

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties of Texas

We provide children with blankets full of hugs.

August 2010/Volume 2, Issue 8

Please R.S.V.P. if you are planning on attending August's meeting and specify whether you're coming to the North (Cedar Park) (to Helen Bokman, hbokman@sbcglobal.net) or South (Manchaca) meeting (to Jean Bishop, bishopTX@earthlink.net).

Next Meeting:

August 21, 2010: 10:00 am-3:00 pm

North Meeting Location:

203 Industrial Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613

South Meeting Location:

Manchaca Baptist Church
215 FM 1626
Manchaca TX 78652



From Project Linus Coordinator, Anita Howe

Linus, whose famous name Project Linus borrows (with permission) from Charles Schultz' comic strip, first appeared on September 19, 1952; however, he was not mentioned by name until three days later. He was first referenced two months earlier, on July 14. Linus spoke his first words in 1954, the same year he was shown with his security blanket. Many of you probably know that Linus was Charlie Brown's best friend but did you know:

1. His full name was Linus van Pelt.
2. His older sister was Lucy and his younger brother was Rerun.
3. He often quoted the Gospels.
4. On Feb. 5, 1962, Linus began wearing eyeglasses after being diagnosed with myopia. However, after August 6, 1962, his glasses inexplicably disappeared from the strip.
5. Linus is almost never without his blue blanket, which debuted in the June 1, 1954 strip. It was, in fact, Linus who coined the term "security blanket."



Once, when Lucy buried the blanket, Snoopy took the time to dig for it himself; and when he found it, Linus thanked him, upon which Snoopy thought *"Every now and then I feel that my existence is justified!"*

This is my favorite because I relate it to our many volunteers when we make blankets for children who need security. According to the online reference, Wikipedia, research with children on this subject was performed at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by Richard H. Passman and associates. Among other findings, they showed that security blankets are appropriately named—they actually *do* give security to children. Along with other positive benefits, having a security blanket can help children adapt to new situations, aid in their learning, and adjustment to physicians' and clinical psychologists' evaluations. Passman's research also pointed out that there is nothing abnormal about being attached to blankets. In the USA, about 60% of children

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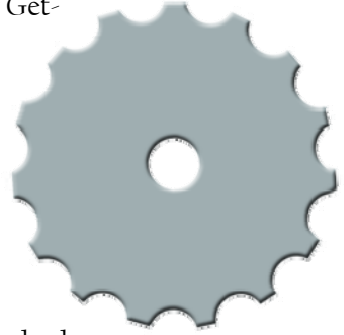
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have at least some attachment to a security object. Nice to know the experts validate our efforts! (But we'd do it without their say-so because in our hearts we already know it helps!)

How it works...

Since our participation earlier this year in the Disney Give-A-Volunteer-Day Get-A-Disney-Day project (and, boy, you folks were wonderful!), we received a lot of toddlers' and childrens' sizes of blankets. Our current needs are for infant (36" x 36") and teen-sizes (54" x 72" or larger).

Although making larger blankets daunts some of us, a two-yard piece of fleece can be turned into a big-kid-sized blankie pretty readily. A single thickness is used, which we think works well in sub-tropical central Texas! (Can you say *heat index*?) You may think we're a little cuckoo asking for blankets now, but our groups don't meet in November and December, when it's starting to get cold— we volunteers have holiday preparations to make too. But I digress: with the help of a special blade called a "Skip Stitch" (www.skipstitch.com/products.htm) that fits standard rotary-cutters used by quilters, you can perforate the edges of the fleece (about 1/4" from all four edges, fold that edge in half, and crochet around the blanket for a



bit of embellishment, and *voilà!*, big kids are comforted too. (When you make any kind of fleece blanket for us, please trim the selvages off—they buckle and are unattractive, even on tied edges.) As many of you already know, the No-Sew Fleece Blanket (found on <http://www.projectlinus.org/links.html>) is another easy way to pass more of those hugs along.

