

# “The Blanket Review”



January 2008

Newsletter

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

Issue # 17

A NEW YEAR-  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Can you believe that another year has come and gone? I sure can't. Where did the year go? I can remember my parents always saying this and I never understood it- now I do! They go faster and faster each year and I never seem to get accomplished what I want to. Oh well, maybe this year-right?

Project Linus has some new items that I thought I would bring to your attention and hopefully you'll be interested in. Unfortunately, it's only for the computer users. The first is a NEW quarterly newsletter that Project Linus( headquarters-not me) is putting out. Not only to the chapter coordinators but to all of our volunteers. So now you can see what's going on with all of the chapters, what's new, pictures, thank you's, etc. I think this will be fun for you and it's free. Check out the first issue and if you like it- go to the link below and sign up for it. They're actually having a contest for whatever chapter has the most people sign up... So, check it out!

## Our New Quarterly Newsletter Has Launched



touches and released issue 1.1 of our new quarterly newsletter titled *The Blanket Beacon*. While this newsletter has already been e-mailed to all our subscribers you can read the inaugural copy from our web site.

<http://www.projectlinus.org/blanketbeacon/iss11.html> Don't miss a single issue! Join *The Blanket Beacon* newsletter e-mail list so you can receive the next issue as soon as it is ready! Go to this website to sign up for the email list to receive your next issue.

Below is a way for Project Linus to raise money. If you use GoodSearch for any searches on the internet or purchases- Project Linus receives money.. .

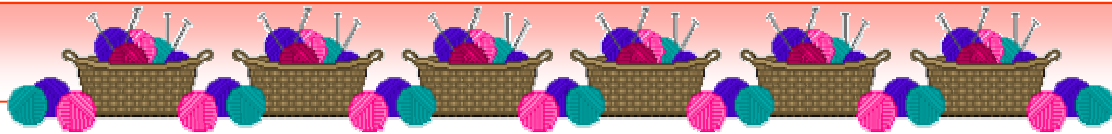
## Use GoodSearch.com to Help Raise Money for Project Linus National Headquarters

Raise money for Project Linus National Headquarters just by searching the internet or shopping online with GoodSearch.com -- powered by Yahoo! To get started simply go to: [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and click on Project Linus for the charity. Also click on using it as your homepage and we will automatically be selected as the charity receiving revenue for searches or purchases made through their site.

## Project Linus National Headquarters Wins “Make My Non-Profit Run Better” Contest

After two rounds of voting over several weeks, we came out on top. On Friday, September 28, 2007 it was announced we won the grand prize of a \$30,000 technology makeover from RK Dixon and media partner Week-TV. We're thrilled at this opportunity as it means we can upgrade aging technology at our headquarters. This in turn helps us to better focus on our mission. **Many, many thanks to all of you for helping make this happen by voting for us!**

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



## UPDATES

PEP Housing surprised me last month– they called and said they had some yarn to donate( if I wanted it)... Well, of course I said yes and when I went down to pick it up( thinking it was maybe 2 bags worth) I saw a room full of yarn stacked up..... I probably picked up about 300 skeins of yarn and that's what was left after they had already donated some to the ladies at PEP and other places. WOW– what a nice surprise! So, I have lots of yarn for anyone who wants some....

**Thank you PEP!!!**

If you'll notice on the back page that we now have another drop off place in Marin– San Rafael to be exact! Her name is Bonnie Phelps at 85 North Avenue Apt. 1B. Her phone( please call first) 415-488-7643. She's also offered to help with any other things that we need.

**Thank you Bonnie!**

Beverly's in Coddington is now up and ready to start receiving blankets. They were so excited to get started– so please drop by there with your blankets, tell them– thanks and since you're there anyway– check out their yarn and fabric. They have quite a selection and good prices too....

Jeanne Thomas is up and running as my new helper in Santa Rosa. She's doing a great job of picking up blankets, washing them and sewing on labels.

**Thank you Jeanne– you're a really big help to me!**



## Some Thank-You's

A couple of new places that I've delivered to in the last month or two– that I've found -thanks to your help...

Gail Gallette, M.S.,M.F.T

Gail supplies Psychotherapy for Children( and families) here in Petaluma and before that she was at C.A.R.E. in Santa Rosa. C.A.R.E. was my very first place that I delivered blankets to when I started out, so they/she have a special place in my heart... Anyway, I heard of Gail through Pat Kelleher, gave her a call and delivered 42 blankets to her.....Below is the thank you that I received from her office.

Thank you so much for the blankets. My clients were so appreciative. The Linus Project is so wonderful. Tawny

Thank you so much for the blankets. The kids were really excited and happy to receive them. Gail

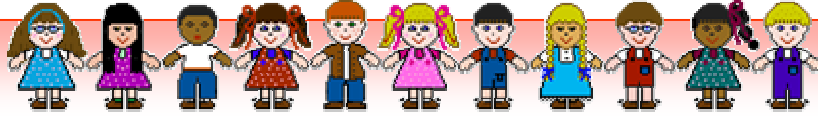
Dear Jenny-Thank You!

