



Lines from
Linus!

Lititz-Lancaster Chapter Project Linus

February, 2007

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WebLinks

<http://www.projectlinus.org>
Project Linus
Headquarters website

Contact Sherran Payne

call 717 684-5202 or
email n3lom@juno.com

Project Linus

c/o Sherran Payne
1373 Malleable Rd
Columbia PA 17512

Letter from Sherran

Happy New Years everyone. I am hoping everyone is experiencing a good start to 2007. Project Linus received national news coverage, Friday, January 19 on NBC's Making A Difference Segment. If you missed it, you can go to msnbc.com and click on their Making A Difference link. NBC archives their segments. Within minutes of its airing, I checked my computer and sure enough we had an inquiry. The person indicated they had seen the segment. Hooray for Linus! At Yarn-In new people joined us and I continued to receive phone calls even from York County. Welcome to all our new "Blanketeers."

Those who attend our quilting bees, a change is happening. Jo Stauffer will be losing her co-chair Lisa Garner. Lisa will still be attending quilting bees and making blankets as often as she can. With her daughter Meghan's dance activities, etc. Lisa is getting to enjoy all the extra's that come along with having an active family life. We all thank Lisa for her continued support of Linus and for unselfish hours of putting Linus in the forefront for years. We thank **Jill Harsh** for becoming the new co-chair with Jo. Jo and Jill will continue to organize quilting bee days and keep us all busy. We are looking for a new site and will share the information when we have things confirmed.

One of our drop off locations has a new owner. Jean Hipp of Kitnit has retired. One of her employees, **Betsie Lesher**, purchased the shop from her. We would like to thank Jean for all her years of support. You have helped many children be comforted with blankets because of your caring. We wish you the best in retirement. Betsie is graciously keeping KitNit as a drop-off site. We greatly appreciate her continued support. **Jo Stauffer** is our **new drop off location** for those in the Lititz area. Please checkout her contact information in the Drop Off section. Thanks so much Jo for providing us with a location in the Lititz Area.

Our chapter will once again be providing blankets to the Hospice Camp in August. Gentle reminder that blankets for the Hospice Camp need to be the larger size (40x60) as the families often wrap up in them together. When I wrote to Marcia about Burn Camp this was her response:

"Sherran, You asked if we are still are interested in the blankets for the children at Camp Susquehanna, Camp for Children with Burns. Yes, we would love to be the recipient of your blankets. Receiving these is truly a high point in the camp. The children actually hold

their blankets, squeeze them, wrap themselves in them, as if they are comforting all their wounds and easing their painful memories. They don't let them go and I know when they go home they are treasured."

Another gentle reminder that single layer fleece blankets are what are given to the Burn Camp. Thanks in advance for all your support with these two camps.

Two of our Linus Blanketeers provided other community organizations with information about our chapter. As a result of their efforts, our chapter received \$150 donation from St. John Neumann's Knights of Columbus and \$180 donation from Friends of the Ephrata Library. Sue Loss was presented a check for \$650 for Project Linus as she once again completed the necessary paperwork for a volunteer grant through her work at Pepperidge Farm (Campbell's). A sincere **Thank You** to all three of our blanketeers for bringing those donations to our chapter. The children will benefit.

Make A Blanket Day was held for the 5th year at Brubaker's Sewing Center on February 17. There were 44 people in attendance, which was quite good with the still icy roads that some had to travel. Blankets collected, sewn and bagged totaled 361 for the day. Additional tops and blankets were sewn and ready for tying. The place was abuzz with chatter and busy hands. This year, Brubaker's sponsored an additional drawing for a floor lamp that was won by **Rita Barranco**. The Janome sewing machine drawing was won by **Bonnie Brubaker** who "dreamt the night before that she had won." To say Bonnie was thrilled would be an understatement.

Thank you to Brubaker's for their 5th year of sponsorship. Thank you too to all the blanketeers who made the day such a success. Be sure to check out the pictures that will be on our chapter website soon. Thanks Nancy McHenry for uploading them.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our chapter. Without you, there would be no chapter.

For the Children.....

Sherran

Where's Sherran now?

Here Sherran goes again. I will be away once again from February 21st through early April. I do not have an exact return date as my husband and I will be helping our son's family come back across country to his new duty station in Connecticut. At last, one of my children will be on the east coast. Hooray!!! Mim Snyder (717-665-7495) has given me permission to have her phone number distributed. If you are in need of labels, please call Mim and she will mail them to you. I will have distributed both February and March blanket deliveries in February before I depart. So you really will not realize I'm gone. :) Thanks Mim for your help in my absence. I will also be checking my email while I am away (except for the drive back) if you need

to contact me. I will **NOT** be checking for phone messages.

Project Linus Mission

Fellow Blanketeers: The following description of Project Linus will be included in each newsletter. Please feel free to share your newsletter with friends. Hopefully the information provided will help newcomers understand our two-fold mission:

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization with a two-fold mission.

