



Lines from
Linus!

Lititz-Lancaster Chapter Project Linus

June, 2007

Volume 2007, Number 2

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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

Welcome Spring!!! Hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful spring colors.

We have had another busy few months since our last newsletter. In addition to the Burn Camp and Grieving Camp, some of our blankets went to a few new places in need. Twenty-five blankets were sent to help the children whom were victims of the horrific tornado in Greensburg, Kansas. Below you will find information on My Stuff Bags. We were able to send them 100 blankets due to everyone's hard work which supplied me with an abundance of blankets.(They paid for the shipping.)

My Stuff Bags Foundation

The following letter is from our friends at My Stuff Bags Foundation. Project Linus chapters have been long time supporters of this fine charity, bringing comfort to children in their greatest hour of need:

Dear Project Linus Friends:

The My Stuff Bags Foundation has been so very grateful these past 8 years for the incredible support of your wonderful organization! As many of you know, My Stuff Bags are cute blue duffels filled with new belongings for abused, neglected and abandoned children all across America who must be rescued from terrible environments. Traumatized by the events leading to their removal from home, these children most often enter crisis shelters with nothing of their own. Unless we can be there with a My Stuff Bag filled with new stuff, like a teddy bear, some toys, toiletries, clothes and most importantly, a blanket! In fact, a handmade blanket is the "soul" of every My Stuff Bag, we never send a bag without one. For those of you not familiar with My Stuff Bags please visit www.mystuffbags.org

We find at this time that we are running very short on blankets (and, sadly, very long on requests for My Stuff Bags, more than 4,000 each month) and so we'd like to appeal to all of your chapters for any blankets they can provide. As always, we are happy to cover shipping and we'll take as many blankets as you have to spare! We can use blankets for babies, children and teens, any size that will fit in a mid-sized duffel, knitted, crocheted, quilted or hand-tied fleece. Whatever kind you have available would be very helpful! Thank you for being our good friends all these years and for your many contributions to My Stuff Bags. You have helped us warm the hearts of thousands of desperate, lonely children and we're thankful we can appeal to you for continued support.

*Best,
Janeen Holmes
President/CEO*

A special thank you to all who were able to contribute red, white and blue blankets for donation to the TAPS program. We shipped 95 blankets to D.C. When I wrote Barb to tell her how many blankets were being shipped this was her response:

"Oh my gosh...what a blessing...oh my gosh! Thank you thank you thank you. Just know there are so many total states who do not help in anything military...and people like you

make up the difference. Thank you soooooo much! "
Barb McLean in Idaho

I hope every blanketeer gives herself a pat on the back. Without you all of the above children would be without a blanket for comfort. My sincerest thank you to each and every one of you for touching so many lives.

Speaking of thank you's, I need to apologize to all who have not received thank you's in awhile. I have gotten so far behind in getting names to Deb. So I'm sending a **GREAT BIG** thank you to all who keep our chapter going by your selfless hours spent making blankets. Please keep your beautiful handiwork coming.

As you know the cost of mailing a letter has jumped again. A blanketeer came up with a creative idea to raise money for our chapter. After checking with National Headquarters to make sure we were legal, we've decided to see if people can get businesses to take a business card size advertisement in our newsletter. The cost would be \$30 a year for an ad in each of our three newsletters. If you are willing to ask a business for their support and they say yes, please get their business card and a check written to Project Linus for \$30. The business card and check should be forwarded to Sherran. Nancy McHenry will arrange the advertising page for our newsletters. (THANKS NANCY) You can tell businesses our newsletters are distributed to about 400 people. Thanks in advance for your help.

Beginning in August, our Quilting Bees will be held at Landis Homes on Oregon Rd. **Thank you Frank Wilson** for working so diligently on acquiring the Community Room for our use. The facility can be accessed without stairs. The Community Room is very large and will allow for lots of blanketeers to join us. There is a small fee(\$35) for the room. So a donation basket will be found in the refreshment area for those who wish to contribute to defray the cost. Please see the accompanying maps(near the end of the newsletter) for directions in addition to Frank's written directions from Lancaster:

(1)Go north on Rt. 501(Lititz Pike) to Rt. 722 east(Oregon Rd)Turn right at the stop light- go east thru the next stop light-past a vegetable stand on the right-then right into the **WEST ENTRANCE** to Landis Homes.

-or-

(2) From Rt. 30 take US 222 north (towards Reading) and get off at the first exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left and go to the first road on the left. Turn left and go back under US 222 to the stop light. Turn right onto Oregon Pike(Rt. 272) and go about 1/4 mile to the next road on the left(Creek Rd). Turn left onto Creek Rd and go to the stop sign. (Reflections Restaurant will be across the street). Turn left being very careful as traffic to the left is difficult to see. Proceed about 1/2 mile-pass Friendship Community-pass the EAST entrance to Landis Homes and go to the **WEST ENTRANCE**.

