



*Lines from
Linus!*

Lititz-Lancaster Chapter Project Linus

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WebLinks

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

<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/lancprojectlinus/>
Local Chapter Website

Contact
Diane L Wagner

Call 717 572-2377 or email
dianelwagner67@aol.com

Project Linus
c/o Diane L Wagner
287 Highview Drive
Leola, PA 17540

Notes from Diane

Hello! I am so excited to be your new coordinator!

First, I would like to introduce myself. I am 44 years old, married with 5 children. I substitute for the Lampeter-Strasburg School District in special education, elementary, english, and math. I spend my spare time volunteering and crafting. I love to scrapbook, sew, crochet, cross stitch and more. I have always been a volunteer. I started volunteering when I was 14 and worked in the gift shop at my local hospital and shelving books at my local library. Then, during my student teaching, I started the Special Olympics at Chinle Boarding School in Arizona. In my adult years I was a cub scout leader, a PTO chairperson, and a volunteer in my childrens' elementary schools. More recently I focused on my church and volunteered in the nursery and 2's & 3's classroom, was a VBS teacher/helper, was a helper and eventually coordinated the Wednesday evening programs, was a Christian Education Committee members and chairperson, started the scrapbooking and crafts night and included blanket making, and organized the yearly camping weekend and picnic at Woodcrest. Whew! So now the next chapter in my life is to go a little bigger with my volunteer work. I am ready for it!

How did I become involved with Project Linus?

About a year ago I noticed the kiosk at New Holland Recreation Center while waiting for my husband to finish exercising. I was intrigued when I read about it. I immediately thought that this is something that I can do. Of course I didn't stop there. I thought of ways to get more blankets made and so introduced Project Linus to my church. I didn't stop there. I began searching to fabric, batting, thread, and yarn. Craigslist became my friend. I found lots of wonderful bargains. So I was able to provide materials for my church family as they needed them. My children commented that I could open a store with all the supplies I have. And so the blanket making continued. During the summer I was making about 5 quilts a week and during the fall/winter crocheting lots of granny squares. And I was already thinking bigger when Linford sent out the email asking for a new coordinator. It took me all of ten minutes to say yes.

So, what do I see for this next year with our chapter of Project Linus?

Our chapter growing - I would like to promote our chapter and here's how:

- Get more schools involved with donating, making blankets, and volunteering
- Get more retirement homes involved with more blanket-making events
- Get more craft-type businesses to host drop-off boxes
- Have drop-off boxes encourage donations of not only blankets, but supplies
- Inform more people about what we do at craft fairs, through media, and Facebook
- Build our monetary resources through fundraisers - perhaps raffles at craft shows
- Create scrapbooks to bring to events to share pictures, articles, and stories

- Create a powerpoint to show at events, craft shows, and speaking engagements

What do I need from you?

- Ideas - You have been in this longer than me. Let me pick your brain
- Contact people - people who can help get the above things accomplished
- Things to raffle - adult quilts, longaberger baskets, restaurant gift cards, etc.
- Photos, stories, articles
- *Continue what you are doing - it's working!*

Thanks so much,

Diane

Diane L. Wagner
Lititz/Lancaster Chapter Coordinator for Project Linus
Making blankets for the children
dianelwagner67@aol.com

717-572-2377

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.

Blanketeers, please remember every blanket you have donated has touched the hearts of children and their families. Please keep the blankets coming as you are "Making a difference".

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
- Family Promise of Reading
- Housing Development Corporation of Lancaster
- Opportunity House of Reading
- Church of the Brethren Youth Services
- Teen Haven
- Family Center of Gap
- St. Joseph Hospital Birthing Center of Reading

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

Important Reminders

- New, handmade, washable blanket materials should not contain any wool due to allergies of children.
- Material preferred for quilts: 100% cotton as it is softer for children

Below is a statement posted by National Blanket Beacon:

Please do not make your blankets out of tapestry, burlap, upholstery fabric, 70's type double knit, felt, vinyl, wool, or wool yarn. Please do not use fabric that has been stored in a damp area or has a musty smell. Mold spores can cause an allergic reaction in a child and are very difficult to remove from the fabric. Blankets that smell of smoke cannot be accepted.

More information and free pattern links can be found on the local and national web sites.

What Else Can I Do to Help?

- Donate stamps for newsletters (each newsletter mailing takes over \$70 of stamps; 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 to collect skeins of acrylic yarn to be made into blankets (each youth member could bring one or two skeins of yarn)
- Ask Diane 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, 2-3 times. Although we have many on our e-mail list, we still have nearly 160 newsletters that must be mailed

and each mailing costs over \$70. 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 Snowball Express 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.

