
Project Linus Blanketeer Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 2, Issue 2

Please **R.S.V.P.** if you are planning on attending February'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). **Please note that—this once—the South meeting is moved! (See News and Notes on page 2.)**

Next Meeting Date:

February 20, 2010: 10:00 am-3:00 pm

A message from new Project Linus Coordinator, Anita Howe

Several people have asked why I volunteer at Project Linus, so I thought I'd share a story with you.

I started school when I was five, riding a bus along with my other three siblings who were still living at home. One day in December our bus ride home brought us face to face with my first memory of disaster: there was a pile of burned rubble where our house had stood.

We went to stay with my older brother who lived in the same little town. That night my mom washed our clothes by hand, so we could have clean ones to wear to school the next day. I was not old enough to appreciate what she had done for me; crying because I had to wear the same clothes to school two days in a row.

This incident was an awakening for me about caring and sharing with others. A family in our small town heard about the fire and had their daughter, who was in my class, bring a bag full of beautiful clothes just for me. I immediately went to the bathroom and put on a dress from that bag! I'll never forget their thoughtfulness and will always remember the caring the girl and her mother showed me that day.

All during the day while we were at school, people brought things to my brother's house for my family. Others cared about us and showed it with action. Now, I can say I care, or I can do something that shows I care. That's why I make blankets for Project Linus—because I bring a smile to a child who is experiencing physical or emotional pain.

In February we celebrate love for one another. Across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged. What a perfect time for us to let our loved ones know how much we appreciate all they do for Project Linus.



Join us and make a difference
in a child's life.

As many of you know, when we volunteer for something, so do our spouses and loved ones. Sometimes they support us physically by carting blankets to and fro, but, more often than not, their support is mental or emotional.

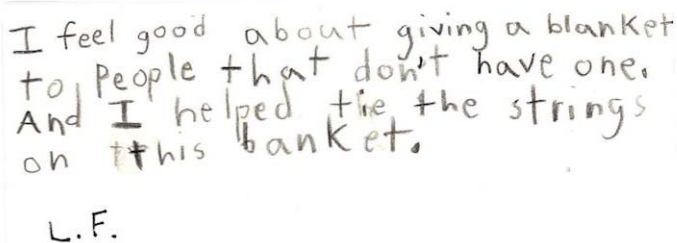
So, a BIG “Thank You” to Frank Whitehouse, Randy Howe, Don Bishop, Tim Everett, and all of our other supporters. We would not be able to answer our calling to Project Linus without them standing behind us.

One of our loved ones recently had a major heart attack which required an emergency quadruple bypass. He has a long recovery ahead of him and we want him to know our thoughts and prayers follow him every step of the way.

News and Notes

New! North Meeting Location:
203 Industrial Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613

February Only:
South Meeting Location
Manchaca Baptist Church
215 FM 1626, Manchaca TX 78652



I feel good about giving a blanket
to people that don't have one.
And I helped tie the strings
on this blanket.

L.F.

On Saturday, January 30th, more of our “Disney volunteers” dropped off blankets at Starbucks’ Coffee parking lot in South Austin. Despite the biting cold, smiling faces who made blankets for Project Linus arrived with their blankets. People

came from as far away as College Station. Their colorful gifts touched us deeply, and we are awed by the willingness of Americans to show they care. Not enough of this gets into the news we see every day! The families, who will get free tickets to Disneyland or Disney World for donating blankets, arrived with bags of hugs for children in our area.

At the end of this newsletter are some of the many photos we received of families who donated their time and materials to our cause. Thank you, one and all.

We have recently officially added Hays County to our coverage area. If you know of an organization in Hays County that would benefit from having blankets, please let us know. (And we’ll get our ‘logo’ updated ASAP...!)

And, last, but certainly not least, sincerest thanks to the many, many people on our mailing list who make blankets for us, but whom we don’t meet personally. We are always aware and grateful for the blankets that we pick up at our drop-off locations, and we appreciate those folks who interrupt their own businesses to collect blankets for us too. Often the blankets come without names and addresses so we don’t know whom to thank. But each and every one of those blankets is a hug to a child and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for joining us in this effort.

