

Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

Project Linus news for our dedicated 'blanketeers' and supporters

OVER 12,000 BLANKETS DELIVERED!!!

Our Chapter celebrated its 6th anniversary of making and delivering blankets in June of this year. And we are still going strong. The blankets keep coming in and more importantly, going out. Many more groups and individuals have joined our efforts, making blankets for the children. As of this newsletter we have delivered over **12,500** blankets to children in distress in Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties and to the national groups we help such as "My Stuff Bags" and TAPS – The Transition Assistance Program for Survivors – that aids the families of our military personnel who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Thank you to all the blanketeers who have helped make this possible. Without the dedication of our knitting and crocheting groups, our girl scout and youth groups and the individuals throughout the area who make blankets or donate supplies and money, this would not have been possible.

We should all be proud of the work that we do and the comfort that we bring. Keep up the good work.

MAKE A BLANKET DAY - 2009

Mark your calendars. Our next "Make a Blanket Day" will be held on Saturday, **February 14, 2009** at the Secaucus Public Library. We will meet from 10 AM to 3 PM in the Panasonic Room. Come join us and spend the day knitting or crocheting, fringing and tying fleece or tying quilts. Don't forget to bring your completed blankets.

If you can't spend the day with us, come and visit for a while and drop off any blankets you have made. Or donate a skein of yarn or a 1½ yard piece of fleece or cotton fabric.

Fall/Winter 2008/2009

Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

Liz Zawacki – Tel. 201-437-0272
Email: eliza1115@verizon.net
34A East 31 Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Total Number of Blankets delivered
12,542

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.orgsites.com/nj/plhudsonbergen>

WAYS TO HELP

- ♥ Make a blanket out of acrylic yarn or washable fabric. It can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or fleece.

SIZES (measurements are approximate)

Newborn: 30" x 36"
Young Child: 36" x 40" or 40" x 40"
Older Child: 40" x 60" or "45" x 70"

- ♥ Donate materials such as yarn, fabric or batting. A.C. Moore, Michael's, JoAnn's, Staples or Wal-Mart gift cards are also welcome.
- ♥ Donate supplies: postage stamps, cardstock, paper, envelopes, etc.

SECAUCUS BLANKETEER MEETINGS

Afternoon: The "Blanketeers" meet the first and third Wednesday of each month from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at The Church of Our Saviour, 191 Flanagan Way, Secaucus.

Evening: The "Blanketeers" meet the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Secaucus Public Library, 1379 Paterson Plank Road.

Everyone welcome

MY STUFF BAGS

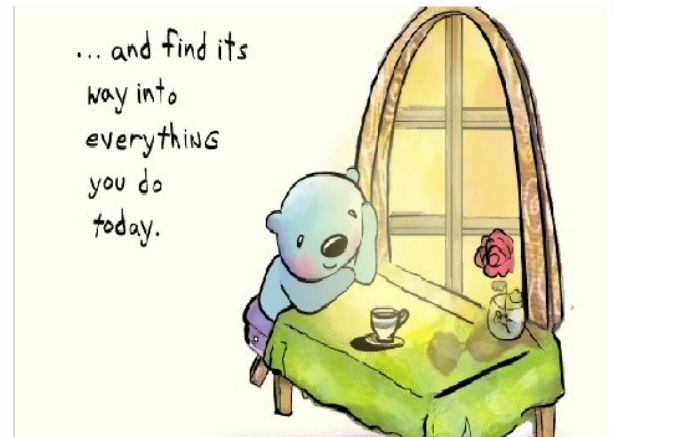


You have all seen **My Stuff Bags** listed as an organization that regularly receives our blankets. **The My Stuff Bags Foundation** provides comfort and a message of hope to abused and neglected children entering crisis and foster care through its unique program, **My Stuff Bags**.

Sadly, more than 300,000 children across America must be rescued each year from dangerous home environments. That's over 34 children per hour! Traumatized by the events leading to their rescue, these children often arrive without any of their own belongings: no favorite stuffed animal, no special "blankie." They are afraid and need something to hold onto.

Filled with things they need, things to cuddle, things to hold on to, and things to call their own, **My Stuff Bags** help these children get settled in their new surroundings. And because they are filled with donations of new belongings from people all across the country, the children learn that lots of people really care about what has happened to them.

We have helped them by providing that special blanket to comfort the children as they try to deal with the trauma of their situation.



STORIES AND THANK YOUs

♥♥♥ My daughter was a patient at Hackensack University Medical Center a few weeks ago and received one of your beautiful blankets. She has not put it down since. I wanted you to know how much it meant to me and her to get this special work of art. I remember as a child watching my grandmother knit and crochet blanket after blanket. I still have many of them. I know first hand what work and time goes into hand-making them. I think your program is so special and tell all your hand workers what a special work they are doing and how much they touch lives of patients in whatever way. We will continue to enjoy this blanket. Thanks again for making a difference."

