

“The Blanket Review”



April 2008

Newsletter

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

Issue # 18

Human Race

Guess what time of year it is again?? Give up? Well, it's springtime and that means, it's time to walk in the Human Race. So, of course that means I'm looking for donations too. I know that I've asked you for the last couple of years to sponsor me and I so appreciate all the help you've given to me. So, if you can't help or are just tired of having me ask- I understand, but anyone that would like to give anything- I would really appreciate it! No matter how small- every little bit helps. In case you don't know where the money goes to- it goes to our chapter. The Volunteer Center in Santa Rosa keeps a small percentage to help with all that they do to put this event on and Project Linus keeps a very small percentage also but, we get back incentives from the Volunteer Center on the money that is donated, so basically what all that means is that we keep about 90-95% of the donated money... I use that money for my chapter expenses; buying yarn and material for any volunteers to use for blankets, postage for newsletters and thank you cards, postage to mail out blankets to crisis areas, ink cartridges and paper and the list goes on and on. So I think you can see that the money is put to good use.....

Also, anyone that would like to join me on the walk is more than welcome- I would love to have you join me. It's a lot of fun and doesn't take much time-about 1 to 1 1/2 hours is all. Then you can spend as much or as little time as you want there. They have booths set up for the non-profits, giving away info., water, etc. and I think they have a breakfast before the race/walk. The event is on May 10 at the Herbert Slater Middle School in Santa Rosa. If you're interested in joining me- just let me know and I can give you more info.

Butter and Eggs Day Parade

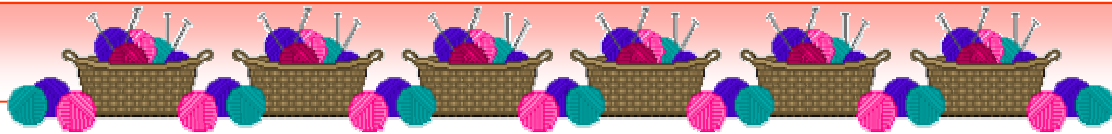
I just read that any non-profit organization can set up a booth at the Butter and Eggs Day event in Petaluma- which is on April 26. You can display whatever you want to and hand out information about your organization. So, I thought this would be a great way to let people know about Project Linus. I could have some blankets on display and have brochures around with my card and info. on them. I could also be playing the Project Linus song in the background. So stop by and visit me, I think I'll be on A Street. Maybe I could hold a raffle of some kind to raise money-hmmmm, I'll have to think about this...I thought you might be interested in knowing the lyrics of the song- so I've listed them on the next page....

I received a call from The Maternity Clinic in Santa Rosa last month, telling me that they wouldn't be needing any more blankets because they were closing. Due to budget cuts they would no longer be able to take care of low income maternity patients! I was so sad to hear this information for several reasons. They were my biggest takers of baby size blankets. I could always count on them taking 30-50 blankets every couple of months. And this is the saddest/most important part of the reason-where are these ladies going to go to now??? How very sad this is-to think of these babies going without the help that they desperately need. Hopefully they will find someplace else to go to for help....

We had one of our biggest "blanket give out" months in March. We gave out 135 blankets in one month! WAY TO GO VOLUNTEERS!

BLANKETEERS LIKE YOU AND CHOCOLATE

MAKE LIFE MORE BEARABLE.....



A Little of This & That

If you haven't been to the Project Linus National website lately— you should visit there. They've revamped it quite a bit and added a few things. For instance; they have a Project Linus Store—they've always had the store but only for Chapter Coordinators. Now volunteers can order from the store. Not supplies like labels and such, but things like mugs, quilt kits, etc.

Well, I guess that section of the website isn't set up YET for volunteers to order from. Hopefully it will be soon. Visit anyway, they have some new patterns and links to other sites that you might enjoy.

I'm Retired (Again).....

Well, I guess I'm "retired" again.... My part-time, longed for job as a courier ended in March. The Bank of Petaluma was taken over by Wells Fargo and they don't have couriers—so my job was eliminated. They actually out-source it to an outside company, so if I wanted to work for a courier service—I probably could have, but it certainly wouldn't be the same. The reason for being a courier for the Bank, was that I knew most all of the people (customers and employees). It was also just a small operation— 3 to 4 employees and there was no stress, no big bosses to bug you— we just went in, did our job and went home. You knew what you had to do and there wasn't anyone hanging over your shoulder telling you what or how to do it! It was such a fun and perfect job for me after so many years of employee problems, stress, boss problems, etc., etc.(you all know what I'm talking about). Plus, I'd been at that Bank for 20 years— from the very beginning of it in 1987. The last couple of weeks were so sad— nothing was the same around there. Nobody seemed to be happy and everyone was (I'm sure) very apprehensive about the new company taking over. The only thing I can say is that it was fun while it lasted and I'm really glad that I wasn't an employee of the Bank when the new Bank took over....Talk about stress!!! So, I guess that I'll be looking for something else part-time to occupy my time. Something fun(besides Project Linus, of course)!!!