- First, it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "Blanketeers."
- Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

Where Our Donations Go

Our blankets are donated to:

- Women's and Babies Hospital
- Lancaster General Hospital: Pediatrics and ER
- Milagro House
- Clare House
- Ephrata Community Hospital
- Hospice of Lancaster (Coping Kids Program)
- Deb's House
- Cleft Palate Clinic
- Mom's House
- Samaritan Counseling Center
- YWCA
- Love Inc.
- Lancaster Police Dept.
- York Children's Home
- Women's Place
- Family Works
- Berks County Women in Crisis
- St. Mary's Home for Teen Mothers
- Lampeter Police Dept. (new)

What Kind of Blankets Do We Need?

New, handmade, washable blankets for preemies through early teens.

Blankets should be: MADE OF NEW MATERIALS

- Knitted, quilted (please include batting in quilts), crocheted, fleece, sewn, etc.
- Child friendly colors and patterns
- Sizes: 36 X 36 to 40 x 60 requirement by National

Our chapter takes 30x30 as requested by one of our hospitals

Our chapter also takes 24" wide by 18-36" long for Ephrata Neonatal unit

Please visit our chapter or National websites where more information and free pattern links are provided:

<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/lancprojectlinus/> or www.projectlinus.org.

What Else Can I Do to Help?

- Donate stamps for newsletters (each newsletter mailing takes two rolls of stamps for a cost of \$78; so even a book of stamps helps defray the cost)
- Donate gift certificates from JoAnn Fabrics or AC Moore (enables us to purchase batting, material and yarn)
- Organize fund-raisers
- Check with your place of employment to see if they have a volunteer grant program application
- Organize a (church or scout) youth group fund-raiser(car wash or bake sale) and donate the proceeds to Project Linus
- Ask Sherran for National's donation letter to present to a business who might contribute to our chapter

Maybe you are wondering why we need fund-raisers for Project Linus. As we are strictly a volunteer organization, we have no funds unless we raise them ourselves.

What do we need funds for? Each year we try to keep our members informed about our chapter, 3-4 times. Although we have many on our email list, we still have nearly 200 newsletters that must be US mailed. Currently there is no cost for copying the newsletter as Armstrong continues to copy for us. But each mailing costs \$78. Thank you's are also mailed as well as reports required by National. Every Make A Blanket Day we have expenses for materials including batting, cotton fabric, etc. When we take on special projects such as TAPS, we pay shipping costs. So as you can see, our chapter couldn't exist without income. Fund-raisers or donations from businesses are our primary means of gaining income. So if you are interested in organizing fund-raisers we could certainly use your expertise.

Looking Ahead

2007 Sewing Retreat

Project Linus Special Event - Weekend Sewing Retreat

DATE: September 7 - 9, 2007

WHERE: Black Rock Retreat
1345 Kirkwood Pike
Quarryville, PA 17566-9539

Maranatha Retreat Center: All rooms have 1 queen and 2 twin beds with a private bath in each room.

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Friday until 1:00 p.m. Sunday

WHAT: Bring your own sewing machine, supplies and projects and work in a restful setting. There are no TV's, radios or telephones at Black Rock Retreat to interrupt your fun!

COST: \$160.00. Includes two nights lodging, 5 buffet style meals (B/L/D on Sat. and B/L on Sunday), meeting work room for the group. No drinks allowed in the rooms. You may bring beverages and snacks for the work room.

Registration: Send \$100 non-refundable deposit by April 30, 2007. Balance is due July 31, 2007. (We must have a minimum of 10 participants in order to book this retreat. Registrations will be filled in the order that the deposit is received.)

Lisa Garner
1102 Jamaica Road
Lancaster, PA 17602

Questions? Call Lisa at 299-2144 or send email to schoener@verizon.net

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code-----

Phone (_____) _____

Email address _____

Name of roommate(s)_____

Quilting Bees and Yarn-Ins

QUILTING BEE: What is it?

Please join us to make quilts for Project Linus. Fabric kits are available. You just need to bring your sewing machine (if desired) and a sack lunch. We sew and tie quilts and enjoy seeing the quilts that others have brought with them. Come prepared to enjoy yourself while working on this worthwhile cause!

QUILTING BEE DATES:

- **April 21**
- **June 16**

Location: April and June bees will be held at St. Anne's parish center which is located at the corner of Liberty and Duke Streets in Lancaster. Times are 10 AM till 2 PM.

Note: Our chapter is in the process of trying to find a new location for the quilting bees. We are currently inquiring at the Landis Retirement Homes and a few churches. If you know of any other potential sites that may be willing to host the every other month bees please contact Sherran or Jo Stauffer (626-0012). We are looking for a space that would have tables available, possible space for our storage cabinet, easy access to the building, restrooms and available parking.

