 blankets! Sue Pratt of the Transportation Department did things a little differently this year by staying at the bus garage two days every week and helping people cut the blankets during her break time. They got to use her tools to do the cutting and she showed them some shortcuts. That spurred a lot of interest. Sue says she went way out of her comfort zone and approached people who don't usually do blankets (mostly the men) and asked them to sponsor a blanket. Everyone she asked gave for at least one blanket and some for several, as long as they didn't have to make them. Sue Pratt said she had a wonderful group of people that were happy to work on the blankets. With the help of two of Sue's fellow co-workers they delivered the 405 blankets via a smaller bus to our monthly meeting on Nov. 3rd. "





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.

Volunteering with Project Linus

Would you like to know more about volunteering with Project Linus? Contact your local coordinator to learn more. There are no requirements for how many blankets you must make (or any) or what meetings you have to attend. Some people that help, don't sew, knit or crochet, but they help in other ways through financial contributions, providing space for meetings or events, conducting fundraising and much more. Just check with your local coordinator. More info at: <http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>

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JOANN's Partnership

Select stores are drop off points for Project Linus blanket donations. Check with your local chapters to see if your Joann's is a drop off point.

Joann Plus is a great way to save money when buying materials for Project Linus blankets and it is for everyone who makes blankets for Project Linus. You must order in bulk to get the great prices. Be sure to check them out at: www.joannplus.com

Project Linus is thrilled to be growing our relationship with Joann's.

Hugs for Heroes

Hugs for Heroes is designed to provide a small "pocket" blanket to a parent serving our country away from home when their child receives a Project Linus blanket. The "pocket" blanket (approx. 4"x4") is a replica of the blanket the child receives. (Pictures below)

Hugs for Heroes was started by Penny Kollmansberger (Coordinator from Fon Du Lac County, WI). Cari Shields expanded on this idea and started providing blankets to children of deployed military parents from Fort Bragg, NC and then having them write a letter including a picture with their blanket and send the "pocket" blanket to the deployed parent. At Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN, mothers giving birth to a baby when daddy is deployed are provided a patriotic blanket with a matching "pocket" blanket. They can then send the small "pocket" blanket to the deployed father.

"Hugs for Heroes" is just one more way Project Linus serves children in traumatic situations.



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*.