

Project ♥ Linus BLANKET BUZZ

Project Linus news for our dedicated 'blanketeers' and supporters

MAKE A BLANKET DAY 2007

Our 2007 Make a Blanket Day was held on Saturday, February 10th at the Secaucus Public Library. It was a rousing success. Over 40 people participated by donating blankets and yarn, tying fleece, tying quilts, knitting and crocheting and sewing on labels.

Girl Scout Troop 2779 from Weehawken came to Make a Blanket Day and not only brought tied fleece they had completed earlier, but also stayed throughout the day and continued to cut and tie fleece. A few of the girls learned how to crochet and began working on borders on fleece blankets.

Although they couldn't join us because of a camping trip, Girl Scout Troops 2200/2163 brought a bag of yarn to donate to our blanketeers.

We collected 231 blankets that day.

In addition, Quilts Plus in Closter, NJ, a Janome Dealer, participated in National Make a Blanket Day on February 17th. They collected 30 beautiful quilts and 15 crocheted and knitted blankets for our Chapter.

Finally, Janome America Headquarters in Mahwah, NJ, held a Make a Blanket day on Friday, February 16th to benefit our chapter. They made 26 quilts which I just recently collected.

Thank you to Kathy Steffens for the use of the Library facilities, and to Vinnie from her staff who helped us set up and cart blankets and supplies between the meeting room and my van. Most especially, thank you to all who participated and helped make the day such a success.

Spring/Summer, 2007

Hudson/Bergen Counties NJ Chapter Information

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Total Number of Blankets delivered
7571

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, Rag Shop, JoAnn's, Staples or Wal-Mart gift certificates 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 WEB SITE

I have set up a website for our Chapter. You can find it at: <http://www.orgsites.com/nj/plhudsonbergen>. I will keep it updated with current Chapter info and needs, and hope to post some photos from Make a Blanket Day and other events.

NEW BLANKETEERS

Since our last newsletter, three groups have joined us making blankets for Project Linus.

- The Washington Grand Hookers of Washington Township
- The ladies of SunRise Senior Living in Cresskill.
- The ladies of the Bogota Senior Center

Welcome to all our new Blanketeers

GIRL SCOUTS and YOUTH GROUPS

Besides the Girl Scout Troops who helped us on Make a Blanket Day, a number of other Troops and Youth Groups have helped Project Linus in various ways.

- ❖ Brownie Troop 627 of Nutley made over 20 tied fleece blankets and also collected yarn, fabric, stamps and gift cards.
- ❖ The children of Temple Sinai Religious School made over 45 tied fleece blankets.
- ❖ For the third time in 18 months, the Scouts of Troop 96 in Nutley made tied fleece blankets
- ❖ The children of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Sunday School made three tied fleece blankets. Included with each blanket was a fleece heart pillow which the children "stuffed" with their love and prayers for the sick child who would receive the blanket.
- ❖ For the second year, Brownie Troop 530 made tied fleece blankets, this year choosing Hello Kitty and Hot Wheels prints.
- ❖ The children of Wysowl Preschool colored fabric squares which were then sewn into a lovely patchwork quilt.
- ❖ Sarah Gallina, a Girl Scout in Upper Saddle River, coordinated a Kids Make a Difference Day for her Gold Award Project. The day included making 8 tied fleece blankets for Project Linus

Thanks to all these groups for their help and support, and thanks to any group I may have inadvertently missed,

FALLEN HEROES

There are many children in distress who need our blankets, but some of the most in need are the children of fallen police officers, firefighters and military personnel. I recently provided blankets for the children of two of our fallen police officers. . These two men gave their lives for our safety and although extremely sad, it is a great honor and privilege for us to be able to provide some comfort to the children they leave behind.

❖ Officer Tyron Franklin was shot and killed after being identified as a police officer during a robbery attempt at a local fast food restaurant. Office Franklin had served with the Paterson police department for only 8 months. He had a sixteen month old son to whom we sent a Project Linus blanket.

