

Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

ANOTHER YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE

As the holidays approach, and 2011 begins to wind down, I look at all we have accomplished over the years and am thrilled that we continue to be a strong chapter bringing comfort and blanket hugs to the children in distress in our area.

Month after month we deliver 230 to 260 blankets to local hospitals and shelters and we are regularly able to help other chapters when there is a disaster of some sort. We also continue to support TAPS, which helps the children of our fallen military, and My Stuff Bags, which helps children who have been removed from their homes, usually with no possessions, because of abuse or drug labs or other terrible situations.

This year, we will deliver over 3000 blankets to the children. We have also been joined by a number of new groups and individuals who have helped as new sources of blankets.

Thanks to all for your continuing support of our efforts.

2012 MAKE A BLANKET DAYS

Next year I am moving our Make a Blanket Days. It's always an iffy proposition holding our days in February, with the chance of bad weather. I am also continuing to hold 2 Blanket Days. So, on Saturday, March 24th, we'll have a Make a Blanket Day for our various Blanketeer groups and any individuals who wish to attend. Then, on Saturday, March 31st, we'll hold a separate Blanket Day for the Girl Scout and Brownie troops who wish to help.

Both days will be at the Secaucus Public Library in the Panasonic Room from 12:30 to 4:00 PM.

Winter 2011/2012

Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

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Total Number of Blankets delivered

21,709

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

The second, third and fourth Thursday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Secaucus Senior Center, 101 Centre Street

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

Everyone welcome



FALLEN HEROES

In July, U.S. Army Spc. Rafael A. Nieves Jr., who grew up in Bayonne and Jersey City, was killed while on patrol in Afghanistan. His death left his 1 year old daughter and 4 month old son without a father. We sent blankets to his family for his children. Hopefully this small gesture brought some comfort to them and the family.

STORIES AND THANK YOUs

♥♥♥ *“Thank you so much for the lovely blanket you made for our son, Alexander, which he received during his stay at Hackensack U. Med. Center. We had to bring him in early on a Friday morning with a high fever (he’s only three weeks old), and your wonderful gift made him and us feel really cozy.”*

Please pass on our thanks to your Project Linus Chapter mates.”

♥♥♥ *“My 4 year old daughter just had a three night stay at Hackensack Hospital. She received one of your beautiful crocheted blankets the night she was admitted. I just wanted to thank you for all that you do to make a child’s hospital stay a little easier on them. She loves it!! Thank you again!”*

♥♥♥ *“Hi! I just wanted to thank you for the beautiful blanket that my daughter received while in the NICU at Englewood Hospital. She spent three days there and they were the longest days of my life. The blanket gave her that personal touch even with all those wires attached to her. We will keep it forever and be forever grateful for the work that people from Project Linus did for us.”*

♥♥♥ *“On behalf of the staff and patients of the Valley Hospital, I would again like to thank you all for your very generous and thoughtful donation of afghans and fleece blankets. Your craftsmanship, attention to detail, personal dedication and joy are admired by our staff and appreciated by our patients. I wish this letter could echo the reactions whenever someone sees one of your beautiful blankets. I hope you all understand how your thoughtful donations alleviate anxiety and bring comfort.”*

I cannot say it enough, ‘The Valley Hospital is very fortunate to have such gracious members in its community.’ We wish you all good health and happiness.”

Katie Maraventano
Supervisor
Volunteer Resources

♥♥♥ *“At this time of year it is important to give thanks to those that help others. The Project Linus blankets are so appreciated by everyone at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center. The Child Life Department has come to depend on your delivery of special handmade blankets. Each blanket is beautiful with its own theme of colors and design. These blankets mean so much to the kids and families. They symbolize security and warmth and generate those feelings to the patients at a very vulnerable time. The blankets tell a story to the children, that someone cares for them, they are not alone. The parents and patients are so thankful and the child life staff looks forward to giving the blankets and witnessing the smile on the youngster’s face. Even when the patient and family are stressed or worried, the blanket eases their fears a bit.”*

Please tell everyone in your organization that the blankets are cherished. They are clearly made with love, for they are lovely. They are received with love by all the children and teens who are faced with medical illness or hospitalization.”

