

“The Blanket Review”

March 2007

Newsletter

The North bay / Sonoma County Chapter of Project Linus, est. May 2003



Issue # 14

Project Linus to the rescue ☺

I want to tell you about one of the best blanket deliveries that I've done so far... Unfortunately it was because of a terrible accident that this occurred.

Remember the horrific car accident that happened a couple of months ago on the freeway north of Santa Rosa? A family of 6 was rear-ended and their car burst into flames with the family still inside— they managed to pull out a little boy(5 or 6 yrs. old) and his mother that were alive and in critical condition— the rest of the family died and the mother later died at the hospital. Well, I read in the paper that the little boy(Christian) was taken to the burn center at UC and that his classmates at the Maddie Washburn School in Santa Rosa were making him get well cards, pictures, etc.. The children were all very upset over this— with counselors there to help them through it. I thought to myself- “this is what Project Linus is for— to supply these children with blankets for comfort...” So, I got on the phone to the school, telling them about Project Linus— what we do, etc. and that I thought I could supply the children in Christian's class with blankets to comfort them. Laura(at the school) was so excited for this to happen -she couldn't

believe that we could do this. She felt that this would help the children so much...I found out that there were 20 children in the class— 10 boys and 10 girls. I picked out the appropriate blankets and took off for Santa Rosa. When I got there, I thought that I'd just be dropping off the blankets, like I usually do, but Laura wanted to take me out to the classroom and present the blankets to the children, telling them about Project Linus. What a great bunch of children! They all sat down in a little circle(very orderly and quiet— if you can believe it of kindergarteners). When I told them



that the blankets were theirs to keep— they all yelled- “YEAH”. So, the blankets were laid out and they were able to choose their special “blankie”. I have to tell you— it was the most heart-warming thing I've seen. These children would think very hard about which one they wanted(a very important decision)! Then they wrapped themselves up in their new blankie-hugging it to their body and walking around the room showing off their new blanket. Each child came up to me, said thank you and gave me a great big hug. I almost cried. It was obvious that the blankets were very special to these children. The teacher took pictures and everyone thanked me so much and wanted to make sure that the ladies who made these wonderful blankets were sure to be thanked for doing something so special!! I wish you all could have been there with me to enjoy this and see how much what you're doing means to the children. Anyway, that isn't the end of this story. A few days later, a volunteer from the school called and said that she worked in the classroom of the boy(Christian's brother) that was killed in the accident and she didn't know if this was something I could do or not, but could I bring blankets to these 1st graders. So, again I went up there with another 20 blankets, went into the classroom, talked with the class and had them pick out their blankets. Now, you know I don't talk very well in front of people— but I figured how bad could it be—they're only 5-7 years old. If I make a mistake— they won't know any different! Well, a couple of days later I received a package from the school and in it were pictures that the children had drawn and handwritten notes with each picture. I wish I could show you each one— they are adorable. This was such a satisfying experience— I guess that is what it's all about!

HUMAN RACE TIME AGAIN— SEE DETAILS ON NEXT PAGEI need your help!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND
MY VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST !!!!!!!!**



Human Race Update

Again this year I will be walking in the Human Race. It's on May 12th(Saturday) in Santa Rosa. The Volunteer Center in Santa Rosa puts this event on and it's for any non-profit to raise money for their organization. This is a fun and healthy way to raise money for Project Linus. So, I'm asking for donations and/or anyone that would be interested in walking with me. So far, I haven't done too good in raising money so, I need your help. If you can think of anyone who would donate- please ask them....

So, think about it and let me know if you're interested...



...Ripple Afghan..

You'll find the pattern for this afghan on page 4. It's really fun and easy to do and you can make it any size that you want.....



Some Thank You's

The following thank you is from Memorial Hospital in Bakersfield. Michele Willis is the coordinator of that chapter.

First of all I want to say thank you so much for the wonderful blankets you make for our little sick babies and kids. The children in our Ped's unit at Memorial Hospital are here only a short time but when we give them a blanket it makes them remember they felt very safe and warm. I was at the mall the other day and ran into one of our patients. The little girl told me she sleeps with her blanket every night and tells her mom, "I know I was sick, but can I go back to the hospital?" That makes me feel so good that she remembers she was sick, but well taken care of. Second of all, the blankets are so beautiful each one seems to be a perfect match for the child. Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put into these blankets. You are all angels looking out for these little babies and children that are sick.

Thank You so much

Pediatric Staff/Memorial Hospital

My 4 year old granddaughter, McKensi, cut her hand and went to the emergency room at Laird Hospital in Kilgore(Texas). My daughter always calls McKensi her little princess as a nickname. When the Doctor asked to see her hand, McKensi told him no and cried and said she had to go potty. While she was in the potty room, the Doctor asked my daughter what McKensi's name was. When McKensi came back to the waiting room the Doctor sat beside her and handed her the blanket and said "McKensi, this is a blanket for a princess" and wrapped her up in it, then asked to see her hand again. On the way back to the ER, McKensi told her mother "Mom, Dr. Mark is magic." When my daughter asked why, she said "He knew my name and knew I was a princess."