Put this on your calendars: In September at the south meeting one of our able members, Lydia Polumski, will be sharpening scissors for members. Lydia calls herself "Sharp Lady" and will donate half the proceeds of her work to Project Linus. It's \$5 to have regular scissors sharpened and \$7 for pinking shears, so, blanketeers, remember to bring your scissors to our SEPTEMBER south meeting!

We appreciate the audience we're able to reach through these newsletters. You all have been very gracious about receiving our emails and staying connected. Your interest and efforts have helped us grow quite a bit this year, and we hope you'll stay with us and contribute as you're able. We're also creating a Facebook page to keep you informed. If you're interested in joining us there, go to "<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=133916046644506>" or, if that's way too much to try to type, search for our group as "Project Linus of Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties, Texas" (Searching using the first four words will likely find us.)

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Whatever you can do, we appreciate. We recognize that different folks have different incomes, abilities, and interests. All of us have soft spots for children and the notion of *hugging* one who is in crisis, even if from afar, is a great motivator, isn't it? It takes our leaders a lot of behind-the-scenes running around to make these hugs happen. We rely on you donors who drop blankets off at our cooperating stores as well as our 'blanketeers' to make blankets. Then the stores call us and we go get them. Many of our volunteers still work outside their homes, others are retired.



At our monthly meetings, donated blankets are sorted according to size, inspected to make sure they're clean and don't have any pins in them, fixed if necessary, then labeled with a special satin Project Linus label. Finally, blankets are individually packaged in plastic bags with a size label and a special Linus poem included. (If necessary, volunteers even take blankies home and wash them.)

When we receive requests from the organizations we serve, they specify how many and what sizes they need. Our leaders make a trip to our storage unit in Round Rock to get them and then transport them to the organization. We have grown and we could really use storage in South Austin too. If you know of a storage business that would be willing to donate space, please let us know!

Then there are side trips to pick up donations of fabric or yarn. And trips to buy more bags. And trips to pick up meeting volunteers who can't drive themselves. You get the idea... we *need* your help to keep this happening! Thank you so much. If you have any concerns or suggestions, contact names of our primary volunteers are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Blanket inspirations



↔ A whole bunch of
↔ free afghan patterns

<http://www.purplekittyyarns.com/free-patterns/afghan-patterns.html>



More freebie stashbuster patterns

<http://www.bighornquilts.com/inspiration/strip/stashbuster.html>

(Site has more than these—be sure to visit)

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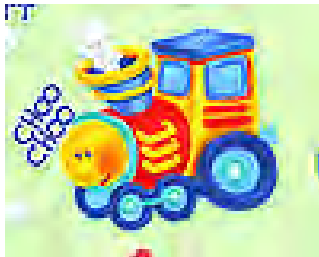
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Marvelous children's fabrics

http://www.equilter.com/cgi-bin/webc.cgi/st_main.html?catid=117

(images used with permission from equilter.com)



The equilter.com fabrics are not bargain-priced, but the website owners give 2% of purchases to charity and you get to pick among several charities.

Hi Austin Project Linus members,

I had the pleasure of meeting one of your members, Diane of the Springfield/Branson chapter, last week. She told me all about Project Linus and I was so impressed with all of the wonderful work that you all do. I own an online fabric business and have contacted Project Linus through their website with the following offer. I would like to offer all Project Linus members a 10% discount on fabric purchases in any of my online stores. I have an Ebay store, an Etsy store, and soon to be working website store. I also offer to everyone a really great shipping discount. Anyone can buy as much fabric as they want, pay for it all at once, ship it in the USA, and never pay more than \$4.95 shipping.

I hope you will accept this offer in the spirit it is given and share it with your local chapter members.

Here are the links to my different stores/website so you can get a feel for the fabrics that I offer:

Ebay store: <http://stores.ebay.com/Glitzy-Girlz-Twinkle>

Etsy store: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/glitzygirlztwinkle>

Website: <http://www.funfabricsforyouandme.com>

If any of your members would like to take advantage of this offer please have them identify themselves as Project Linus members before they pay for their fabric and I will be happy to give them their discount.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me <glitzygirlz@live.com>and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Thanks, Peggie and Kim, Glitzy Girlz

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If you make blankets for us, please...