Once in the West Entrance to Landis Homes, follow the directions to the Community Room.

Again looking forward to seeing many faces at the August 18th Bee. Look for quilt bee dates in a following section.

Our Thank You Tea will also be held at Landis Homes Community Room. I hope blanketeers will take advantage of the opportunity the tea provides you to meet other blanketeers, enjoy some refreshments, door prizes and see a slide show of some of the blankets donated over the course of the year.

Happy Summer to all:0)

Sherran

Where's Sherran now?

I will be in Arizona from July 10 till July 26. Please do not place any blankets on my back porch during this time. Starting July 27, I will be happy to see blankets appearing

again.

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

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

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.)

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

Thank You Tea

Date: November 17, 2007

Place: Landis Homes Community Room

Time: Noon till 2 PM

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

RSVP requested by November 10. Having an idea how many blanketeers are coming helps me with quantities of food, door prizes etc. So please mark your calendars now and come for a fun time. I'd like to have a question and answer time. Please send questions or bring them to the Qbee's or Yarn-in's. Then I can prepare a little Project Linus presentation based on questions you have about Project Linus.

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:

- June 16
- August 18
- October 20

Location:

June bee 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: Starting in August, Bees will be held at Landis Homes community room.

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:

- Jun 23
- Jul 28
- Aug 25
- Sept 22
- Oct 27

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- **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 from July 10th until July 27th)*

*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*

*Stewartstown, York County- **Quilter's Companion**, 300 Bailey Drive, Stewartstown, PA 17363-8201. During store hours. Call 717-993-0313 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

For our summer newsletter, a "Yarnie" as the crocheters and knitters refer to themselves is being highlighted. **Please meet Jesse Ancich.** Jessie has been involved with your Project Linus group for about three years. She had seen an article in a magazine and researched groups in our area. Fortunately, we found your group and it has worked out very well all around.

Jessie enjoys the fellowship with the other ladies in the group, seeing the work of others and also simply getting the opportunity to get out and enjoy the Lancaster scenery on the drive to Ephrata. (Jesse comes from Middletown area)

Project Linus gives Jessie a chance to continue volunteering even with her physical

limitations. She says that she likes to picture the boy or girl who might be receiving one of her blankets.

Jack and I continue to be grateful for Project Linus as it gives Jessie a purpose and thank you all for being so kind(Jack & Nancy).

In addition, a quilter is also being highlighted. **Jo Stauffer** not only makes quilts but also co-chairs our chapter quilting bees.

Jo has been a blanketeer for approx. 3 yrs. She learned about and became involved in Project Linus through her friend, Suzy Harding, who was working with Project Linus and she invited her to come. I came to a Bee and enjoyed it. I was also working for a Children's Charity on the West Coast called, My Stuff Bags which includes a blanket in their Blue duffel bags sent to organizations that minister to abused and neglected children. Just about that time, we received a notice that the Charity would be closing and we were encouraged to get involved in local charities with a similar mission. At the same time, Lisa Garner put out a request for help in her Coordinators position. I responded to her appeal and began helping with the Bees. My position I call "materials handler" because I work with the material that is donated to Project Linus and see that it gets organized into manageable projects all the way to finished blankets for the children. I prefer to be a "background" worker and so now Jill Harsh is my Co-chair for the Bees and she is in charge of Hospitality. She will be a great addition to the Project Linus team as she is a natural Hospitality person.

This is a great organization for the benefit of children and I am proud to be involved with such a creative and giving group of women.

Jo shares what she likes most about her involvement with Project Linus:

Growing up my mother set a wonderful example of giving her time and talents to benefit others. When I was a very young age, she cared for a little girl while her mother was in the hospital . As a result, I believe my heart was softened toward children in need. This is a tremendous way to be able to use my creativity and talent with design and construction to benefit them.

It is inspiring to come to the Bees and see the blankets come in and see the delight of the makers who create something cuddly and beautiful to comfort the children. It warms my heart immensely to see the generosity of these women.

This is a great organization for involvement of all ages, from the young to the elderly. There is some aspect of the blankets that can be done by anyone. I want to encourage our Blanketeers to come check out a Bee when we've moved to our new location at Landis Homes Community Room. We will have expanded space to work and a handicapped accessible room. Also, it is a beautiful country location, so our Blanketeers will enjoy the Lancaster countryside while joining us at the Bee. Hope to see you at the August Bee at Landis Homes.

Thank You Jesse and Jo 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

Good Morning Sherran & Jan:

I received the beautiful "Patriotic Quilt" in the mail for Kaylee. What a surprise! Thank

you so much for your thoughtfulness and kindness, in remembering my precious granddaughter. I called Randi her mother and told her; and then of course Kaylee got on the phone and I talked to her to tell her that she had received a gift in the mail from Project Linus and Jan Johnson, who was so kind to remember our family and tell Proj. Linus of us. She is excited and will be coming to see me this weekend. I cant wait to see her open her gift.

