

Project ♥ Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Williamson, Travis, & Hays Counties of Texas

We provide children with blankets full of hugs.

SEPTEMBER 2010/VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

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

Next Meeting

September 18, 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

About 20 of our blanketeers got together on Sunday, August 29th at a local restaurant to bid our founder, Diane Whitehouse, a fond farewell. Diane gave six years to this work. She resigned from Project Linus in January of this year to prepare her home for sale in anticipation of retiring to Florida, closer to some of her family. Project Linus members had been making blocks and a surprise sampler quilt was assembled as a "hug" from members to Diane for all of her efforts getting our group started. She is a committed volunteer who gave her heart and soul to the notion of getting blankets to children in crisis. The foundation she built for us is solid, and we will long remember her examples of service and commitment.

After the gathering, Diane wrote the following:

THANK YOU !!!!

I wanted to personally thank you all for the wonderful time I had today. It was sad but joyous too. I have many great memories regarding Project Linus but the people stand out the most. I will always cherish the friends I made through Project Linus no matter where I end up. Thank you again for my wonderful parting gift. It's the best gift I could ever have gotten. Every time I look at my quilt, I will remember each of you. Thank you so much...

I do not have the addresses for all of the folks that came to the restaurant so I am asking that one of you PLEASE let the others know that I was deeply moved. My email address will disappear tomorrow so I would appreciate it if you would publish my new address in the next newsletter so I can continue to get emails from time to time from the wonderful folks at Project Linus. Emails are always welcomed !!



db.whitehouse@yahoo.com

I miss you all already !!!!

Diane

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We are very thankful for all our BLANKETEERS. We recently received thank you letters from children who received our blankets and want to share with you a few of their comments.

Thank you for bringing a smile to my face.

Thank you for the warm and cozy blanket.

I love my blanket. Thank you for all the hard work.

All the notes were handwritten and many were colored and embellished. It's hard for us sometimes to know we're making any difference, but these notes were ample testimony of the value of your efforts! To all who attend our meetings and send blankets—I also want to thank you and invite you to the **Annual Project Linus Appreciation Luncheon. It will be October 16 at our south location** (see address above). We will have speakers from a couple of the organizations who receive our blankets. Don't miss it—these talks are informative and inspirational!

Now that school buses appear on weekdays and carry your own children off to school, I hope you find time to make a blanket for Project Linus.

Scissors Sharpened!

...by member 'Sharp Lady' Lydia, who will donate half the cost to Project Linus. It's \$5 for regular scissors and \$7 for pinking shears and will happen at the South Meeting.



Craft for A CAUSE CONTEST 2010

Craft for a Cause Contest

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores are pleased to offer an exciting contest for crafters called "Craft for a Cause," where you could win a \$1,500 Jo-Ann gift card! Here is how it works:

- Purchase materials from Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores
- Make a blanket for Project Linus
- Submit necessary entry information to Jo-Ann

As part of this fabulous contest your blanket made for the contest and donated to Project Linus gives us an entry in their favorite charity contest. The top three charities receiving the most donated items then become finalists. At that point crafters go to Jo-Ann's website to cast their vote. **The top charity receiving the most votes wins \$50,000.**

The crafting contest is going on now and ends October 30, 2010. Charity voting ends on December 4, 2010. Each contestant can only make one blanket, and the rules are pretty specific, so get your friends and families involved and "stuff the ballot box" for Project Linus!

For more details, including online entry and contest rules, refer to:

http://www.joann.com/joann/common/content_noleftnav.jsp?catName=craftForaCause.

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2010 Combined Federal Campaign

This just in from our national headquarters:

We are pleased to tell you that Project Linus is on the list of charities for the Combined Federal Campaign. The following is a description of the CFC from their website at www.opm.gov/cfc:

The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The Director of OPM has designated to the Office of CFC Operations responsibility for day-to-day management of the CFC.

Basically, this is similar to the United Way giving campaign, but for Federal Workers. Because Project Linus is now one of the official charities, local federal workers can designate our organization to be the recipient of their charitable payroll deductions. This is money that will benefit you locally, like any other local donation.

We are listed in the Combined Federal Campaign National List as follows:

95983 Project Linus (Linus Project) (309)454-1764 www.projectlinus.org EIN#841362696 Project Linus is a national nonprofit with a mission to bring comfort and security to seriously ill children through the gifts of new, handmade blankets.

