

# “The Blanket Review”



June 2007

Newsletter

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

## CONFERENCE 2007

Well, another conference has come and gone. I did make it home safe and sound, but not without problems!!! Now, didn't you know that I was going to say that? Not as many problems as last year( thank God) but there were still problems. Now to start this story off, I must tell you that I did fly United again- I know, I know, I said I'd never do that again. This time I used a travel agent and she assured me that United was a good airlines and that I really should give them another try. So, that's why I did and she also told me that if there were any problems that I could call her and she would take care of everything for me. How could I go wrong??

My flight from San Francisco left, or rather was **suppose** to leave, at 6:10 a.m.( remember I wanted to travel early in the day to avoid bad weather in the midwest). Everything started off really good- I was in my seat at 5:45 and we were on the runway at 6:10. Then we were sitting there waiting( I thought for our turn to take off) but then I heard him turn off the engine( never a good sign). The captain came over the speaker to tell us that there was a United-wide computer problem and we had to wait for the computer to get fixed. Two hours later, we were still waiting! We couldn't go back to the terminal- because once you leave, another plane comes in and you're out of luck. Finally we took off at about 8:30. Now I'm worried about my connecting flight to Bloomington. Originally I had plenty of time- about 2 hrs.- to catch it. They told us that it's all United, so if you're connecting flight is United, you should be o.k.. I arrived in Chicago at 2:05, checked for my flight and it was delayed- only 30 minutes and was leaving at 2:30 and of course in Chicago- you never land near the gate that you leave from. I landed at terminal B and had to get



to terminal F in 25 min.( that's like a couple of city blocks). Well, I made it at 2:25, got on and everything was fine- until I landed...Yes, you got it- NO LUGGAGE (again). So I went and filled out the paperwork like last year and the little guy told me that my luggage would be on the next flight at 6:00( same thing they told me last year). Well, they did deliver it to my hotel that night around 10:30...

Conference was fun and informative as usual. My 2 friends that I had met the first year weren't there- so that was kind of a bummer. My other friend was there though and we had a good time, until she became sick- some bug that's going around. We had it at my house a few weeks back- and it's not fun. So, she was out of commission for most of the conference. I learned some really neat knitting and crocheting techniques- reversible knitting and crocheting... We'll talk later about that. I received lots of free goodies, ate lots- they varied the menu this year, so not all that usual heavy stuff. Headquarters has come out with new brochures, a c.d. about Project Linus, and the really neat thing is that we now have a song that was written for Project Linus. It's written by Tyrus Morgan & Dean Chance and is performed by Mark Miller of Sawyer Brown. Ty Morgan's child was a recipient of a Project Linus blanket and that's why he really wanted to do this. It is a beautiful song and brought everyone to tears listening to it.

Show 'n' Tell brought out a lot of tears, as ladies told different stories about their volunteers, families, children that received blankets, etc. So, that particular day was quite a draining day..

Saturday was pretty much about how to make your chapter work. Different ideas for Make A Blanket Day, organizing things, different marketing ideas and questions and answers from Carol and Mary( leaders of Project Linus). That night was our big dinner and entertainment, which was very nice and Sunday morning I left. Well, I left Bloomington at 11:00, arriving in Chicago at 12:15 and my flight home wasn't **suppose** to

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



leave until 3:01. Long story short- the plane was delayed until 6:30!!! Mechanical problems they said. So, I sat in Chicago for over 6 hours- at 90 degree heat with 87% humidity- fun, huh??? Then when we finally got on the plane we had to wait another 45 minutes for the flight attendants to arrive- the original ones for the 3:00 flight had to leave, so they had to call in new ones and we had to wait for them to arrive! I think it will be a long time before I fly to Bloomington on United.... In case I forget next year and think about going, please remind me of this.....Now I'm not saying that it's United's fault, it might just be flying in general these days....



### ...Quilt for The Carousel Fund

I would like to find a quilter, a couple of quilters or a quilting group to make a really nice quilt to donate to The Carousel Fund. They could put it in their silent auction or even their live auction to raise money for the children ( or child) that they are sponsoring this year. The event is their annual Casino Night in October. If you don't know about the Carousel Fund- it's a non-profit that was started by Arnie and Susan Cohen of Petaluma in 1987 for families in the Petaluma community battling to keep their children alive. The very first fundraiser raised \$28,000.00 with half of the money going to the family of Bethany Rank, who has leukemia and half to the Hughes family, whose son Joshua has cancer. Both children are alive and well today. Last year the Casino Night fundraiser raised over \$203,401.00 !!!

This year's event is on October 6th at the Vet's Building in Petaluma.

I think this would be a really nice thing for Project Linus to do( by the way, we've donated many blankets to the fund over the last several years). Please let me know if you're interested in doing this...

### Some Ideas I Learned at Conference

I have patterns for all of the following:

#### **Two Color Reversible Shell Afghan**

It's really pretty and it's actually reversible. You make a shell and chain 5 across row in one color, then make a shell where the chain 5 is, in 2nd color.

#### **Reversible Rainbow Baby Blanket**

This is pretty much all single crochet and front double crochet. It's also reversible.