God Bless you all.

Ginger G. Drake

Hello Sherran,

Got the Beautiful quilt for Dylan yesterday, thank you very much... He's gonna Love it !!! So appreciated, for all that, all of yous do. Gods Blessings Thank you for touching our Lives with such a moving, kindness. Warmly GSM Diane

To Whom it May Concern,

Everett, our son, was born full term (6 days late even) so spending 10 days in the NICU following his delivery was never something my husband nor I had thought of. Everett was born during an emergency c-section and had some problems at birth requiring him to be in the NICU.

When Everett was in the NICU, he received a quilt made by a local chapter of Project Linus. The nurses picked them out special for each baby at our hospital (Womens and Babies in Lancaster, PA). His is bright and cheery and has puppies and kitties flying planes on it. His nurse, Charity, picked it for him b/c his daddy was Air Force and he had a puppy and kitty waiting for him at home. I can't put into words how difficult those 10 days were for us and how incredible each person was at the hospital. However, you just never anticipate spending those precious first days still in the hospital. The quilts gave us some small comfort of home and seeing them on all the bassinets, isolettes, and warmers just made it a little easier every day we were there.

He is now 9 months old and doing so well! My husband has had to deploy again and so it's just me and my son waiting for him to come home safely. I will be passing along the information about your organization to the other military wives I come in contact with in hopes that we can pay back many times over to other families what we were so fortunate to receive in our difficult time as a family.

Thank you so much for your organization. I would be happy to send you pictures if you'd have use for them- when he was in the NICU and now.

God bless,

Amy Hannum ~Keep our soldiers in your hearts...~

Dear Blanketeers of Project Linus,

We can't thank you enough for the beautiful work & service you provide. WE were blessed with one of your blankets when our second boy was born premature at Women's & Babies Hospital. Nathan is now a healthy & happy 16 month old. Every time I look at the blanket, I stop & think of how fortunate we are. Thank you. We hope this donation will help you touch other lives as much as you did ours.

God Bless

Ken, Jen. Matthew & Nathan Bretz (a \$50 donation was included)



Over 12,967 blankets delivered to children in need

(as of March, 2007 reporting to National)

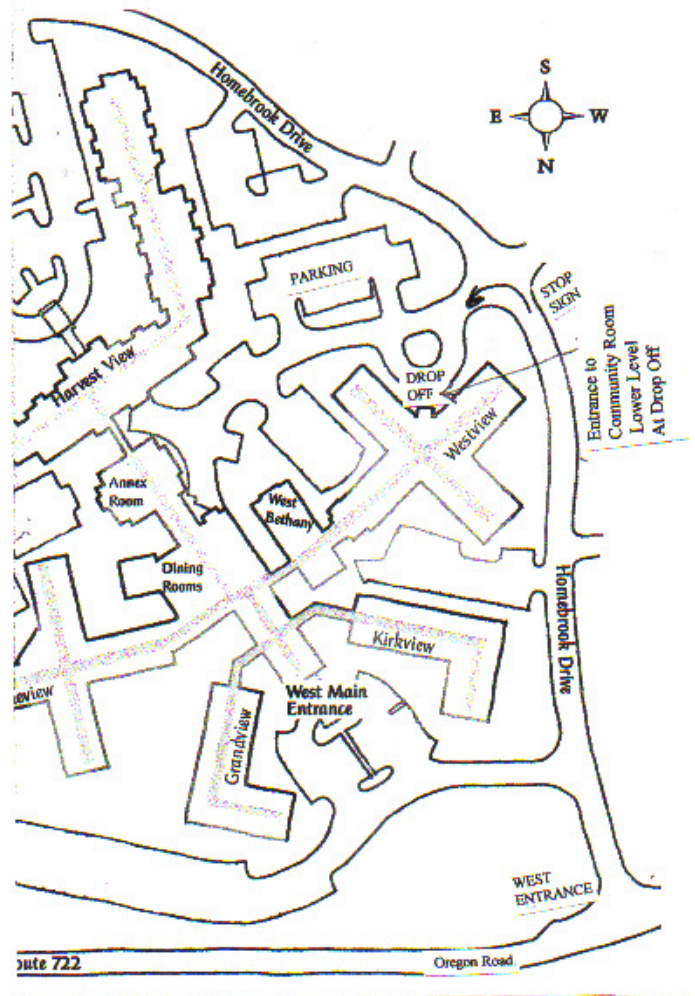
Since the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of Project Linus began over 6 years ago...over 12,967 blankets have found their way into the hands of children in need.

Congratulations! Wow! Please keep up the wonderful needlework!

Map - The Community Room at Landis Homes

Need a better map to Landis Homes for the Quilting Bees or "Thank you!" tea? See our chapter website...

Frank's directions are also provided in the "Letter from Sherran"



Project Linus
1373 Malleable Rd
Columbia PA 17512