Quilting Bees and Yarn-Ins

QUILTING BEE DATES in 2012:

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

- February 18, 2012 - Make a Blanket Day (MABD) at Landis Homes
- April 21, 2012
- June 23, 2012 (This is the 4th Saturday due to a scheduling conflict at Landis Homes)
- August 18, 2012
- October 20, 2012
- November 17, 2012 - Thank you Tea at Landis Homes

Chapter Quilting Bee Location: Location is at Landis Homes community room. Directions can be found on our website <http://www.orgsites.com/pa/lancprojectlinus/>. Unless otherwise noted, quilting bees are from 10 am until 2 pm. Yarnies are welcome!, so see you there.

YARN-IN DATES in 2012:

The 4th Saturday of **every other month** crocheters and knitters gather at the Ephrata Library in the multi-purpose room from 10 AM until noon. The multi-purpose room is located near the front entrance of the library. Yarn is available for free to be returned later as a blanket. Unable to attend yarn-in's but interested in receiving free yarn to make blankets, contact Diane at dianelwagner67@aol.com or 717-572-2377.

- January 28, 2012
- March 24, 2012
- May- none due to Memorial Day weekend
- July 28, 2012
- September 22, 2012
- November 17, 2012 - Thank you Tea at Landis Homes

Drop Off Locations

Please include your name and address when you donate blankets. This allows us to send our thank-yous.

Lititz- Jo Stauffer's house 14 Bentley Lane, Lititz. Call 717-626-0012 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 717-625-4280

Southern Lancaster County- Carol Cover's house 612 Georgetown Rd Ronks. Call 717-687-7521 for directions and drop off times

Lancaster- KitNit Needlecrafts - 713 Old Hickory Rd. Lancaster. Hours Tues thru Fri 10-5; and Sat. 10-3. Call 717-569-3951

Leola- Curves - 2268 New Holland Pike, Leola. Drop off during business hours. Hours: Mon/Wed 6 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 8 pm; Tue/Thurs 8 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 7 pm; Fri 6 am to 1 pm and from 2

pm to 7 pm; Sat 8 am to 11 am. Call 717-661-7474 for more info.

New Holland- New Holland Rec Center - 123 N. Shirk Rd., New Holland. Drop off during Rec hours. Call 717 354-4747 for more info.

Columbia- Sherran Payne's house 1373 Malleable Rd. Call 717-684-5202 for directions. Drop off anytime leave blankets on table on screened in porch.

Elizabethtown- Christ Lutheran Church Office, East High St. Weekdays from 9 to 3. Closed on Holidays. Call 717-367-2786 for directions or with questions.

Willow Street- Legacy Yarn Co., 2611 Willow Street Pike. Drop off during store hours. The store is open from 10 am to 5 pm on Tues., Wed., Fri., and Sat. Call 464-7575 with questions.

Blanket Tips

Please be careful when storing blankets before dropping off. If blankets have a mildew smell they cannot be used. Blankets should be stored in a dry location. 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.
- Fleece blankets-**single layer fleece** are preferred as double layered are very heavy; check out links on the national and local websites for finishing ideas; fringes do not need to be knotted but can be cut with wavy scissors, etc.
- Please do not store blankets with **mothballs** as it renders them unusable.

Yarnies- Please check yarns carefully for wool content as many new yarns are incorporating a low percentage of wool in their content and no wool is allowed in Linus blankets.

It is no longer possible to track individual blanket donations due to the growth of this local chapter. Blanketeers will have to track their own numbers if they desire that information. The coordinator will only be tracking the total of incoming and outgoing blankets.

Thank You Notes Received

This "Thank you" shows us that our impact is appreciated and felt far beyond the moment that our handmade blanket is given:

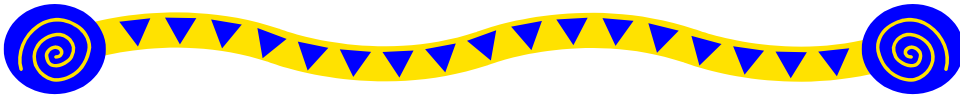
Dear Project Linus Members,

Thank you so much for all you do and all you have done. We received our blanket in 2006 when our middle child was born early. Hope this helps you continue to make beautiful blankets.

Love,

The Bretz family

(monetary donation was given with the thank you note)



Over 31,942 blankets delivered to children in need (as of end of December, 2011)

Since the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of Project Linus began 10 years ago...over 31,942 blankets have found their way into the hands of children in need.

Congratulations! Wow! Please keep up the wonderful needlework!

Project Linus
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