

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties of Texas

We provide children with blankets full of hugs.

Project Linus Blanketeer Newsletter May 2010 Volume 2, Issue 5

Please R.S.V.P. if you are planning on attending May'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 – as of this month – the South meeting is relocated!

Next Meeting Date:

May 15, 2010: 10:00 am~3:00 pm

North Meeting Location:

203 Industrial Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613

South Meeting

New permanent location
Manchaca Baptist Church
215 FM 1626
Manchaca TX 78652



*Join us and make a difference in
the life of a child...*

A message from Project Linus Coordinator, Anita Howe

The beautiful month of May lets us spend more time outdoors whether we are gardening, enjoying spectator sports (usually our children and grandchildren), or participating in our favorite walk, run, tennis, golf, etc. We also get to enjoy nature. Have you seen the birds, the butterflies, and the little animals that come out? And what a year for wildflowers this has been!

While it is great fun to enjoy the great outdoors, we also continue to make blankets for the many children who need them. The need for them in summer is mostly for hugging instead of covering, but they are needed nonetheless.

We deliver blanket to many organizations, and we also deliver to individuals. If you know of a child living in Williamson, Travis or Hays county who is experiencing trauma in their life; i.e., illness, family illness or death, parent in armed forces, etc. please call me and we'll give them a huggable blanket made with love.

Because everybody may not have seen the poem we include with our blankets, I'd like to share it again:

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 think 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. -Pam Braden

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STORAGE NEEDED: We are in desperate need of storage space in South Austin. We store the blankets we receive from individual blanketeers until we can sort, label, and bag them. Then we store them until we deliver them to the children. While we have great storage space in Cedar Park, donated by Hill Country Climatized Storage, we have nothing in South Austin supporting our south group. Please help – my home is overrun with blankets!

News and Notes

- We have an ongoing request for **30 receiving blankets *each month***. Receiving blankets are made of flannel and should be 34" × 36". We request that flannel be prewashed before hemming it so that it's preshrunk and clean, as these are designated for the neonatal intensive care unit at a local hospital. Flannel is usually 42" or 43" wide so you would need slightly less than a yard for each blanket. All you have to do is hem the edges. A hem can be turned under and sewn with a decorative stitch or zig-zag stitch in colorful thread, or edging with a serger would also look nice.
- If you are able to knit, crochet, or quilt but live on a limited income, Project Linus gets donations of fabric and yarn that we can share for blanket-making. Contact Anita Howe and we will make arrangements to share materials. Likewise, if you are a machine quilter who could finish tops donated for children's quilts, we'd appreciate hearing from you. If your time is short and you'd like to pick up a beautiful precut quilt kit, please let us know. All the cutting is done and is in strip quilt fashion.
- If you haven't done much exploring on the internet, you're missing an almost-infinite source of inspiration! Ravelry.com is a sort-of 'Facebook for Fiber Nuts'...and has free patterns, photos of how different knitted/crocheted versions of patterns look, and lots of message boards and sources of supplies. For quilters, there's www.fabric.com and www.thousandsofbolts.com/ for terrific fabric bargains, www.freequiltpatterns.info/ for free patterns, to name but a few. There is w-a-a-a-y too much fun to be had out there!

Ideas



CROCHET

<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/L0057AD.htm>

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Sweet Cherries Blanket

<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/60205A.html>



<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/90657AD.html>

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 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 mouth.
- A suggested label format to include with each blanket donated:
<Your Name>. <Street Number / Street Name>, <City, State, Zip>, <Email Address>

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Our Volunteer Staff. Many more contribute as well!

Position/Committee

- Project Linus Coordinator, Williamson / Travis/Hays 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
Pat Beachy, pkbeachy@austin.rr.com

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. 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

Poppy Quilt 'N Sew

Anifa Brockell
4106 Williams Drive (RM 2338)
Georgetown, TX 78628
(512)863-6108
www.poppyquiltndsew.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

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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.