Go to www.opm.gov/cfc/Search/Locator.asp to find the search engine where you can look for your local campaign.

We are sending in a group order for skip-stitch blades for anyone interested. Project Linus will pay shipping. If you want, these blades can be ordered directly on the Project Linus website, but ordering in volume saves money. Please let Anita Howe know (ahowe@sellsaustinhomes.com) if you want to order. You can send a check or bring it to the October meeting and pick up your blades then.



Skip-Stitch: Large Teeth

This unique blade is ideal for perforating fleece, leather, vinyl, felt, soft foam, and other fabrics in the application of over-edge finishing, lacing, crocheting, quilting, and many other projects!

For use with any standard 45mm rotary cutter handle (not included). Handles are available at most fabric and many craft stores nationwide.

4 mm long stitch; 10 mm between stitches (end of one to start of another);

approximately 2 stitches per inch. Price: \$10.00

Skip-Stitch: Original →

3 mm long stitch; 9 mm between stitches (end of one to start of another); approximately 3 stitches per inch. Price: \$10.00



Skip-Stitch: Small Teeth

← 2 mm long stitch; 7 mm between stitches (end of one to start of another); a little over 3 stitches per inch.

Price: \$13.00



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Suggestions for Making Flannel Receiving Blankets

Some of the following information has been printed before but it's always good to go over it again as there may be people reading our newsletter for the first time. Project Linus was asked by the head nurse at Dell Children's Hospital NICU to deliver 30 flannel receiving blankets to them every month. We started in April this year and so far we've been able to fulfill the request.

Please follow these suggestions and help keep the supply of blankets coming in:

- 1) Wash the flannel before making the receiving blanket as flannel shrinks quite a bit when wet. If the detergent used to wash the flannel has a strong smell, please rinse at least two times.
- 2) Press the flannel before making the receiving blanket; this smooths out any wrinkles that may have been made when drying the flannel and makes the blankets look better.
- 3) If pastel-colored flannels are used to make blankets, a decorative stitch around the edges gives them that little-something-extra that touches parents in crisis with a newborn.
- 4) When shopping for flannel, please remember that these blankets are for newborn babies (most of the time). Buy flannel that is age-appropriate for babies. They probably will not care for dinosaurs, trucks and cars, rockets, etc. which would be more for toddlers or older children. Also, they probably would not care for black, bright red or blue backgrounds, large flowers, etc.
- 5) Don't put buttons, beads, yo-yos, dangling ribbons, charms, etc. on the blankets as they could be choking hazards if they came off while in use.

Thanks very much to everyone who has donated blankets and please keep them coming so we can make the monthly delivery. The leftover flannel scraps can be turned in to Project Linus and they will be used to make larger blankets.

Helen Bokman

Assistant Coordinator

Project Linus North Group

Blanket inspiration

Terrific free resource for quilters on-line—Patterns, discussions, exchanges, tutorials, recipes (quilters cook too), and more. <http://www.quiltingboard.com>



Too many patterns, too little time!

<http://quilting.about.com/od/quiltpatternsprojects/ig/Free-Quilt-Block-Patterns/>

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Great quick knit!

<http://www.lionbrand.com/patterns/90350AD.html>



DROPS DESIGN®

www.GARNSTUDIO.com

http://www.garnstudio.com/lang/en/visoppskrift.php?d_nr=b14&d_id=20&lang=en



DROPS DESIGN®

www.GARNSTUDIO.com

http://www.garnstudio.com/lang/en/visoppskrift.php?d_nr=b16&d_id=18&lang=us

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.

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- If you've made a fleece blanket, please be sure the selvages have been trimmed off.
- 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>

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...

We are always grateful for the generous assistance of these 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.poppyquiltnsew.com

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

The Knitting Nest
Stacy Klaus
New address!—
8708 Congress Avenue, Ste. 570
Austin, TX 78748
(512) 294-8866
www.theknittingnestaustin.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/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 coordinator or contact us and we'll give you a mailing address. We can redeem them for discounts on batting for Project Linus blankets.



Join our Group on Facebook!

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

Words of inspiration for September

“Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.”
-John Steinbeck

“Children are happy because they don't have a file in their minds called
‘All the Things That Could Go Wrong.’”
-Marianne Williamson

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second-best time is now.”
-Marshall Lyautey

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