

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties of Texas

We provide children with blankets full of hugs.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010/VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

Next Meeting

January 15, 2011: 10:00 am-3:00 pm

North Meeting Location: **South Meeting Location:**

203 Industrial Blvd.
Cedar Park, TX 78613

Manchaca Baptist Church
215 FM 1626
Manchaca TX 78652



News

First and foremost, please accept Project Linus' thanks for your assistance during 2010 and our warmest wishes for a peaceful and happy holiday season. Project Linus is a labor of love and we are gratified to witness the generosity of Americans in a time when there are so many negatives around us.

We are happy to announce that we now have a free storage unit for blankets at Austin Self Storage, 5405 Wasson Road (approximately one mile from Hwy. 290 off Congress or access via I-35 to Stassney then right on Congress and first right on Wasson). Their phone number is 512-383-8787. We deeply appreciate their generosity and hope you'll keep them in mind if you need storage.

Word from Florida where our past coordinator Diane Whitehouse has moved is that all goes well. They've bought a house in a retirement community with lots of activities, are settling in happily, and especially enjoying their nearby grandchildren! Diane can be emailed at db.whitehouse@yahoo.com and is happy to hear from Project Linus members. Their new address is Frank & Diane Whitehouse, 3727 Wildcat Run, Lakeland, Florida 33810

Another mighty big "THANKS" is due The Bob and Aubyn Howe Foundation who've made a very generous donation to Project Linus of Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties. They have helped us every year for the past few years and we are very thankful to have them in our corner. As our efforts have expanded, the costs of getting blankets to children in crisis grow too, and once again the kindness of others touches us all.

In a scramble to move out of our old storage units we distributed a great deal of donated fabric to people who will (we hope!) make blankets for us. Donated toys were given to an area Blue Santa project (Travis County Sheriff's Department) and Brown Santa project (Williamson County Sheriff's Department), and a homeless project also received some of our fleece for blankets. Hard work by several volunteers was required to make this all happen, and they're to be commended for their efforts (you know who you are!)

Project Linus brings out the best in a lot of people. Cindy Seal is a shining example of the generosity we are blessed to witness on regular basis. She sent us this email, we responded, and we got her blanket. And it was back in October, so you can't just write it off to "holiday charity." Thank you, Cindy!

My name is Cindy Seal and I live in Utah. I recently set a goal of donating receiving blankets to every one of the Project Linus Chapters in the United States (yes-I know it will be expensive and time consuming!) I'd really appreciate your help. Please send me a mailing address so that I can send you a blanket and reach my goal-and then another sweet little baby can be warm and cozy!

Helen Bokman, the coordinator of our Round Rock/Cedar Park group, writes that they still have craft items left that didn't sell at the Holiday Bazaar. If you donated crafts and want them back, please

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contact Helen at hbokman@sbcglobal.net. Those items not returned to the makers will be donated to the Round Rock Serving Center Thrift Store around the middle of this month.

Helen also thanks everyone who made and donated receiving blankets for the Neonatal Intensive Care unit at Dell Children's Medical Center (and says "PLEASE, keep up the good work!").

A few years back we had donated to us a Grace Quilting Frame. It allows you to machine quilt about a foot length of material before you "roll it up" in order to quilt another foot. While it may intimidate some quilters, there are videos on YouTube (and on the Bernina website—their frame is manufactured by Grace) that demonstrate how easy it is to use a frame like this and how quickly you can get a quilt onto the frame and quilted. The problem we have now is to find the best resting place for it as the person who is storing it would like to reclaim her space. If there are no takers, we will sell it on Craigslist and use the money for supplies. You will have to go pick it up— contact Anita Howe, our coordinator, at ahowe@sellsaustinhomes.com for more info.

Make a Blanket Day 2011

Each year the national Project Linus organization sponsors Make-a-Blanket Day on the third Saturday in February. It is a nationwide event to draw attention to our work and increase blanket donations. And, once again this year, we have special incentive for participants: a drawing for a Janome Electronic Sewing Machine model DC2010. We're changing our scheme a bit to honor those who turn in larger, harder-to-make blankets. At the time you turn in your blankets (usually at either location of Austin Sew-n-Vac), you will fill out a cover sheet for all your blankets, and then receive serially-numbered tickets based on blanket size. The bigger the blanket, the more chances you have to win the machine. Stay tuned for details in our January newsletter!



