



Lines from
Linus!

Lititz-Lancaster Chapter Project Linus

September, 2007

Volume 2007, Number 3

In This Issue

- Letter from Sherran
Where's Sherran now?
- Project Linus mission
Where our Donations
go
- What kind of blankets
do we need?
What else can I do to
help?
- Looking Ahead
- Quilting Bees and
Yarn-Ins
- Drop Off Locations
Blanket Tips
- Blanketeer Highlights
- Thank yous Received
- WOW! 14,319 blankets

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

Hello Fellow Blanketeers :0)

The summer has flown by as our chapter remained busily involved in making and delivering blankets. 55 blankets were delivered to the Burn Camp held at Millersville University in June. Hospice's summer camp program received 50 blankets. When a request was received from the TAPS coordinator for children of wounded soldiers returning from war, our chapter shipped 20 blankets to a base in Florida. (See thank you received in the Thank You section; have your tissues ready).

Grace Arnold's church, Dove Christian Fellowship, hosted a quilting bee for Linus on Saturday, August 4th. The day was an inspiration. Our chapter received 44 completed blankets with nearly as many in the to be finished stage. Thank you so much Gracie for asking your church to sponsor such a productive day on behalf of "our children".

Thirteen people attended our first quilting bee at Landis Homes. Everyone was impressed with the available space for making blankets. Thanks again Frank for arranging our new location. Hope more of you will be able to join us for the October 20th bee. Remember driving directions are on our local website.

Hip Hip Hooray!!! Our chapter has added a number of new donation sites this summer. You wonderful blanketeers have provided us with so many beautiful blankets that we needed to find a few more sites. July saw first time deliveries to Water Street Rescue Mission, Welsh Mountain Medical & Dental Clinic, Gettysburg Hospital and Pregnancy Centers in Gettysburg. (Our chapter actually receives blankets from the Gettysburg area too as there is no chapter in their area). Please see our website for pictures of Bruce & Priscilla making deliveries to Gettysburg hospital. They were welcomed with open arms:). Thank you Chief Garipoli of Warwick Township for sharing news of Linus with fellow township Chiefs. The Chief will be distributing our blankets to Penn, Penn Manor and Mount Joy townships in addition to his own Warwick township.

The TAPS coordinator has requested that the blankets we send to the children of wounded military be bright and uplifting. Here is her request: I guess I need to repost that for the wounded warrior blankets...these children will be seeing their parent or sibling for the first time..badly wounded, limbless, sightless, burned, etc. Consequently, please send bright and happy themed blankets for this project. Boy what trauma for these little troopers...whew...we just have to help them through this! Linus rocks! Barb McLean

Our photo gallery on the website has been updated by Nancy McHenry. Please be sure to take a look. Thanks Nancy for the talents you share with our chapter.

Please plan to attend our annual **THANK YOU TEA**. Our event will be held at the Community Room at Landis Homes(qbee room) on Saturday, November 17 from noon till 2PM. This year the newest Linus informational dvd will be viewed as well as The Making a Difference Segment and Lend A Hand segment from NBC. Door prizes, food,

drinks and an opportunity to chat with fellow blanketers are guaranteed to provide you with a fun day. :)

A special thank you to John McHenry who has designated Project Linus as his organization to benefit from his contributions to Capital United Way. His contributions are sent directly to National and 80% of it is credited to our chapter account. It took some completion of paperwork from National to make this happen. So if anyone in the Lancaster area is designating us as their recipient at United Way, please let Sherran know. I'll have to contact them to get the logistics worked out. Again, THANKS so much, John.

Janome has not forwarded information about MABD yet this year. Brubakers is willing to host a MABD, the usual third Saturday of February. At this time, we do not know whether a Janome sewing machine will be available for a drawing. Since this is the last newsletter before MABD please check our website for further information later this fall. I will also send an email to all of those in my group address book when details are confirmed. Please pass the information onto blanketers you know who are not receiving emails.

Please remember that each of you as a blanketer continues to make an enormous impact on the children you provide blankets. I thank each and every one of you on their behalf.

