



Lines from
Linus!

Lititz-Lancaster Chapter Project Linus

February 2008

Volume 2008, Number 1

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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!!!!

Our Chapter has had a busy start to the New Year!!! Upon filing the last quarterly report for 2007 in early January, our chapter has reached another milestone. We have delivered 15, 477 blankets as of December, 2007. In January, another 200+ blankets were delivered. Each and everyone of you please accept my personal thanks. Whether you have donated one or many blankets this year, you have effected a child's life for ever. National shared this letter that shows you how much one blanket can make a difference:

Hello! My name is Katrina. I am a 33 year old woman who, as a child, had 3 major surgeries at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California. I received a blanket from an organization such as yours on the day of my first surgery. I loved and treasured that blanket so much. It was the only thing in the hospital that was not sterile and that was mine, that no nurse had control over! I have had several surgeries since then, two as a teen, and have always appreciated that blanket. I still have it today in my livingroom, in a basket. I have never been able to thank the person that made me this blanket, but I am grateful for it, and would like to encourage your organization by letting you know that these kids will cherish this blanket for the rest of their lives. Please share this with your beautiful blanket makers.

Thank you and keep it up!

-Katrina

If you shop at **Good's Store** for Linus supplies, our chapter has obtained a 10% discount card. You will need to provide the following number as our identification: **996242 This is listed under Lititz/Lancaster Chapter Project Linus; charity work.**

Rosemary, who is our contact for the Lancaster Police Department, shared with me her excitement that the police & fire departments have set aside a sorting room for Linus blankets. In this space, they individually bag blankets to be used for the police cruisers as well as for the firefighters to come and use as needed. Rosemary actually got a call herself to get blankets and take to children affected by a fire. Rosemary has offered to be a materials fund-raiser for our chapter. She will be our representative at various community service organizations where she will introduce them to what Project Linus is. She will then accept donations for items that she takes along to offer as prizes. Anyone who could find a shop to donate a basket of lotions, soaps, snack goodies, whatever this would be a great help. Blanket making materials will be the outcome of her endeavors. Contact Sherran if you have a basket to be passed on to Rosemary.

Our chapter has three special programs we provide blankets: TAPS, Burn Camp & Hospice Kids Camp. So please keep in mind we will be in need of red, white & blue blankets for TAPS. These blankets will be presented Memorial Day weekend. This year we hope to have myself & possibly a few others from our chapter actually helping with distributing the blankets. Remember the children receiving these blankets have lost a parent or sibling while they were serving in our active duty military.

Burn Camp held at Millersville University near the end of June requests fleece blankets as these are gentler on the children's skin. Usually we try to make these 40x 60. **A change of the month for Grieving Kids Camp**, this year it will be held in early June. Again the request is for large blankets as the children often wrap themselves in it with another family member. As the blankets come in, I start to sort for our special programs as well as for our monthly needs. So whatever size blanket except for the tiny size you donate, we are in need. Please keep the blankets coming. Since we have added more donation sites, we will always be in need of blankets.

Sue Loss presented our chapter with a check from Pepperidge Farm Dollars for Doers program at Make A Blanket Day. Because of Sue's continued dedication to our chapter, we were awarded \$750.00. **Words can not express our appreciation Sue** for all you do for our chapter. Thank You on behalf of the children and fellow blanketeteers.

Dyan Eisenberger shared with her husband the excitement of Project Linus. She also indicated our chapter relies on donations to keep us functioning. Mark knew his employers were looking for places to give possible donations. Through Mark's help our chapter will be receiving a generous monetary donation from his company. Thank you both Dyan and Mark for sharing the vision of Project Linus and helping our chapter remain strong.

Elaine Fry from Mennonite Financial Credit Union contacted me about a possible Linus display in their office lobby for a few weeks in February. Our trifold display, a few different types of blankets and brochures were taken to the office. A donation jar was going to be placed on the table as well. When I return from AZ, I will retrieve our materials and any donations from Elaine. How wonderful that we were contacted to help us spread the Linus Mission and be the recipient of a donation no matter the size. Thank You to the Mennonite Financial Credit Union.

Our 6th annual Make A Blanket Day (MABD) was held Saturday, February 16th at Brubaker's Sewing Center. There were 50 blanketeteers in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the company of fellow blanketeteers in the making of quilts & fleece blankets (check out the picture gallery on our website soon). My Suburban helped me haul **273** blankets home. If I did the math accurately, approximately 111 blankets were brought in to MABD. So ladies you must have been running on energizer batteries; it means we completed about **162** blankets from 10 AM till 2:00 PM. **Wow!!!** I cannot thank you enough. Blanketeers commented on the delicious food and everyone received a door prize. **Amy Smith**, owner of Brubaker's Sewing Center presented a travel Ott light to **Marlene Fromm** our grand door prize winner. The grand prize was donated by Brubaker's. **Amy please accept our sincere thanks for hosting our chapter's 6th MABD and providing a great door prize.** *Blanketeers please know that on behalf of all the children who will receive these blankets I say thank you and you are special people!! I am honored to be the coordinator of our chapter.*

For the Children.....
Sherran

Where's Sherran now?

Now that MABD is behind us, Sherran and Hubby are heading to sunny Arizona for two weeks with daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Sherran will be checking emails from Feb. 21 thru Mar. 6th but not answering phone calls.

From April 2 to April 30, the Linus Office phone will be unanswered; emails will be checked & responded to. You guessed it, once again family comes first. Sherran & Hubby will be caring for grandchildren while daughter & son-in-law celebrate their anniversary and then head to California for a niece's wedding. What a wonderfully busy month it will be. So be sure to make any requests before April 2nd.

