

# Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

## NINE WONDERFUL YEARS OF BLANKET HUGS

We have reached two significant milestones. Our chapter is now **NINE YEARS OLD!** For nine wonderful years we have created and delivered beautiful blanket hugs to our local children in distress and have also been able to help out during disasters in other parts of our country and our world. Our second major milestone is even more impressive. To date we have delivered over **20,000 BLANKETS!!!** In addition to delivering to our local hospitals and domestic abuse shelters, we have supported our fallen soldiers' children through TAPS, the children so devastated by Katrina, the children in Haiti uprooted by the earthquake and most recently we sent blankets to Alabama and Joplin, Missouri to bring comfort to the children who lost everything in the terrible tornadoes. **What wonderful work we do.** Thank you all so much for your continuing support.

## TWO SUCCESSFUL MAKE A BLANKET DAYS

This year we held two Make a Blanket Days. On Saturday, Feb. 19th, we had a Day for our various Blanketeer groups and individual Blanketeers. Then, on Saturday, March 5th, we held a separate Blanket Day for the Girl Scout and Brownie troops who wished to help. We made and/or collected over 150 blankets over the course of the two days. Thanks to all who participated in these days. It is so thrilling to see all of our volunteers come together for a common cause. It is especially heartening to experience the enthusiasm of the Girl Scouts as they spend a day helping others. Thanks also to the Secaucus Public Library for their generosity in letting us use their facilities and for providing assistance during the two days.

Summer 2011

### Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

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**Total Number of Blankets delivered**  
**20,419**

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

**Afternoons:** 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**

## NEW BLANKETEER GROUPS

In January, I attended a Make a Blanket Day sponsored by the **Residence Program of Ramapo College**. What a great day. The students who participated were eager to make tied fleece blankets for the children. Friendly competition arose among the teams to see who would make the most blankets. About 50 people participated and in about 5 hours they completed over 35 blankets. They have continued to be involved, running another Make a Blanket Day in May with additional days planned over the coming months. Thanks to all of them for their efforts on behalf of the children.

The **Haledon Public School** Helping Hands Group, National Junior Honor Society and teachers and staff joined forces to make 96 tied fleece blankets for Project Linus. What a wonderful accomplishment and a terrific donation just when we needed extra blankets for the children in Alabama and Missouri affected by the tornadoes.

The **Women's Club of Arlington** recently donated 28 blankets to help the children.

The **North Jersey Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Alpha Iota Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi, and the Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon** all chose Project Linus for their community service projects providing many wonderful blankets for our children in distress.

The **Owens Family of Pearl River, NY** came to Make a Blanket Day to deliver 24 blankets made for Project Linus by their children as their community service projects.

## STORIES AND THANK YOUs

♥♥♥ *"To the wonderful people at Project Linus, This note is truly long overdue but I guess it goes to show how deeply we still appreciate your efforts. In May of 2010 our son had an injury which landed him in Hackensack Hospital for several days. The Child Life Specialists went above and beyond to keep him calm and comfortable. Still, kids are kids and pain is pain so he was having a difficult time. The head of Child Life had a beautiful idea to bring your hand-crafted blanket to comfort him. He has loved it from the moment he received it. Your talented and caring volunteers truly made a wonderful contribution. It's uplifting to know there are people who use their talents in such a thoughtful way! With warmest appreciation"*

♥♥♥ *"Just wanted to send a short note to say thank you! Our daughter had eye surgery at the Valley Hospital's ambulatory surgical center. As you would expect she was a little nervous about the impending procedure.*

*When she found your blanket and bear, it put a big smile on her face. She clung to it in the operating room and in fact has slept with it every night since she got home. While some may see it as a small gesture it was huge to a small little girl. Can't say thanks enough. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.."*

♥♥♥ *"I wanted to thank your organization for the gift of a beautiful red and white blanket that was given to my daughter at Hackensack Medical Center. She is 14 years old and was hospitalized for salmonella colitis. She was very uncomfortable and was feeling sad, and one of the volunteers came in with this beautiful blanket for her. She was so happy, and it really cheered her up. She still sleeps with it at night. The blanket is special because it was handmade. My mother, Katie's grandmother, used to knit but she passed away before Katie was born. One day when Katie was watching Sponge Bob on TV, Sponge Bob's grandmother knitted a sweater with 'love in every stitch' and Katie asked me if her grandmother would have knit her something 'with love in ever stitch' I told her of course, and felt kind of sad. When Katie got the blanket, she said 'Mom, I got a blanket with Love in Every Stitch'. I almost cried. I think that is why the blanket meant so much to her, so thank you again."*

♥♥♥ *"Dear Project Linus, My name is Riley James. I was born at 33 weeks gestation. I was admitted to the Englewood hospital NICU. When I arrived I had a beautiful baby blue blanket on my crib. I just wanted to thank you for making my stay in the NICU a little warmer and brighter.."*

♥♥♥ *"I was in the Hackensack University Medical Center last December with my week old baby. He was jaundiced and had to be put under the lights. It was a difficult time.*



*I must have taken a nap because when I awoke I saw a blue blanket on the chair. After checking this item out, I realized it was a gift from Project Linus. Instantly a smile came on my face. I wish I could have thanked the angel who brought it to me.*

*Now it serves as a reminder of this kind group who took the time to make and deliver it. A gift that will surely warm Paul for years to come. Paul has returned home totally healthy and surrounded by the love of his big sister and the warmth of this blanket.*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

♥♥♥ *“Thank you for helping us provide childhood essentials and comforts to abused, neglected and abandoned children who so often enter shelters and foster care with few belongings and little hope. You’ve made it possible for us to demonstrate, through the gift of a My Stuff Bag, that many people care.*

*We receive hundreds of letters from agencies across America who rescue these unfortunate children and want us to know how very important it is to be able to ease their trauma with My Stuff Bags. Here’s an excerpt:*

*‘Earlier this week, four siblings arrived at our Child Advocacy Center. The oldest, an 11 year old girl, was very astute to the foster care process as she had “been there before.” Upon receipt of the My Stuff Bags, she advised her younger siblings not to get too attached to the items inside, because they would be taken back. Our advocate took the girl aside, wrote her name on the bag and informed her NO ONE would take the bag away. She raced back in to help her siblings write their names on their bags and let them know it was okay to enjoy everything inside because the bags belonged to them and they could keep them forever.’*

*The foster care system is a harsh reality for so very many kids. Because you and other compassionate people across the nation continue to help us provide My Stuff Bags, we’re giving thousands of these children a new and better reality, one that says “you’re worthy and you’re loved!”*

*Thank you sincerely for your contribution!”*

Janeen Holmes, President/CEO  
My Stuff Bags Foundation

♥♥♥ *“On behalf of the Child Life Department at St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for coordinating another blanket donation. Our department was once again very grateful to receive this beautiful donation of handmade items that was shared with us by your volunteers.*

*All the children who received the blankets send their thanks for the happiness you and the Project Linus volunteers brought to them through your kindness and hard work. Your warm, comfortable, colorful blankets provided much comfort to our children.*

*Your volunteers truly have special talents, and we are so fortunate to have our children be recipients of their talents. Thank you again for your continued thoughtfulness.”*

Tiffany Shevchik  
Child Life Coordinator

## THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

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, 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.

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 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
- Mackenzie Miller, Girl Scout and Friend of Project Linus for making blankets and for spreading the word about Project Linus to her family, friends, classmates and fellow girl scouts

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.



**MAKE A BLANKET DAY – FEBRUARY 19, 2011**

**Project ♥ Linus**

**Hudson/Bergen, NJ Chapter**

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