The children are so comforted by the blankets. They were overjoyed by your good wishes. Betty

Another place– Sonoma Kinship Center in Santa Rosa. Sonoma Kinship is a part of Sunnyhills in San Anselmo and Susie McGavin,MFT, the Director, is who I connected with when I took blankets to Sunnyhills several years ago. So, to start off I took them 12 blankets.

Sonoma Kinship provides resources and services for “kinship caregivers” who are raising their relative's children. Kinship care is the full-time care, nurturing, and protection of children by relatives, members of their families or any adult who has a kinship bond with a child. Kinship services support the concept of children residing with a relative in a family setting, rather than being placed in an out-of-home placement.

COTS has several different children's programs that I didn't know about. Children's Haven and Kids First are a couple of them. I contacted John Records of COTS and he connected me with Carrie Hess



Who is the Asst. Director of Kids First. To get them started- I delivered 11 blankets to them.

Here is a thank you from the TAPS program( I sent about 100 blankets to them in Sept.). TAPS stands for; Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Dear Jenny,

Thank you and the Sonoma County Project Linus Chapter for your precious gifts of blankets and quilts for our wounded warriors and their families and the widows and children of our Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Coasties who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Your service and support of those who grieve are priceless! Happy Holidays! Sincerely,

Judy Mathewson, Patrick Air Force Base

This next thank you is from Ursula- the coordinator from San Diego.

We at the San Diego Chapter are so appreciative of the many donations from chapters all over the Country, and the deliveries have gone so well. It's exactly what the kids needed. Now that the evacuation centers are closed, we are concentrating on the 4 Assistance Centers in the County. These centers are ONLY for the folks whose houses have been completely destroyed. So far we've blanketed 2 such centers. At the Rancho Bernardo Assistance/rebuilding-relocation Center( one of the hardest hit areas in the county) our blankets are being given out by 2 agencies. San Diego County Mental Health has a huge Teddy sitting on the table. It is draped by one of our Linus quilts and it holds a Linus H.Q.Brochure. Too cute! The 2nd is the San Diego Crisis Intervention team of officers who tell us they are also giving out blankies to families having had complete melt downs. So sad. They also have a child day care area at the center, and the 1st time we delivered blankets to them, the volunteers nearly jumped for joy. They said it was exactly what they had been praying for. Needless to say, we've been back. Yesterday was our 3rd trip- 20 to each station, that's 180 blankets giving out much comfort and snuggles to kids that walked away with nothing. Because the fires moved so quickly, fueled by such catastrophic winds, many folks tell us the reverse 911 call came so late and for some not at all. They had less than 5 minutes to evacuate. The donated blankets have been a God-send! You all have truly made a

huge difference in the lives of our San Diego children; covering them in love, comfort and warm snuggles and hugs. With much appreciation from our whole San Diego Chapter, we're sending you big hugs.

Ursula Sorensen

(I sent blankets down there also....)

This next little bit of info. Has nothing to do with Project Linus-it's just a place I found that I thought you might be interested in.....

### **Sunshine Story Books**

**122 Calistoga Rd. #240**

**Santa Rosa 95409**

**529-8024**

**Dawn Eddinger**

[www.sunshinestorybooks.com](http://www.sunshinestorybooks.com)

Sunshine Story Books are personalized books( and lots of other goodies also; birth charts, stickers, clocks, etc.)

They have lots of different kinds of books; sports stories, spiritual stories, Holiday stories, birthday stories, first day of school, new baby, circus, fire safety, and lots more. Then they personalize them with a child's name and personal info. Like the town they live in, their friends names, etc. And their prices aren't bad either- \$10.00-14.00. I ordered one for each of our grandchildren and let me tell you- they loved them!!! The kids got such a kick out of seeing their names and friends names in a book- they really enjoyed them. There's nothing so exciting as seeing your name in print and reading a story about you and your family/friends....Also, these people were so nice to deal with( to me- that's the best part). One book didn't make it in time to my house, so they express mailed it up to Washington for me. And, it made it in time for Christmas. So take a look and see if it's something you might be interested in...



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

Beverly's— Coddington, 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

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

Bonnie Phelps-85 North Avenue Apt. 1B, San Rafael— 415-488-7643 call first

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](mailto:jgiacom@comcast.net)**

**[www.orgsites.com/ca/linus](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/linus)**

**Chapter Report**— As of Dec. 31, I've collected 3,788 blankets and donated 3,602.....

**National Report**— As of Sept 30, 2007 2,293,340 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.