

Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

Project Linus news for our dedicated 'blanketeers' and supporters

OVER 10,000 BLANKETS DELIVERED!!!

It was just under 2 years ago that I reported we had hit a major milestone, having delivered over 5000 blankets. Well, in no time, we have doubled that number and to date have delivered over **10,000 blankets** to children in distress in Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties.

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 work at home, this would not have been possible.

We are currently delivering about **250 blankets per month** to the hospitals and shelters we serve. 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 2008

On February 9th of this year we held our 6th annual Make a Blanket Day and what a success it was. With over 75 people attending, including a number of Girl Scout and Brownie Troops, we collected, made and labeled over 200 blankets. We also collected over 50 skeins of yarn to help us continue our work.

Thanks to Kathy Steffens and the Secaucus Public Library for providing the facility and hot beverages for the meeting and a special thanks to Celso of the library staff who helped us set up the room and haul blankets and supplies to and from my van. Finally, thanks to all who participated and made the day such a success.

Spring/Summer 2008

Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

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Total Number of Blankets delivered

10,838

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

NEW FACILITIES

Till recently, we delivered blankets only to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Englewood Hospital. We have extended our delivery of blankets to all the Pediatric units of the Hospital.



FALLEN HEROES

❖ The Transition Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is a non-profit Veteran Service Organization offering hope, healing, comfort and care to thousands of American armed forces families facing the death of a loved one. Each year over Memorial Day weekend, TAPS runs a Good Grief Camp for children of military personnel who have died. This year our Chapter donated over 30 blankets to the children attending the camp.

STORIES AND THANK YOU'S

♥♥♥ *Recently my newborn son was hospitalized at 11 days old in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of St. Joseph's Hospital. Since we were rushed to the ER we didn't have any extra clothing or even a blanket with us. On the morning of our second day, a kind woman brought a beautiful coral blanket for Christian. I noticed the Project Linus tag and I was so grateful. Despite all the tubes, oxygen and iv's surrounding him, he looked beautiful because of that blanket. The blanket is in a special place in his room and I plan on sharing the story of the blanket with him when he gets older."*

♥♥♥ *"Baby Joseph Raymond was born on January 5, at Hackensack Hospital. He was 2 pounds, 3.8 ounces when he was born at 27 weeks and is in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Just wanted to say thank you so much for the blanket. He is using it already. I know it will always be special to me and my family. Joseph is now 5 days old and making progress. We are constantly praying and being as positive as we can. Project Linus brought a smile to our faces. Many Thanks!!!!"*

Kevin(Daddy), JoAnna(Mommy) and Baby Joseph

♥♥♥ *"Thank you for your continued support of our military members and their families! Your compassion, gifts of time and talent and truly beautiful blankets have been greatly appreciated! The infants, children and widows of our casualties in Iraq, Afghanistan and 82 other world locations are so touched by the blankets that they break into tears. Thank you to you and all who have put their time and effort into making these great blankets for the children.":*

Judy Mathewson, Lt. Col. USAF, TAPS

♥♥♥ *"The Volunteer Resources Department has been working hard to arrive at year-end stats. We were delighted to learn that Project Linus has contributed 1200 hand-made items, with an investment of over 8,000 hours! On behalf of the patients and families that are the recipients of your generosity, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your donation of time and talent."*

New parents delight in receiving the NICU blankets to which we affix a "Welcome to the World from the Valley Hospital" label. In addition, these serve as wonderful keepsakes. The children in Pediatrics, the Emergency Room and Same Day Surgery love to receive the blankets which bring them warmth and comfort. These wonderful gifts truly go a long way in making a difference to our patients and their families. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness, generosity and time. We appreciate the many ways that Project Linus has made a difference to Valley's patients and their families, and we value your participation as a Community Partner."

Liz Tortorella, Director
Valley Hospital Volunteer Services

As a follow-up to this letter of Thanks from Valley Hospital, Project Linus Hudson/Bergen Chapter was selected to receive their "Community Service" Award at their Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April. A copy of the certificate is printed on the last page of the newsletter.

♥♥♥ *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the volunteers of Project Linus for your February donation of blankets. As always, our patients and families were most grateful for your generosity."*

All of the blankets made the children happy and more comfortable during their hospital stay. However, I would like to share two comments with you. One of our female patients received a pink fleece blanket with frogs on it. She was so excited to get this blanket because she said it matches her bedroom perfectly. She is going through a long and difficult hospitalization and her blanket is always right by her side. I know she looks forward to taking it home with her soon. Another teenager received a knitted blue blanket. His mom said she is going to date the blanket and keep it as a memory item."

As you can see, your hard work and kindness truly make a difference to our patients and families. Thank you again for your dedication to our hospital"

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

THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to UPS and Joan Gasser. Joan is one of our evening Secaucus Blanketeers and an employee of UPS. In addition to the many blankets that Joan creates (over 200 to date), Joan helps me by visiting the Secaucus Senior Housing facility to pick up the blankets they make for us and deliver yarn. We received a very generous donation from UPS based on Joan's volunteer work for Project Linus. Many supplies for blankets will be purchased with this generous donation.

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
- Ladies 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

- Junior Orthodox Youth group of St. Athanasios Church, Paramus, - Blankets
- Heritage Middle School, Livingston - Blankets
- Girl Scouts of Totowa, Secaucus, Rutherford, Union City, Weehawken - Blankets, Yarn
- Forum Friends Girls Club, Forum School, Waldwick - Blankets
- Crochet Club Lincoln School, Nutley - > **400 skeins of yarn**
- Temple Sinai Religious School, Tenafly - Blankets
- Midland Park High School - Blankets
- Allison Waldman, 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.

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.

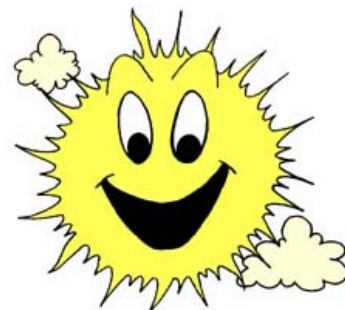
Remember to leave yarn ends and weave them into the blanket. I have had blankets start to unravel because of the tiny knots joining yarn ends. It is best to leave a few inches of yarn and weave the ends in.

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 1448
blankets to children in need.
Our total number of blankets
donated to date is 10,838.**

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!




Certificate of Appreciation
"Community Service" Award

Presented to

Project Linus
Hudson/Bergen, NJ Chapter

In recognition of your commitment and support to the patients of
The Valley Health System.

April 2008

 *Audrey Meyers*

President and Chief Executive Officer

Project  Linus

Hudson/Bergen, NJ Chapter

Liz Zawacki
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