Thanks for the blanket.



A Little of This and That



I just received this thank you in the mail(this thank you is for us).

Jenny & the “Linus Group”,

On behalf of the Petaluma Fire Dept. and the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Assoc., I want to thank you and “the Group” for your kind efforts and the finished products in the form of the care blankets for the children involved in traumas. Your blankets were distributed to various Fire Depts. throughout Sonoma County.

Thank You!!!

Chris Albertson

Fire Chief

(Petaluma Fire Dept.)

I know Chris through the Bank of Petaluma. He needed a place for his dept. to meet once a month for meetings. He didn't have room at the fire dept. and the place where they use to meet started to charge them– can you imagine charging the fire dept. to meet once a month! Well, the Bank of Petaluma was nice enough to let them use the conference room(it never hurts to have the fire dept. on your side)...Frances at the Bank is now my contact with him and when she asked him if he wanted blankets-they were so happy and asked for 20 blankets.....

TAPS

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors provides a support network for families facing the loss of a military member.

Every year Project Linus donates blankets to the Good Grief Camp for children of our fallen heroes(with TAPS). The children “survivors” love these blankets and take them as they journey to Arlington on Memorial Day-they spread them out at the grave site-they talk, cry, sing, read a poem and their blankets are there helping..If you have any or want to make some – let me know. I also have some patriotic themed fleece, if anyone is interested in making some blankets. _ _ _ _ _

CONFERENCE 2007

Well, I know you won't believe this, but I am going to go to conference again this year...I guess I'm just a glutton for punishment! Isn't there an old saying that says something about– when you fall off a horse, the best thing to do is get right back up on him.....So, that's what I'm doing.

I'm actually trying to talk my husband into taking me

back there and we can go from conference on a little vacation. Which I think is a great idea– don't you?

Well, I don't think he thinks it's such a great idea– I haven't been able to talk him into it. But, it's only March and I still have until June to convince him. If that doesn't happen, then I will just fly either the night before or very early in the morning on Wednesday. Remembering the advice I was given last year about not traveling in the afternoon in the Midwest due to thunder and lightning always occurring in the middle of the day, which then causes the airlines to cancel flights.. I'll let you know what happens!

I was contacted by a new(to our chapter) organization a few weeks ago. It's called “ Get on the Bus”. They unite children with their mothers and fathers in prison's throughout the State of California. They have chapters all over the State. The one that contacted me is in Santa Rosa. It's an annual event and they offer free bus transportation for the children to the prison, provide them with travel bags, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the day(breakfast, snacks on the bus, a special lunch at the prison with their parent and dinner on the way home), all at no cost to the children's family. On the bus trip home, following a four hour visit, each child receives a teddy bear with a letter from their parent and post-event counseling. They also give each child a blanket(I believe it's on the trip to the prison, so the child can use it on the ride there). They have asked if we can provide some or all of the blankets for the trip this Mother's Day. It actually happens on the Friday before Mother's Day. They have about 20 children that make the trip and I told her that we could provide all of the blankets. I have such great volunteers that keep me supplied in blankets, that we are able to supply all of them. They were so appreciative that we were able to do this for them.

So, the thanks goes to all of you. You're the reason that we are able to supply blankets to all these different organizations. Because if it wasn't for you– there would be no blankets or hugs of security to give to children.....



Ripple Afghan

LW1441

Easy 

Designed by Mary Jane Protus.

Afghan measures approximately 49½" wide x 64" long.

RED HEART® "Super Saver"™, Art. E300 (8 ounce/452 yard solid and 6 ounce/348 yard multicolor skeins): 21 Ounces **CA**, 8 ounces **CB**, 12 ounces **CC**, 9 ounces **CD**.

Afghan: 316 Soft White **CA**, 334 Buff **CB**, 382 Country Blue **CC**, 303 Painted Desert Print **CD**.

Inset 1: 316 Soft White **CA**, 661 Frosty Green **CB**, 358 Lavender **CC**, 310 Monet Print **CD**.

Inset 2: 381 Light Blue **CA**, 387 Soft Navy **CB**, 311 White **CC**, 385 Royal **CD**.

Crochet Hook: 6.5mm [US K-10.5], Yarn needle.

GAUGE: 1 pattern repeat = 5½"; 8 rows = 5".
CHECK YOUR GAUGE. Use any size hook to obtain the gauge.

SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS:

Dc2tog: Yo and draw up a lp in next st, yo and draw through 2 lps, skip next 2 sts, yo and draw up a lp in next st, yo and draw through 2 lps, yo and draw through 3 lps remaining on hook.