♥♥♥ "I wanted to thank your organization for a beautiful hand-crocheted blanket my daughter received. We had to rush our 15 month old daughter to the ER after she had a fever-induced seizure. Other than the towel she was wrapped in, we had nothing with us. She cuddled with her new blanket and we all found it very soothing in such an emotionally stressful time. Although we were in the hospital for 3 ½ days, everything has turned out well. Thank you again for the beautiful blanket."

Thank you, Liz, and the Project Linus Chapter from Hudson/Bergen NJ for once again supporting the families of those who serve in the military. You all have brightened the lives of those who grieve the memory of the soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice – and or those who pray for the safe return of their loved ones from the combat zone. You have also provided comfort to those who have been injured in the line of service. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE!**

Judy Mathewson, Lt. Col. USAF, TAPS

♥♥♥ "It was great to see you this past week and receive all the beautiful blankets. I could tell that the volunteer blanket makers worked very hard once again on creating perfect blankets for our patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. The Batman blanket truly cheered up a nine-year-old patient who was in our Intensive Care Unit after he received two surgeries. In addition, the baby blue blanket with the happy face was given to a tiny baby we care for and greatly appreciated by his family. The blanket has made his small crib look like a much happier place to be resting in. Please pass along our thanks to all the people in Project Linus who help make this monthly donation possible."

Tiffany Shevchik, Child Life Coordinator
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital

THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to IBM for their very generous donation of \$1000 to support our efforts. Much yarn and fabric will be purchased with this donation.

Thank you also to the Siemens Caring Hands Foundation for their \$500 donation to our Chapter of Project Linus. This donation was made in recognition of the Caring Hands Crocheters who have been making and donating blankets to us over the last year.

A special thank you to those who help me regularly by delivering to some of our recipients, picking up blankets from various people or being drop-off points for blankets and other donations: Carol Schultz, Joan Gasser, Joyce Geils, Beth Bogdanowicz.

Thank you also to all the ladies who help me sew labels on blankets at the meetings of the Secaucus Blanketeers.

Thank you to the following groups for the wonderful blankets and supplies they have donated to our Chapter **over the last several months:**

- Secaucus Blanketeers
- Blanketeers of Secaucus Senior Housing
- First Presbyterian Church Blanketeers, Elmwood Park
- Warren Point Presbyterian Church Blanketeers, Fair Lawn
- Need-L-Wits of Elmwood Park
- Ladies of Wallington Senior Center
- Washington Grand Hookers
- Ladies of SunRise Senior Living in Cresskill
- Ladies of St. Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge
- Ladies of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Dumont
- Siemen's Caring Hands Crocheters
- Blanketeers or Fewsmith Memorial Presbyterian Church

- Barnert Temple Religious School - Blankets
- Haledon Helping Hands - Blankets
- St. Stephen's School, Kearny; Kearny Daisy Troop; Junior Women's Club of Arlington – over 200 skeins of Yarn
- Kristen Domaratius – Girl Scout project - Blankets
- Katie Salerno – Girl Scout Gold Project - Blankets
- Girl Scout Troop 275, Nutley – Blankets
- Dara Cooper – Bat Mitzvah project - Blankets

And, thanks to all the individuals who create wonderful blankets at home and donate them for the benefit of the children.

With so many groups working so hard for Project Linus, I hope I have recognized you all. If not, I apologize. Know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

BLANKET REMINDERS

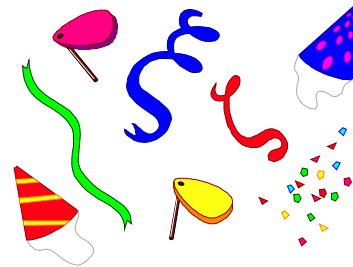
Please do not make Double Tied Fleece blankets. They are very heavy and only usable during the coldest months of the year. Single fleece is quite warm, and you get more bang for your buck if you don't double it.

Remember to leave yarn ends and weave them into the blanket. I have had blankets start to unravel because of the tiny knots joining yarn ends. It is best to leave a few inches of yarn and weave the ends in.

Please do not put fringe on the knitted and crocheted blankets. It is safer in the hospitals if the blankets don't have a fringe that can get caught in equipment or tangled in itself. This is especially important for the smaller blankets which are delivered to the Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

Remember that the blankets are for children, so please choose colors and designs that are appropriate. Bright primary colors are especially cheerful and coveted by the children. Soft pastels are especially good for babies.

Since the last newsletter, the Project Linus Hudson/Bergen NJ Chapter delivered over 1704 blankets to children in need. Our total number of blankets donated to date is 12,542.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANNUKKAH,
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**

Somebody

**Somebody did a golden deed,
Somebody proved a friend in need.
Somebody said I'm glad to give,
Somebody said that's how I live.**

**To be of service to your fellow man
Is great comfort to those who can.
Making the load somewhat lighter
And the outlook somewhat brighter.**

**To all our volunteers we wish to say,
Enjoy good health and happiness every day.**

Child's Pinwheel Squares Blanket Instructions:

For a new pattern for a crocheted blanket, click here:

<http://www.orgsites.com/nj/plhudsonbergen/Pinwheel1.pdf>

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