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.
- Lampeter Police Dept.
- York Children's Home
- Women's Place and Family Works
- Berks County Women in Crisis
- St. Mary's Home for Teen Mothers
- Water Street Rescue Mission
- Welsh Mt. Medical & Dental Clinic
- Gettysburg Hospital and Pregnancy Centers
- Chiefs of Police in Warwick, Penn Manor, Mount Joy and Penn townships

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 \$82; 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 \$82. 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

TAPS

Blankets for TAPS will be accepted until **May 1**. If we do have a group actually going to the ceremony we may be able to take more blankets with us. If we need to mail, we will want to early May.

If you are interested in learning more about TAPS here is their website: www.taps.org

Burn Camp

Marcia's response when asked if we would be having Burn Camp again in 2008.

"Thanks so much for including us again. We are anticipating about 40-45 campers this year, many of whom will be first time attendees. We appreciate your contribution to our children, so much. When they wrap themselves with the blankets their faces shine.... It is a memory that is irreplaceable. Thanks again, Marcia "

Camp is held in June. So blankets should be to me by **June 7**.

Grieving Kids Camp

Jacqueline Bilder updated me on the change in date for the Coping Kids Camp. At the present time, the camp is scheduled to be held in early June. Blankets will need to be to me no later than **May 23rd**. Remember if you drop off at other locations, I do not pick up weekly. Some people send me an email or call if they want me to know they have dropped off a number of blankets at a drop off site.

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! The focus for quilting bees until after April will be completing red, white and blue blankets that are already in progress.

QUILTING BEE DATES:

- April 19, 2008
- June 21, 2008
- August 16, 2008
- October 18, 2008

Location:

Landis Homes community room. Directions can be found on our local website: <http://www.orgsites.com/pa/lanprojectlinus/>

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:

- February 23, 2008
- March 22, 2008
- April 26, 2008
- No May meeting date
- June 28, 2008
- July 26, 2008
- August 23, 2008
- September 27, 2008
- October 25, 2008

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.

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- **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. **(no drop offs Feb. 21-Mar 6 or Apr.2-May 1.)**

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 be careful when storing blankets before dropping off. If blankets have a mildew smell I can not use them. Blankets should be stored in a dry place. Again this is due to children's allergies, especially asthma, being triggered.

- **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

Thursday, February 7, 2008, the Lancaster New Era featured a story on Amy Ike, her children and the Landis Homes Hildebrandt Learning Center and Frank & Wanda Wilson. Amy coordinated with the staff to have the 35 children who attend the Learning Center create blocks of their own to be sewn into quilts. The article included a picture of Amy, her two children and a few other children as well as Frank and Wanda looking at the completed quilts. The picture also included one of the Wilson's quilts. Frank and Wanda live at Landis Homes and have assisted our chapter in holding quilting bees at the home. **A copy of the article can be viewed in our chapter scrapbook.**

Thank you to Amy, the children, the Learning Center Staff and Frank and Wanda for their wonderful support of our Linus Chapter.

Thank You Notes Received

The following thank you was received from Judy Mathewson, Lt. Col. USAF: She wrote

Dear Sherran,

Thank You & you rProject Linus Chapter for the precious gift of blankets for our wounded soldiers and their families! Your time and talents are greatly appreciated by the widows & kids of our military casualties, as well. You have touched many lives of our unsung heroes! Happy Holidays! Sincerely, Judy Matthewson

The following was received from the Anaheim Chapter of Project Linus:

.....you helped make the "Snowball Express" a tremendous success!

Judy Gunderson

PS You set a record with 103 blankets!! (A picture was included of kids choosing

blankets:0)

From Women & Babies Hospital:

Dear Sherran,

On behalf of the staff and patients at Lancaster General Women & Babies Hospital, we thank you for your kind donation. This contribution will benefit our newborn babies and is greatly appreciated. Thank You Very much!

Edith brought us the blankets for our NICU. Thanks so much! Sincerely,
Beverly

During Christmas week, I received a phone call from a young woman who had been referred to our Chapter for blankets. She explained a family just moved here and had nothing. Would we provide blankets for the seven children? Of course we did.

Melissa left this note when she picked up the blankets: Thank you so much for the blankets!

Frank Wilson received this beautiful thank you from a blanket recipient:

Dear Mr. Wilson

My name is Toby Ryan Sensenig and I was born at the Lancaster General Women and Babies Hospital in January. I was 7 weeks early and I spent two weeks in the NICU. I was given this beautiful blankets with ducks on one side and on the other side is more ducks with a dog.

I couldn't beleave that someone made this beautiful blanket for me. I marveled at it everytime it covered my ISC bed and bassinet. Then they told me that I could take it home with me. I just couldn't beleave what I was hearing. This beautiful blanket was mine, made with love from someone I didn't even know. I was speechless.

I am home now with my mom and Dad, and my blanket. My Mom, Dad and I would like to thank you and all of the Project Linus Blanketeers for everything that you are doing for us babies in need of help. It takes special people to devote their time and skills to help make babies like us to feel more at home. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and I will always remember where, how, and from whom I received my very first blanket.

Thank You again, Grandpa Wilson. (Frank embroiders Grandpa Wilson on all his blankets)

Toby, (Mom & Dad)



Over 15,477 blankets delivered to children in need

(December 2007 reporting to National)

Since the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of Project Linus began 10 years ago...over 15,477 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