PST (Puff Stitch): [Yo and draw up a lp] 4 times all in same dc, yo and draw through 8 lps, yo and draw through 2 lps remaining on hook.

TO CHANGE COLOR IN DC: With current color, yo and draw up a lp in last st, yo and draw through 2 lps, with next color to be used yo and draw through 2 lps remaining on hook.

AFGHAN

With **CA**, ch 175.

Row 1 (Right Side): Dc in 5th ch from hook, dc in next 7 ch, * (dc, ch 2, dc) all in next ch, dc in next 7 ch **, dc2tog, dc in next 7 ch; rep from * to last 3 ch, end at **: dc in next ch, skip next ch, dc in last ch; turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in first dc, skip next dc, sc in next 8 dc, * 3 sc in ch-2 sp, sc in next 8 dc **, skip dc2tog, sc in next 8 dc; rep from * to last 2 sts, end at **: skip next dc, sc in top of ch-3; turn.

Row 3: Ch 3, skip first 2 sc, dc in next 8 sc, * (dc, ch 2, dc) all in next sc, dc in next 7 sc **, dc2tog, dc in next 7 sc; rep from * to last 3 sc, end at **: dc in next sc, skip next sc, dc in last sc changing to **CB**; turn.

Row 4 (Puff St Row): With **CB**, ch 3, skip first 2 dc, * [PST in next dc, ch 1, skip next dc] 4 times, (PST, ch 2, PST) all in ch-2 sp, [ch 1, skip next dc, PST in next dc] 4 times **, skip dc2tog; rep from * to last 2 sts, end at **: skip next dc, dc in top of ch-3 changing to **CA**; turn.

Row 5: With **CA**, ch 3, skip first PST, [dc in ch-1 sp, dc in next PST] 4 times, * (dc, ch 2, dc) all in ch-2 sp, [dc in next PST, dc in ch-1 sp] 3 times, dc in next PST **, dc2tog over next two ch-1 sps skipping the two PST below, dc in next PST, [dc in ch-1 sp, dc in next PST] 3 times; rep from * to last 3 sts, end at **: dc in next ch-1 sp, skip next PST, dc in top of ch-3; turn.

Row 6: Rep Row 2.

Row 7: Rep Row 3, changing to **CC**.

Row 8: With **CC**, rep Row 4, changing to **CD**.

Rows 9, 10, 11: With **CD** rep Rows 5, 6, 7.

Row 12: With **CC**, rep Row 4, changing to **CA**.

Rows 13, 14, 15: Rep Rows 5, 6, 7, changing to **CB**.

Rep Rows 4-15 seven more times, then rep Rows 4-7 once more; do not fasten off at end of last row.

FINISHING-Edging: With **CA** and right side still facing, work 1 round sc evenly around entire afghan, working more or fewer sc as necessary at corners and inner and outer points of ripple to keep work flat; join with a sl st in first sc. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

ABBREVIATIONS: **CA, CB, CC, CD** = Colors A, B, C, D; **ch** = chain; **dc** = double crochet; **lp(s)** = loop (s); **mm** = millimeters; **rep** = repeat; **sc** = single crochet; **sl** = slip; **sp(s)** = space (s); **st(s)** = stitch (es); **tog** = together; **yo** = yarn over; * or ** = repeat whatever follows the * or ** as indicated; [] = work directions in brackets the number of times specified.



FYI



Wish List

If you don't sew, knit or crochet, you can still help. We are always in need of cash donations, gift certificates for fabric, yarn or quilt shops, postage stamps, paper, ink cartridges for printer and laundry soap. I know that sounds strange—but I go through a lot of laundry soap washing all the blankets.

Blanket sizes:

Baby- 25"x30"
Toddler- 35"x40"
Child- 40"x60"
Youth- 45"x65"
Teen- 50"x72" These are approximate sizes and you certainly don't have to stick to them exactly— just try not to make them too small or oddly shaped...

Drop-off sites

Please put your name on your blankets!!

Joann's Fabrics on Industrial Ave. in Santa Rosa

Ilse's Gudehus— 539 Blackstone Ct., S.R.

539-9340 call first

Susan Guggiana— 2490 Shady Creek Ct., S.R.

538-5686 call first

Brenda Marshall-27 Warrick Ct., Petaluma

Judy Mesa-223 Carina Dr. S.R. 544-8878

Northgate Sewing & Vacuum-274 Northgate One,
San Rafael 415-472-1281

Sandy Erich-7185 Circle Dr., R.P. 792-1327

Contact: Jenny Giacomini

304 Maria Dr.

Petaluma, Ca. 94954

707-778-6875

jgiacom@comcast.net

www.orgsites.com/ca/linus

Chapter Report— As of March 31, I've collected 3,366 blankets and donated 3,146.....

National Report— As of Dec. 31, 1,908,018 blankets have been delivered and there are now 397 chapters of Project Linus.

OUR MISSION

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization with a two fold mission.



First, it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers".



Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.