

Project ♥ Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties of Texas

We provide children with blankets full of hugs.

Project Linus Blanketeer Newsletter March 2010 Volume 2, Issue 3

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

Next Meeting Date:

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

North Meeting Location:	South Meeting Location:
Bethany Lutheran Church, 203 Industrial Blvd. Cedar Park, TX 78613	Room 108 3701 Slaughter Lane W., Austin, TX 78749-5902



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

A message from Project Linus Coordinator, Anita Howe

There are a lot of things I wasn't aware happening in March. For instance, did you know that it is Women's History Month? March also is National Nutrition Month celebrated by the American Dietetic Association. National Reading Day was March 2 and March 22 is World Water Day. I did know St. Patrick's Day was March 17th and I did wear green, but I did not know that March's birthstone, aquamarine and bloodstone, mean courage.

Courage is what a lot of children need to survive who face adversity in today's world. Sometimes they feel lonely and scared or they're in pain. Most of all they just don't understand what is happening to them.

This is where our efforts come into play. Our blankets are soft, warm and ask for nothing in return. The note below is from one of our recipients. If you sometimes wonder about the children who receive your blankets (we do too, we don't always get feedback), read this story and then go make another blanket!

*Thank you so much for the blanket for my participant. She was s-o-o-o-o excited that she received a present made **special** for her. She squealed with delight the entire time she was opening it. She loved the color, and she actually wrapped it around herself. That is very amazing for her, because she is autistic, and she does not like change or anything new touching her, including new clothes. I am very grateful, because for the first time in all my visits to see her,*

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she touched my arm & then stood behind me & touched my shoulders the whole time I was there. That was an amazing experience for me to be allowed into 'her space.' I really, really appreciate it.

Austin area Project Linus had a *remarkable* response to the Disney Give-A-Day, Get-A-Disney-Day. We were not prepared for the incredible generosity we encountered and cannot sufficiently thank the many people who took time to participate: many told us they'd benefitted too—it was a family activity that taught them something they hadn't known (making easy fleece blankets); they spent time together getting it done, and they really thought hard about the children who would benefit from their efforts. Some told us that at an earlier time, they had been recipients of Project Linus blankets in a hospital or crisis situation and were happy to be able to return the blessings. We were delighted to meet you all and we thank you sincerely for helping us comfort children in need.

News and Notes

Hey Blanketeers!

Did you know we're on YouTube? As of this writing about 30 videos come up when you enter "Project Linus" into YouTube's search list. There's help for making no-sew fringed fleece blankets, how to crochet an edge on a fleece blanket, information on the skip-stitch blade that perforates the edge of a fleece blanket so you can crochet a pretty edge on it, and video of some really inspiring PL projects.

Make a Blanket Day 2010

The winner of the drawing for the Janome sewing machine pictured at the left was Kim Jones. The drawing was held at Austin Sew & Vac in Round Rock on February 20th.

Kim and her son—an aspiring maker of automobile upholstery—will no doubt put the machine to great use. Kim is a quilter who volunteers with our north PL group and she turned in over 50 blankets to win the machine. Congratulations, Kim!

And *many thanks* to all who participated in this annual effort.



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 'volunteer staff.' We still have jobs that need to be done.

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.

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Blanket Drop-Off Locations

We appreciate the generous assistance of these businesses. They accept blankets from those who want to make blankets but don't get to our meetings. This 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

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

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



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Now the fun stuff: Blanket Ideas!

So, you bought the yarn for a sweater and then you changed your mind? If it's a machine-washable yarn, Project Linus can use it! Contact either Jean Bishop or Anita Howe (contact info is on pg. 3) to arrange your donation.



<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/90332AD.html>

<http://www.freepatterns.com/>

(you have to “register” with your email address, but it’s free. They have knitting, crochet, and quilting patterns.)



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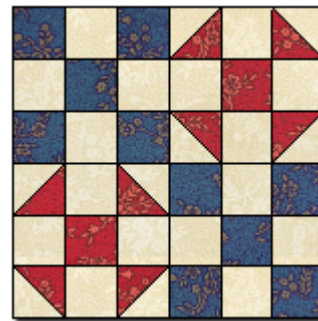
<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/90543AD.html>

Another quick, scrappy crochet blankie...

—Irresistible, aren't they?



Quilters, check out
<http://www.quilterscache.com/QuiltBlocksGalore.html> for an incredible library of block patterns. Blocks are organized alphabetically and also by sizes. Select a couple of blocks of a particular size, decide on a color scheme, and have a ball!



Free Knitting Pattern “Cozy Nook Throw” from Lion Brand Yarn Company. It’s another website you have to ‘join,’ but also free and there are loads of patterns!

<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/90341AD.html>