Another great pattern for a craft-fair item follows!

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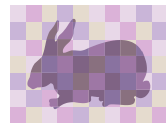
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Grrlfriend Market Bag

By Laura Spradlin
www.sugarbunnyblvd.com

Sometimes it takes a Grrlfriend to save the day. This market bag had many sources of inspiration but truly came about because of a challenge issued by Sheri of The Loopy Ewe (www.theloopyewe.com). In early 2008 Sheri challenged her blog readers to knit something for another person who needed a lift – who could benefit from a random act of knitting kindness.

About six months before creating this pattern a friend of mine phoned and said she had something she needed to give me – she had to get it out of her house. It was a sweater belonging to her ex husband. A heavily cabled aran sweater knit with a worsted weight undyed cotton linen blend yarn. She hoped I could recycle the yarn into something completely different from its former existence.

When I read Sheri's challenge I knew that I could recycle that sweater into a market bag – but who would I give it to? I dyed some of the yarn, left some of it natural, and let the bag take shape on its own. The original Grrlfriend Market Bag was soon presented to my friend who gave me the sweater - in its new form - symbolic of what Grrlfriends do for each other. We help to lighten each other's load. We strive to share the burdens of life and aid in purging whatever might be weighing each other down by replacing it with something that lifts us up. The sweater has made three bags so far – who knows how many Grrlfriends it will touch?

I hope you enjoy knitting the Grrlfriend Market Bag and maybe you can make an extra one for a Grrlfriend too. We can all use a little help sharing the burdens of life – even if it's just to help carry the groceries!



Grrrlfriend Market Bag

Yarn:

100 - 150g fingering sport or worsted weight yarn (cotton, linen, hemp, other blends)

Needles choose a size in the range given that works with your yarn weight and preferred gauge or whatever needles you happen to have on hand:

5 double pointed needles size 4-5-6

16" circular needle size 5-6-7-8

24" circular needle size 10-10.5-11

Crochet hook G-H-I

Finished Size:

The finished size of your bag will depend on the size of your needles, weight of yarn used, and gauge achieved while knitting. The body of the bag is *very very* stretchy with a more rigid upper band to help keep its shape. The pattern can make a larger or smaller by increasing or decreasing the number of stitches on each side of the base when changing to the body.

Techniques used in the pattern:

Circular knitting

Double pointed needles

K2tog

YO

Kitchener/grafting

Emily Ocker's Beginning (small circular caston shown on pp 112-113 of Elizabeth Zimmermann's Knitting Workshop)

Stitch Legend:

K Knit

K2tog Knit two stitches together

P Purl

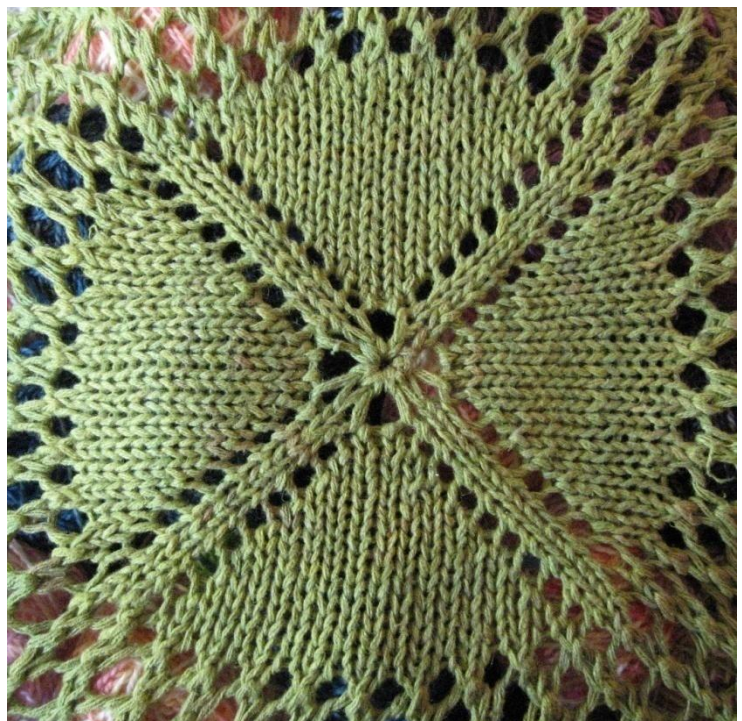
YO Yarn Over

Instructions:

BOTTOM:

To begin at the center bottom of the bag, make a circle of yarn about two inches across. Using a crochet hook and Emily Ocker's Beginning, crochet 8 single crochet stitches into the circle. You are now finished with the crochet hook. You may alternately use your preferred method of circular caston for 8 stitches.

Divide the eight stitches evenly (2 stitches per needle). This will be your most fiddly moment. Pull the tail of your yarn to close the circle at the center of your eight caston stitches.



Grrlfriend Market Bag

Round 1: Knit 1, YO, Knit 1. Repeat this for each needle. 12 stitches total.
Round 2: Knit around.
Round 3: Knit 1, YO, Knit 1, YO, Knit 1. Repeat this for each needle.
Round 4: Knit around.
Round 5: Knit 1, YO, Knit across until 1 stitch remains on the needle, YO, Knit 1.
Repeat this for each needle around.
Round 6: Knit around.

Continue repeating rounds 5 and 6 until each needle has 25 stitches. Switch to the 16" circular needle when the DPNs start getting full (around 19 stitches on each needle at that point). Place a marker at the beginning of the round when you switch to circular needles.

BODY:

100 stitches on needles. Using the 24" circular (large size) needle:

Round 1: (K2tog, YO) around. Marker should be at this point if it was removed when changing needles.
Round 2: Knit around.

Repeat rounds 1 and 2 until body of bag is the length preferred. This lace pattern stretches a LOT!

TOP/CUFF:

This is where you will change colors if you want the top band/cuff and strap to be a contrasting color to the body of your bag. Using the 16" circular needle:

Round 1: Knit around
Round 2: Purl around

Repeat these rounds until the cuff is the preferred width/length. Suggested length is 8 rows or four garter bumps ending with a purl row.

STRAP/HANDLE:

Continuing with the 16" circular needle:

Cast off 40 stitches purlwise.

Knit the next 10 stitches. Place these 10 stitches on a stitch holder, safety pin, or piece of waste yarn.

Cast off the next 40 stitches purlwise.

Knit the next 10 stitches, continuing in garter stitch and knitting flat (back and forth rather than in the round), knit 2 more rows, ending on the wrong side of the strap/handle (inside of bag).

Next row (right side): K1, K2tog, K4, K2tog, K1

Grrlfriend Market Bag

Switch to DPNs. Continue knitting the strap/handle in garter stitch until it is the desired length. Remember that it will S-T-R-E-T-C-H quite a lot when you load the bag! End with a wrong side row.

Next row (right side): K1, M1, K6, M1, K1

Knit 2 more rows, ending with a right side row.

GRAFTING THE HANDLE:

Transfer 10 stitches from stitch holder to DPN.

Hold the two DPNs, 10 stitches on each needle, so that the outside of the strap and outside of bag are together. Grafting these 10 stitches with kitchener stitch on the inside will make a purl bump on the outside, blending with the garter stitch of the band and strap.

Weave ends neatly.

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Please infect your family friends and neighbors with the love of knitting by giving them copies of this pattern!

The Grrlfriend Market Bag is a free pattern and should never be sold for profit or as part of a kit. This pattern can be freely distributed and used as a teaching tool if it remains unaltered. Items made using this pattern can be sold for any purpose.

Any questions or corrections regarding this pattern or its use should be addressed to the pattern designer Laura Spradlin via email at [laura@sugarbunnyblvd.com](mailto:laura@sugarbunnyblvd.com).