As the next newsletter will not be distributed till after MABD, I wish all of you a joyous, safe holiday season as it quickly approaches.

For the Children.....

Sherran

Where's Sherran now?

From Oct. 20 through Nov. 3rd, I will be on the road again. Once again I will be checking emails but not phone messages. Hard to believe number three grandchild will be 1 yr old already. :)

Project Linus Mission

Fellow Blanketers: 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 "Blanketers."
- 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

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

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 in addition to the dvd presentations.

Make-A-Blanket-Day (MABD)

Date: February, 16, 2008
Place: Brubaker's Sewing Center, N. Roberts Ave., New Holland
Time: 10 AM till 2PM
Please remember to check the website for further updates about MABD

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:

- October 20, 2007
- April 19, 2008
- June 21, 2008
- August 16, 2008

Location:

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

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:

- September 22, 2007
- October 27, 2007
- January 26, 2008
- February 23, 2008
- March 22, 2008
- April 26, 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. (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.

Special message from Headquarters:

Hi everyone,

I wanted to share something with all of you about a hazzard that I had never thought of until someone brought it to my attention. We received a call from a mom who's baby had gotten a crocheted blanket while in the hospital for alung transplant. The blanket had a satin ribbon woven through the blanket around the edge (I've had these, they are beautiful and I never thought of this) and the baby managed to pull the ribbon loose so that the blanket was bunched up and the ribbon was a large loop. Mom went it to check on baby, and sure enough - the ribbon was looped around her neck.

Please use caution and share this information with your blanketeers. Remove any ribbons that are not tacked down all around the blanket. Check for anything that could possibly be pulled loose and become a choking hazzard.

Thanks for your continued diligence!

Carol Babbitt

PLHQ

Blanketeer Highlights

For our fall newsletter, our "Yarnie" as the crocheters and knitters refer to themselves is **Mim Snyder**. Mim became a blanketeer around 1997. She was making blankets when Amy Koring was the coordinator of PL in this area. Mim heard about PL through another of her volunteer "jobs" when she visited Brethren Village Garden Apartments (since 1996) and Rheta Stacey was knitting a blanket for PL. So Mim began knitting again. Then Mim found out more about PL and started sewing too. Mim says, "*I am a jack of all trades but a master of none.*" Mim, sews, knits and crochets. Mim says, "*how I became involved in the 'behind the scenes' of the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of PL is still a mystery:). It just sort of happened.*"

What Mim likes most about her involvement with PL is the social gathering times. She enjoys working on her own at home but likes going to the quilting bees & yarn-ins. Mim states, "*It inspires me when I see ladies (&gentlemen) who are enjoying being creative and using their time & talents to help others. The mission of PL is to help traumatized children AND to provide a fun & rewarding service opportunity to interested individuals & organizations in local communities. The second part of our mission interests me because I see so many people in our communities who are looking to be needed for their unique skills and talents. To be able to help them find PL*

is very rewarding."

Mim shared that after re-reading her thoughts, "I realized it sounded as if I do this all by myself. Not true! I truly believe God directs me and helps me in my volunteering works. He also places people in my path to help me do what is needed. I started to list all the many helpers and decided there wasn't enough space to 'name names'. I would like to thank each & every one of our talented caring & giving blanketers. A special note of appreciation for our past & present chapter coordinators: Amy Koring, Lisa Garner and Sherran Payne. Their direction & organizational skills have gotten us where we are today- a Chapter that is growing while caring for those in our community."

In addition, a quilter is also being highlighted. **Sue Loss** shares: "I joined Project Linus in February of 2001. It was Make a Blanket Day and I read an article in the Lancaster newspaper that morning and decided to go. I got the Quiltmaker magazine and had seen the blocks for Linus in there and checked out the web site but it only gave a name. I didn't want to just send something, I would rather meet someone face to face. So it was always in the back of my mind till I saw the article. Believe it or not I don't like to go into places by myself. I had to do a lot of talking myself into going that day. I can be quiet till I feel comfortable and have anything to say. Kay also walked in that day. She had also read an article in the paper and decided to come. We teamed up. I cut and she sewed. I know we got one top done maybe two, I'm not sure but it was a nice afternoon. After that it became a regular thing. I have made a few new friends and get to listen to some good conversations. Some about quilting, travel, or current events. You get to have ideas and pass on ideas."