Project Linus Song

COVERED IN LOVE by Tyrus Morgan and Dean Chance. Recorded by Mark Miller (of Sawyer Brown) and Katie Chance

A thread of hope is a perfect place to start.

It can mend a wounded heart

A thread of hope.

A stitch of faith sews the pieces that were torn

In the blankets that are worn..

A stitch of faith.

And if we all believe then we all can be

Covered in Love (Covered in Love)

Wrapped up in hope (Wrapped up in hope)

Safe from the fear (Safe from the fear)

Never alone (Never alone)

This world has enough (This world has enough)

For everyone to be (For everyone to be)

Covered in Love (Covered in Love).

A spool of grace spins a thousand smiles

It can warm a thousand lives

A spool of grace.

A quilt of joy is a perfect place to start.

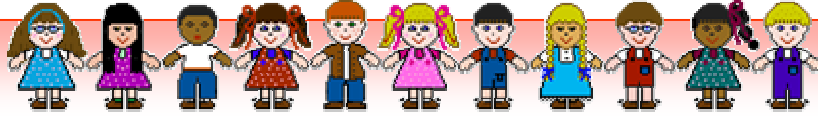
It can mend a wounded heart.

A quilt of joy.

And if we all believe then we all can be

Covered in Love (Covered in Love)

Wrapped up in hope (Wrapped up in hope)



Safe from the fear (Safe from the fear)
 Never alone (Never alone)
 This world has enough (This world has enough)
 For everyone to be (For everyone to be)
 Covered in Love (Covered in Love)
 Wrapped up in hope (Wrapped up in hope)
 Safe from the fear (Safe from the fear)
 Never alone (Never alone)
 This world has enough (This world has enough)
 For everyone to be (For everyone to be)
 Covered in Love (Covered in Love).

A Little More of This and That...

CASA in Sonoma (Court Appointed Special Advocates) has asked if anyone makes or is interested in making things like Sachets, Neck/ Head wraps that are filled with lavender, etc. They would even supply the lavender (or whatever scents needed). They just thought these would make really nice little gifts for the girls. Let me know if you're interested or know someone who is.

The following is a thank you note that was sent to the chapter that covers Fostoria, Ohio., but it goes to show us how important our blankets are to these special families....

Hi. I live in Fostoria, OH. My daughter, Addison, is 21 months old. When she was about 10 months old she was put in the hospital because she was dehydrated and couldn't keep anything down. We stayed for a couple of days. While in the hospital, she was given a beautiful, brightly flowered blanket. Ever since then, she has taken it all over the house with her and won't even let anyone else touch it. LOL I just wanted to thank you for the blanket, it was so nice to receive it at a very trying time. It was also nice because it reminded me of my late grandmother. It was kind of like she was there with us.

Thank you again,
 Brook



It's amazing to think of what a small thing like a blanket can do-for all of us. We know what it does for the kids, but did you ever think what it does for us "grown-ups"? It can bring back very warm, loving memories and a more carefree time in our lives-think about it!!

Here's a little FYI-that I bet you didn't know.....

Vanna White (Wheel of Fortune) was one of Project Linus' first blanketers! When Karen Loucks (the founder of Project Linus) first started Project Linus, having heard that Vanna was a crocheter, she sent her a letter asking for a blanket. Within a few weeks, there was a beautifully crocheted pink baby blanket in the mail with a note wishing good luck with our endeavor. I will always keep that note(Karen states). It was a sign of amazing things to come!

I won't be going to conference this year. I'm sort of glad and sort of sad!! If that makes sense. I'm sure that come June, I'll be missing it and wishing that I was there. But at the same time- it's always a time of stress(never knowing where or when I'll show up), what I'll have to go through to get there and the expense of it... For all the chapters that are back east or in the mid-west, it isn't such a big deal for them. It doesn't take a whole day to get there (by plane) and it doesn't cost an arm and a leg... They can just drive- usually carpooling together or fly, taking only a couple of hours. Besides, my hubby told me this year that I have a choice- either take vacations (like the last couple of years) or redo our kitchen, family room and living room.... What a choice! I love to travel so much but, we really need more room in the kitchen soooo I guess you know which I picked! We've started on the family room and so far it's taken 3 months(hubby doesn't like to pay anyone to do things, so we're doing them ourselves and it's taking forever)! At the rate we're going, we'll be done in 2010!!!!

I have a couple of ladies that have made over 200 blankets for our chapter.

Nancy Hyde and Jean Tobin-WAY TO GO LADIES !!!!

I don't keep track of how many blankies are given to me, so if you keep track and want me to publish it- just let me know and I'll do my best to get it on here.....Thanks again for all that ALL of you do, without you- we wouldn't be here to help!!!! It doesn't matter if you make 1 or 50 in a year-it all helps!

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

www.orgsites.com/ca/linus

Chapter Report— As of March 31, I've collected 3,963 blankets and donated 3,773.....

National Report— As of Dec. 31, 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.