- Include your name, address, and or email with your blanket(s), so we will know whom to thank.
- Wash your blanket (if possible) before turning it in.
- Be especially careful about checking for pins if you use them in the construction of your blankets.
- Make sure when knitting or crocheting to securely tie off yarn ends and weave them into the blanket.
- No embellishments such as buttons, glitter or anything that will come off because small children put things in their mouths.
- A suggested label format to include with each blanket donated:
 <Your Name>. <Street Number / Street Name>, <City, State, Zip>, <Email Address>

Project Linus Contacts...

Position/Committee

Volunteer/Contact Information

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Linus Coordinator, Williamson / Travis/Hays Counties | Anita Howe, (512) 930-4792,
ahowe@sellsaustinhomes.com |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Coordinator-South | Jean Bishop, (512) 659-7103, bishopTX@earthlink.net |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant Coordinator-North | Helen Bokman, hbokman@sbcglobal.net |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter Communications | Jan Everett, jan_texas@yahoo.com |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Outreach Representative and Special Events Coordinator | Pat Beachy, pkbeachy@austin.rr.com |

Local Businesses where you may drop-off blankets...

We are very grateful for the generous assistance of the following businesses. They accept blankets from those who make blankets but don't attend our monthly meetings. Taking in blankets interrupts their business day, and takes up space until we get there to collect them. We hope you'll think of them when you're shopping.

Austin Sew & Vac
Mike and Robyn Smith
1401 S. I-35, Ste #170
Round Rock, TX 78664
(512) 310-7349

Austin Sew & Vac South
8213 Brodie Lane
Austin, TX 78745
(512) 899-8176

B & B Quilting and Gifts
Nancy Brinkley & Lori Beckers
107 S. Austin Steet
Buda, TX 78610
www.bbquilting.com
(512)312-2299

Glassica, Inc.
Heide Fowler
820 South Austin Ave.
Georgetown, Texas 78628
(512) 778-9398
www.DisplayYourArt.com

Learning Express Toys
Joe and Mary Theriot
Gateway Market
9607 Research Blvd, Ste 110
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 795-9770

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Poppy Quilt 'N Sew
Anita Brockell
4106 Williams Drive (RM 2338)
Georgetown, TX 78628
(512)863-6108
www.poppyquiltandsew.com

The Knitting Nest
Stacy Klaus
New address!—
8708 Congress Avenue, Ste. 570
Austin, TX 78748
(512) 294-8866
www.theknittingnestaustin.com

Raney House Quilts
Madilyn Dunlap
3253 Williamson Rd. (Co. Rd. 177)
Lockhart, TX 78644-2287
(512)376-5990
www.raneyhousequilts.com

A few words to contemplate for August:

I am only one;
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do something;
I will not refuse to do the something
I can do.
-Helen Keller-

We fought hard.
We gave it our best.
We did what was right.
And we made a difference.
-Geraldine A. Ferrar

Blanketers: Remember to set aside the third Saturday of October, the 16th—our usual meeting day—for coming south. It's our annual appreciation luncheon and we are really looking forward to this annual get-together of both our north and south groups.

Project Linus respects your privacy We don't share your email address or contact information with anyone outside our organization. To remove your name from our mailing list, contact jan_texas@yahoo.com

If you have questions or comments, Anita Howe at ahowe@sellsaustinhomes.com is our chapter coordinator.

To visit the Williamson/Travis/Hays County Project Linus website online, go to www.orgsites.com/tx/austinlineus/. The national Project Linus organization's website is located at www.projectlinus.org/

Quilters—

Please save barcodes from all Hobbs batting that you purchase and give them to your meeting coordi-

nator or contact us and we'll give you a mailing address. We redeem them for discounts on batting for Project Linus blankets.