If you make blankets for us, please...

- Include your name, address or email with your blanket(s), so we will know whom to thank.
- Wash your blanket (if possible) before turning it in.
- If you've made a fleece blanket, please be sure the selvages are trimmed off.
- Please do not make your blankets out of tapestry, burlap, upholstery fabric, 70's type doubleknit, felt, vinyl, wool, or wool yarn. Please do not use fabric that has been stored in a damp area or has a musty smell. Mold spores can cause an allergic reaction in a child and are very difficult to remove from the fabric. Blankets that smell of smoke cannot be accepted.
 - 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 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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Join our Group on Facebook!

“Project Linus of Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties, Texas”

Since it's cold out, Project Linus is off for the holidays, and you'll be bored and looking for things to do... here are a few extra blanket ideas...just to tide you over...



An excellent source of crochet ideas!

<http://smoothfoxlover.blogspot.com/>



This will go together in a flash!

http://www.classicliteyarns.com/pattern_detail.php?patternID=74#

<http://www.straw.com/cpy/patterns/baby-child/merino5-bear-baby-blankt.html>



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**How's this for a
scrap user-upper?**

<http://www.favecrafts.com/Crochet-Afghans/Afghan-Circles-in-Rectangles>



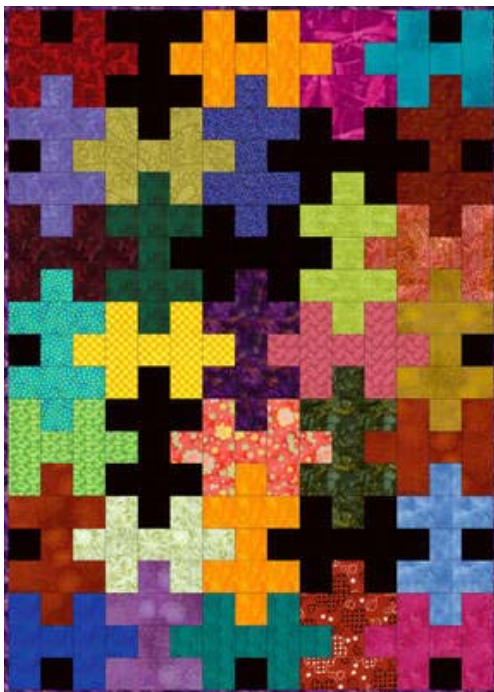
Scrap quilts are so huggable!

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

**This is just one of a lot of ideas
on the site above to scrap quilt
patterns**



[http://quilting.about.com/od/
quiltpatternsprojects/ss/jigsaw-puzzle-
quilt-pattern.htm](http://quilting.about.com/od/quiltpatternsprojects/ss/jigsaw-puzzle-quilt-pattern.htm)



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http://www.straw.com/cpy/patterns/baby-child/bunny_hop-baby-moon-blankt.html



Easy Peasy!

<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/L0007.html>

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[http://smoothfoxlover.blogspot.com/search/
label/Free Patterns](http://smoothfoxlover.blogspot.com/search/label/Free%20Patterns)

**wonderful crochet block
patterns (Created by Donna
Mason-Svara aka SmoothFox
©2010 V. 2.0)**



Project Linus Contacts...

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
Pat Beachy, pkbeachy@austin.rr.com

Places to leave blankets...

Thanks again to these area businesses which support our efforts by collecting blankets from blanketeers who don't attend meetings. And thanks for using them. Any way we can get more blankets is terrific!

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

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

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

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.



Thoughts about holidays

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds. -Theodore Roosevelt

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence. -Erma Bombeck

As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is. -Eric Sevareid

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more? -Dr. Seuss

Most Texans think Hanukkah is some sort of duck call. -Richard Lewis

A candle is a small thing.
But one candle can light another.
And see how its own light increases,

as a candle gives its flame to the other.
You are such a light. -Moshe Davis and Victor Ratner