#### **Double-hook Crochet-**

This is made with a long double hook crochet hook. A coordinator from Ohio had wooden ones available at conference, but there are different kinds out there. This technique almost looks reversible too. **Double Crochet Shell Blanket and Combine the Stitches Blanket.**

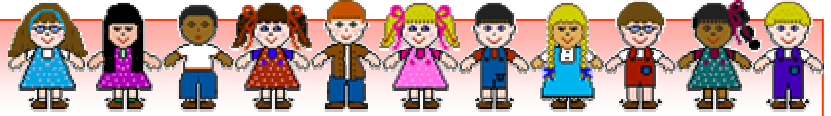
#### **Two Color Thermal Knit**

This is a really fun and heavy blanket pattern that is knit on circular needles. It's hard to describe but, basically you slip every other stitch, with the yarn in back on one row and the yarn in front on the other row. Then every other row you won't turn your work, but you'll slip it to the other end of the needle and work back. Sound confusing? Well, you'll just have to visit me for how it works or get the pattern from me- it's fun...

#### **Paintstiks on Fabric**

Paintstiks are made from pigment, oil and wax. They look like jumbo sized crayons. These can be used in any way, but the way we saw at conference is to use squares of muslin that can be made into a quilt. A great idea for children to do. Remember making rubbings? Well, that's what this is. Get something with a textured surface that is reasonably flat with raised elements that are firm enough & thick enough for the texture to be felt through the fabric, i.e. rubber mats, stamps, rubbing plates, blocks wrapped with string or cord, etc.. Put the fabric over it and just rub the paintstiks over it.





I also have a booklet of different ideas and patterns for making fleece blankets. I can't tell you how many different ways to do blankets that are in this book.

Here's just a sampling...

No Sew Fleece Blanket methods. There are at least 7 different methods of this!

Fleeces Pieces—No Sew Tassel Blanket

Single Layer Texas Fleece Blankets

Fleecy Loop Blanket

Looped or Optional Braided Finish

Crocheting Around Fleece

Joining Fleece Panels by crocheting together

There's a lot of really great ways to make fleece blankets, either with sewing or without.

I can print out any of these patterns that you're interested in and either email or snail mail to you. Maybe you'd like to get together one afternoon or evening and do some of these patterns. Let me know if that sounds like something you'd be interested in. It might be fun to get together once in awhile and meet each other, visit together, learn new projects and share each others ideas...

### SOME INTERESTING TIDBITS

Project Linus has been in business for **3,742** days as of **June 23, 2007**

Project Linus has **donated 2,090,392** blankets as of **June 23, 2007**. If 60% of them are fabric, that translates into about **3,762,706** yards of fabric. If 40% are afghans, that is about **6,689,248** skeins of yarn.

Project Linus delivers an average of **1047** blankets per day, **365** days per year. That means that about **44** blankets are delivered every hour of the day, or about **1 every 1.3 minutes**.

As of June 23, 2007, Project Linus has **406** chapters in the U.S.. There are chapters in all **50 states**.

On average, we estimate a volunteer force of about **40,000** people in the U.S.

If Project Linus Chapter Coordinators and headquarters staff were paid minimum wage at only **10-15** hours per week, the annual payroll would be over **\$2,150,000.00**.

There were **29** states represented at **Conference 2007**



### SOME THANK YOU'S

Dear Project Linus,

I am not sure who to contact, so I came through the website. Our son has been hospitalized since Mother's Day( this was sent June 4) with a ruptured appendix and many associated complications. Via Abington Hospital here in Pennsylvania, Tyler received a wonderfully soft red & black blanket that they said came from Project Linus.

As you can imagine it's been a hard road for him, and made even worst by the fact that he's autistic and cannot verbalize his feelings-emotional or physical. What nobody could have known is how much this child loves his soft blanket. A touch of kindness from a total stranger has given us a tremendous and needed boost of faith in humanity.

We live in a world dedicated to Me, Myself and Mine. There simply aren't proper words to thank whatever person who remains nameless and faceless to our family for what they have given to us- a gift well beyond that of the blanket. Thank You!

Fondly, The Williams Family

My daughter and I were victims of the Greensburg, Kansas F5 tornado on May 4th. Our home & all our belongings were gone or ruined by the tornado. The day after the tornado hit, my father & I traveled to Greensburg to see what I could save from our home. There was no preparation for what I saw as I entered my town. The feeling of loss was overwhelming. My town, my friend's homes, my school( I'm a 3rd grade teacher), my neighborhood, my home- all destroyed. I was immediately frozen with disbelief & sadness at the first sight of my home. I wanted to save all that I could for my 2 yr. old daughter. She had so many special blankets & things that were important to her-all covered with tornado debris. That's what leads me to you- Project Linus. I was in the Methodist Church in Haviland, KS and a volunteer working there showed me the boxes of blankets sent from Project Linus. I almost cried then & there thinking that would be perfect to take one back home to my daughter. She pretty much had to say goodbye to all her familiar things-that's not always easy for a 2 yr. old to do. I picked out a soft & cuddly Care bear pattern blanket for her. She loves it & uses it every night. I just wanted to say Thank You from the bottom of my heart, your kindness & show of compassion gave my little girl a sense of security and helps her to take the next step in rebuilding our lives.  
Katie & Eva Jo Britton

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:**

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**

**When you drop off blankets, please put your name and address with them!!**

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



**Contact: Jenny Giacomini**

**304 Maria Dr.**

**Petaluma, Ca. 94954**

**707-778-6875**

**jgiacom@comcast.net**

**www.orgsites.com/ca/linus**

**Chapter Report**— As of June 30, I've collected 3,461 blankets and donated 3,179.....

**National Report**— As of March 31, 2,007,148 blankets have been delivered and there are now 406 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.