❖ Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio was killed in the line of duty while pursuing a suspect. He had served with the Newark police department for 12 years. He had four children who all received Project Linus blankets to help them in their time of loss.

STORIES AND THANK YOUs

♥♥♥ *Last year we sent a collection of blankets to Fort Richardson Alaska for the children of military personnel who were being posted to Iraq. The Chaplains at the base held a gathering of the families to hand out the blankets. Each blanket was opened up and displayed and the Chaplains called the little ones up to receive these gifts of hugs and security. One of the most touching stories was of the three year old boy who was given a blue quilt with trucks on it. The Chaplain said, "I think a little boy would like this, what do you think?" The little boy's face lit up and the Chaplain knelt down and wrapped him up in the quilt and said, "now when you are missing your Daddy, you get this quilt and wrap up in it and know that this was made for you to always know that you are loved and so is you Daddy."*

Is there any doubt that we all do something special!

♥♥♥ *We were born on Oct 1, 2006 and spent 12 days in the Englewood Hospital NICU. Thank you for our blankets, we will cherish them forever.*

XXOO

Anthony & Nicholas

♥♥♥ *Our daughter, Naomi, had to spend a day at Valley Hospital. While there, she received one of your blankets. She has since gotten better and is home and doing well. She loves the blanket and likes to cuddle up with it. Thank you so much for your loving work – it was a bright moment in a long, scary day. We thank you sincerely,*

Tamar, Yoav, and Naomi

THANKS TO OUR BLANKETEERS AND SUPPORTERS

A very special thank you to the Ridgewood Avenue School in Glen Ridge. The Student Council ran a Holiday Candy Gram sale throughout the school. Each Candy Gram cost \$1. They collected \$1300 for our Project Linus Chapter.

A special thank you goes 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
- Crocheters of the Bogota Senior Center
- Ladies of SunRise Senior Living in Cresskill

Thank you to the following for their generous donation of space for our regular meetings:

- Church of Our Saviour, Secaucus
- Secaucus Public Library

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

CURRENT NEEDS

I am most in need of boy blankets or gender neutral blankets of any size.

WHERE DO THE BLANKETS GO???

The following facilities are recipients of blankets from our chapter:

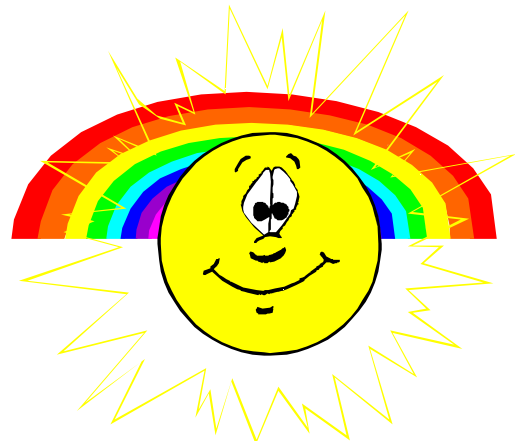
- ♥ Hackensack University Medical Center Pediatric Units
- ♥ Children's Aid and Family Services of Bergen County
- ♥ The Children's Hospital of Hudson County at Jersey City Medical Center
- ♥ St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Paterson
- ♥ Valley Hospital Pediatric Emergency
- ♥ Englewood Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care
- ♥ Shelter Our Sisters, Hackensack
- ♥ WomenRising, Inc., Jersey City
- ♥ Hudson Cradle, Jersey City
- ♥ "My Stuff" Bags Foundation

We also recently donated 14 Red, White and Blue blankets to the Good Grief camp of TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program). These blankets go to children of military personnel who have died in the line of duty.

We also sent 20 blankets to Kansas for the victims of the recent terrible tornados.

Since the last newsletter, the Project Linus Hudson/Bergen NJ Chapter delivered over 1000 blankets to children in need. Our total number of blankets donated to date is 7571.

This coming June is a major milestone for our Chapter. We celebrate our 5th Anniversary.



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