Make a Blanket Day 2010

Join us for Make a Blanket Day (MABD) on the third Saturday in February each year. The national Project Linus event is set for Saturday, February 20, 2010. Every year, participating chapter coordinators around the country band together to make blankets and spread the Project Linus word.

We have a terrific incentive to participate! Turn in the blankets you've been making, as we are having a drawing for a Janome electronic sewing machine Model DC2010. Remember, to qualify, blankets ***MUST*** be dropped off at **Austin Sew and Vac** in Round Rock or **Austin Sew and Vac South** on Brodie Lane in south Austin *between January 1, 2010 and February 20, 2010*. ***For each blanket you donate, your name will be entered in the drawing for the sewing machine!*** (And remember to put a tag with your name & address on each blanket.)



For all the features on this machine, look online at http://www.janome.com/index.cfm/Machines/Computerized/DC2010#Machines_Overview

Important Reminders for Blanketeers

- Please include your name, address or email with your blanket(s), so we will know whom to thank.
- Please 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.
- Please make sure when using yarn to securely tie off the 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 mouth.

A suggested label format to attach to each blanket donated:

<Your Name>
<Street Number / Street Name>
<City, State, Zip>
<Email Address>

Here are our current volunteers. *And – we still need help.*

Position/Committee

- Project Linus Coordinator, Williamson / Travis Counties
- Assistant Coordinator-South
- Assistant Coordinator-North
- Chapter Communications
- Community Outreach Representative, Williamson / Travis / Hays Counties
- Special Events Coordinators

Volunteer/Contact Information

Anita Howe, (512) 930-4792, ahowe@sellsaustinhomes.com
 Jean Bishop, (512) 659-7103, bishopTX@earthlink.net
 Helen Bokman, hbokman@sbcglobal.net
 Jan Everett, jan_texas@yahoo.com

Community Outreach—One or two people who find and talk to new organizations needing our services and/or activities where we can participate*
One or two people who plan two events per year (i.e., raffle, craft fair, etc.)*

* If you'd like to volunteer for one of these positions, please send Anita an e-mail or call at (512)-963-3015.

Blanket Drop-Off Locations

We appreciate the generous assistance of these businesses and 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

B & B Quilting and Gifts

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

Austin Sew & Vac South

8213 Brodie Lane
 Austin, TX 78745
 (512) 899-8176

Classica, 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

Poppy Quilt 'N Sew

Anita Brockell
 4106 Williams Drive (RM 2338)
 Georgetown, TX 78628
 (512)863-6108
www.poppyquiltsew.com

The Knitting Nest

Stacy Klaus
160 W. Slaughter Lane, Ste 200
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



Quilters—

Please save barcodes from all Hobbs batting that you purchase and give them to your meeting coordinator or contact us and we'll give you mailing address. We can redeem them for discounts on batting for Project Linus blankets.

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 <http://www.orgsites.com/tx/austinlinus/>. The national Project Linus organization's website is located at <http://www.projectlinus.org/>

Blanket Ideas:

<http://www.freequiltpatterns.info/QuiltCategories/FreeBeginnerQuiltPatterns.htm>



Blanket Ideas (continued)



<http://stitchnationsyarn.com/Patterns/free-pattern-high-tide-baby-blanket.html>



<http://stitchnationsyarn.com/Patterns/free-pattern-weekend-in-stockholm-throw.html>

***These could be great scrap user-uppers!
—And inviting ‘playgrounds’ for color lovers.***

Every Project Linus blanket is labeled with a Project Linus tag and lovingly folded into its own plastic bag (the blankets sometimes ride around in the trunks of police cars, etc.) with this poem:

With Tender Loving Care

I can't be there to hold your hand,
I can't be there to hug you,
I can't be there to dry a tear,
But there is one thing I can do.

I can sit here in my room at night
And dream of you out there,
And make a blanket just for you
With tender loving care.

When you hold this blanket in your arms
And close your eyes real tight,
You can feel the love I tucked inside
When I made this late one night.

So dry your tears and smile a smile,
You aren't alone, you see.
You have this special blanket—
You have a part of me

~by Pam Braden

Project Linus Blanketers