Ellen Goldring
Section Chief
Child Life/Creative Arts Therapy

♥♥♥ *“The Child Life Department at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital would like to thank all of you for your recent generosity during the fall months of 2011. The blankets delivered to our hospital during the months of September and October were once again greatly appreciated by our children, families and staff.”*

The beautiful designs of each blanket helped normalize the bedsides of our pediatric patients and provide the warmth that is often needed in the hospital environment. As always, many smiles were brought to the faces of our children upon receiving the gifts of your blankets, which also includes the gifts of your talents, time, and hard work.

Thank you so much for always remembering our children. We look forward to hearing from you during the winter months and know that your efforts will continue to keep our little ones comforted and cozy during a stressful time in their lives.

Tiffany Shevchik
Child Life Coordinator



NEW VOLUNTEERS

Over the year we have been blessed with support from a number of new groups of blanketeers. Among these are: The Women's Club of Arlington, the Sisterhood of Temple Sholom of West Essex in Cedar Grove, the Pomegranate Guild of North Jersey, the Crafty Sisters of Ramsey, students of Bergen Tech, the Women's Club of Upper Montclair, Haledon Public School Helping Hands, and Congregation Beth el in South Orange.

The residents at Ramapo College also continue to help us with their campus "Make a Blanket Days"

Welcome to our ranks!

THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you so much to UPS and the UPS Foundation for their recent generous donation of \$500. Thanks also to Anna DeRuvo, UPS Business Development Sr. Admin. Asst and Joan Gasser, UPS retiree whose blanket-making efforts made us eligible for this donation. Thanks to Anna for also spearheading the request and monitoring it through the process.

Thank you to Walmart and the Walmart Foundation for their very generous donation of \$1000. The donation was made during a special ceremony at the opening of the new Walmart in Bayonne.

Thank you to all who participated in the Macy's Shop for a Cause program. We raised \$150 and many folks didn't even get to shop because the day was scheduled during our freak fall snowstorm.

These monies help us continue our efforts to bring comfort to the children.

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: Beth Bogdanowicz, Joan Gasser, Joyce Geils, Cathy Haag, Leslie Maltz, Carol Schultz, the Secaucus Public Library and the Christine Lilore Law Offices in Wyckoff, NJ.

Thank you to the Secaucus Public Library and the Church of Our Saviour for allowing us to use their facilities to hold our meetings.

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

In addition to the new groups mentioned earlier, 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
- "Peace through Knits and Purls" of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Dumont
- Blanketeers of Fewsmith Memorial Presbyterian Church, Belleville
- Blanketeers of the Ridgewood Women's Club
- Blanketeers of Stanley Congregational Church, Chatham
- Serendipity Stitchers of the Church of the Redeemer, Morristown

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.



**Merry Christmas,
Happy Chanukah
and
Happy New Year to All!**

PROJECT LINUS....DID YOU KNOW?

In 16 years of existence, Project Linus has officially distributed over **4,031,000** blankets. If 30% of them are fabric, that translates into about **3,605,000 yards** of fabric. If 70% are afghans, that is about **14,231,000** skeins of yarn.

Nationally, we distribute over 1500 blankets per day.

Our Chapter of Project Linus has distributed **21,709** blankets since 2002. If 30% are fabric and 70% are afghans, that's **19,000** yards of fabric and **75,500** skeins of yarn.

Locally, we distribute about 250 blankets every month.

If each blanket is an average of 45" long, and we laid all the PL blankets end to end, they would stretch **15,116,000 feet**. That is as tall as **521 Mt. Everests**, or **12,092 Empire State Buildings** or as long as **50,555 football fields!**

And if you think you aren't making a financial contribution to Project Linus, let's do the math. If we assume about 10 hours to make a blanket and use the minimum wage of \$7.25 (and your efforts are worth much more than that), then our chapter, with about 3000 blankets distributed per year, **contributes over \$217,000 annually.**

Project ♥ Linus

Hudson/Bergen, NJ Chapter

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