Thank You Notes Received

The following thank you was received from Joyce Gentzler, Coord Joplin/SW Missouri Chapter:

"To all of you who sent blankets to help with the flood relief in Kansas, Thank You. There was a total of 580 blankets that I received for this project. The quality and diversity of designs that we as a group distribute is astounding to me. They were all lovely and all appreciated. Thank you from SW Missouri Chapter and SE Kansas residents."

Judy Mathewson, Lt. Col. USAF wrote to the TAPS coordinator:

" Barbara! Now I know what heaven feels like! Today, we gave over 140 wounded soldiers and their wives the blankets that PL rushed to Florida for the Transition Assistance Program. Almost all of the soldiers had children--one soldier on crutches has 6 children, and he was close to tears when we presented these beautiful blankets to them. One soldier pulled his wallet out and we said," There is no need to pay for this blanket. It was made with love by Americans across the country who want to make sure you know you are loved and appreciated and that your children are heroes, too!" I will send pictures for your website! Wow! Thank you so very much! I am in awe about the wonderful effect it had on these heroes and I KNOW they will treasure them for their kids."

(Once we can access pictures from Barb's website I'll let everyone know)

The following was received from the East Lampeter Police Department:

Dear Ms. Payne,

On behalf of the East Lampeter Township Police department, I would like to thank you for the donation of blankets through the 'Project Linus.' Our officers are appreciative of this kind of donation as it makes their job just that much easier during times of crisis. Please be assured that we will share the information on the project with our fellow first

responders in the fire and EMS services. We truly appreciate the hours you and fellow volunteers dedicate to this worthy program.

Sincerely,
John Bowman
Chief of Police



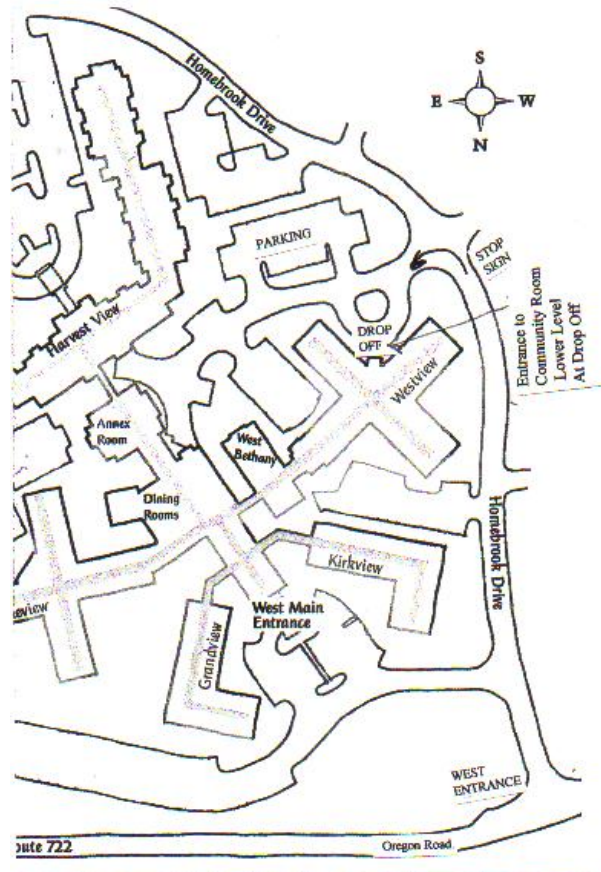
Over 14,319 blankets delivered to children in need (as of June, 2007 reporting to National)

Since the Lititz/Lancaster Chapter of Project Linus began 10 years ago...over 14,319 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...



Project Linus
1373 Malleable Rd
Columbia PA 17512