YARN-INS:

The fourth Saturday of every month crocheters and knitters gather at the Ephrata Library from 10 AM till noon. Blanketeers bring what they are working on as well as any blankets they want to donate. Yarn is available for free to be returned at another time in the form of a blanket. Unable to attend yarn-in's but interested in receiving free yarn to make blankets contact Sherran at 684-5202 or email n3lom@juno.com

Yarn-in Dates for 2007:

	Mar 24	Jul 28	Oct 27
Jan 27	Apr 28	Aug 25	
Feb 24	Jun 23	Sept 22	

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Please include your name and address when you donate blankets! This helps us track our donations as well as allows us to send our thank yous. New drop off for Lititz. Thanks Jo!!!

Lititz- **Jo Stauffer's** house 14 Bentley Lane, Lititz. Call 626-0012 if directions needed. You may leave blankets on her porch anytime.

Brickerville- **The Ball and Skein Shop** - Shopping center at Brickerville

House during shop hours. Call 625-4280

Southern County- **Carol Cover's** house 612 Georgetown Rd Ronks. Call 687-7521 for directions and drop off times

Lancaster- **Charmaine Caesar's** house 37 East Liberty St. Call 394-5983 for directions. Drop off blankets any Wednesday and Thursday from 6 to 9 PM

Lancaster- **KitNit Needlecrafts** - 713 Old Hickory Rd. Lancaster. Hours M-F 10-5; Wed. 10-8, and Sat. 10-3. Call 569-3951

New Holland- **Brubaker's Sewing Center** - 20 N. Roberts Ave, New Holland. Drop off during store hours. Call 354-8332 for more info.

Columbia- **Sherran Payne's** house 1373 Malleable Rd. Call 684-5202 for directions. Drop off anytime leave blankets on table on screened in porch. **(Reminder no drop offs until the beginning of April)**

Elizabethtown- **Christ Lutheran Church Office**, East High St. 1st week of every month from 9 to 3. Call 367-2786 for directions or with questions

Blanket Tips

- **Please remove all pins** before handing in blankets
- **Batting should be included** in all sewn blankets (quilts) except for fleece
- If you are attaching labels but don't like hand sewing, the labels can be attached using **Ultra Heat'N Bond**
- Please **check for loose yarn ends** before handing in blankets
- New, handmade, washable blanket materials **should not contain any wool** due to allergies of children
- Material preferred for quilts: 100% cotton, it is softer for children
- On fleece, **remove printed salvage end** before fringing or finishing
- If you attach your name and/or address to a blanket **please use yarn or a return mailing address label** - Remember all pins must be removed.

Blanketeer Highlights

For our winter newsletter, a "Yarnie" as the crocheters and knitters refer to themselves is being highlighted. **Please meet Eleanor Wahl.** Eleanor learned about Project Linus by reading an article about it in the local Shopping News. Eleanor has been a blanketeer for four years. During those four years, she has made at least 150 blankets. In addition, she has made premie hats and pouches. As though that didn't keep Eleanor busy enough, Eleanor also routinely acts as the deliverer of blankets to our Yarn-Ins for those who can't make it.

When asked what she liked most about her involvement in Project Linus Eleanor responded, "the interplay with other project members sharing patterns and admiring other peoples work and ideas." Eleanor also shared, "since I am getting so much older (89) it helps me with something to

occupy my free time. I am happy to know my "therapy" is going for a good cause. Also it is so nice to see all the work that comes in. Sometimes the amount is amazing."

Thank You Eleanor for sharing your handiwork and your thoughts with our chapter. As I am often heard saying without blanketeers like you, our chapter would not exist.

Thank You Notes Received

The following Thank You was received from a recipient who attended one of the camps to whom we present our blankets:

"Dear Project Linus,

Thank you for the blanket. I really like it. I use it every night; it was my Favorite Part of camp.

from,

Katie

to whom it may concern:

Our daughter was born new years day, 4 weeks early and weighing on 5.5lbs. she spent 11 days in the NICU at the Ephrata Community Hospital in Ephrata PA, while in the NICU the hospital provided us with a beautiful fleece blanket made by your organization. Just the other night my husband and I were watching the news and we saw a very short segment on your group I was suprised to know that our new baby's blanket came from so far away. While our daughter was in the hospital it was good to have something to hold her in besides the regular hospital blankets. A deep thank you for taking the time to make such beautiful blankets and providing them to the children who need them most.

sincerely,

stacey & matt marks

Dear Sherran,

May you be blessed for the kindness you've shown our daughter, Iysis with the beautiful blanket. She likes to snuggle with it when she goes to bed. She says it is soo soft and she loves the cupcakes on them also. There are no words to express our gratitude for what you've given. But a picture says it all:)(Included) Thank you so much "Project Linus Chapter."

Blessings,

The Wengers

Bob, Debbie & Iysis



Over 12,411 blankets delivered to children in need

(as of December, 2006 reporting to National)

Since the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of Project Linus began over 6 years ago...over 12,411 blankets have found their way into the hands of children in need.

Congratulations! Wow! Please keep up the wonderful needlework!

Project Linus
1373 Malleable Rd
Columbia PA 17512