

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

August 2007

East Tennessee Chapter

Attn: Deb Miller
282 Orchard Valley Dr. Harriman, TN 37748
(Home) 865-435-9045 or (Cell) 719-2862
Miller1219@aol.com

*The best kind of sleep under
heaven above, is under a blanket
handmade with love.*

Coordinator's Corner

Project Linus Blanketeers and Recipient Organizations:

A BIG Thank you to Wanda Nance and her daughter for getting our new PLET website up and running!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Blanketeer Lucile Sherrod. Lucile turns 94 years young on August 11 and is still making LOTS of blankets for Project Linus.

A Big Thanks to Ann Brush for all her help selling cookbooks!

A Special THANKS to Judie Agee, Phoenix/East Valley Chapter Coordinator, for sharing some of the clip art and sayings used in this newsletter.

I hope this note finds you well. We're headed off for a long weekend in Pigeon Forge with Bob's Family. My God Child Megan will be there, too. We are looking forward to getting away and to seeing everyone!

Read on – the newsletter is packed with some wonderful notes, new pattern ideas and lots of other good information.

Deb



If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else. - Booker T. Washington

Project Linus of East Tennessee Website

www.geocities.com/projectlinuseasttn

A HUGE Thanks to Wanda Nance for putting the website together for us. If you have comments or suggestions, just send me an email after you take a look at it. There will be updates and additions in the future so keep checking back. This is a wonderful start – I hope to add more so let me know your ideas.

Your Donations of Blankets and Other Items Truly Make A Difference in the Lives of Area Children. PLET has recently or will soon be delivering donated items to the following recipient organizations:

- ❖ **Ronald McDonald House - Knoxville: CORRECTION from last month – only 30 blankets were delivered not 55**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville:
- ❖ **UT Medical Center–Knoxville: 91 blankets and caps**
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room): 27 blankets and caps**
- ❖ YWCA Domestic Violence Program Shelter – Oak Ridge:
- ❖ **CEASE Domestic Violence Shelter & Program – Morristown: 30 blankets**
- ❖ Katie Miller Group Home/Child and Family, Inc. – Knoxville:
- ❖ New Life Inn/Knox Area Rescue Ministries:
- ❖ Children’s Center of the Cumberland (Scott County):
- ❖ **REACHS Children’s Center of the Cumberland (Campbell County): 15 blankets; 2 animal backpacks with blankets**
- ❖ Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane):
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville:
- ❖ Mission of Hope:
- ❖ Department of Human Services:
- ❖ Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:
- ❖ Avalon Center – Cumberland County:
- ❖ Avalon Center – Morgan County:
- ❖ ETHRA for needy families:
- ❖ A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of TN – Maryville:
- ❖ **Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge: 16 blankets**
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA – Knoxville: 51 blankets**
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ **Blankets to 3 children of a man that lost is life tragically in a fire**

SPECIAL NEEDS!

- We can always use stamps!
- Black Printer Cartridges for HP DeskJet 882C - HP Black Print Cartridge #45
- Garbage Bags – large heavy duty
- We NEED \$\$\$: We always welcome financial donations to help us with PL expenses including publishing the newsletter, brochures, buying labels for the blankets, etc. If you want to make a donation, please send it to Deb. We’d prefer a gift card (Staples, Target, Walmart, Office Depot, K-Mart, etc.), check made out to Project Linus or cash.
- Remember Project Linus is a Non-Profit Organization. Be sure to check with your tax advisor regarding applicable tax deductions.

Keep Selling Cookbooks – PRICE REDUCED to \$5 each:

We need to build our pool of funds to pay for brochure and newsletter printing & mailing of blankets for projects like TAPS, to children of soldiers killed in action, etc. If you need cookbooks to sell, contact Bev Abele 481-3674 home or 574-9451 work or Deb Miller.

We’ve already made over \$1,600 selling cookbooks PLUS paying for the cost of the cookbooks. A lot of this money was used to help buy extra fabric and pay for mailing of blankets for local and national Hurricane Katrina victims and for extra fabric for blankets for the teens at Campbell County Comprehensive High School after the tragic shootings last year.

Thanks to Bev Abele and her team for coordinating this project. Now, let’s get the last of the cookbooks SOLD!

Project Linus of East Tennessee – June 30, 2007 Stats

Our goal is to donate 2,000 blankets this year to our recipient organizations. We’re half way through the year and have donated 1,239 blankets. That’s 62% of goal and we’re only 50% of the way thru the year.

Since April 2003, PLET Volunteers have made and donated 7,207 blankets!

Each of you has made this possible – THANKS!

That’s A LOT of MILES of HUGS

- ❖ PLET has donated over 5 MILES of blankets hugs (average blanket 4 ft.)
- ❖ Project Linus nationally has donated 1,520 MILES of blanket hugs!

Donations - Thank You

Dorcas Quilters from West Park Baptist Church:
16 quilts

Sue Helton: 2 blankets

Barbara Littlton: \$35 donations and 12 squares

Bev Abele: Cookbook Sales: \$40

Nettie Peters: 4 blankets

Anna Fritz: \$30 donation and stamps

Sylvia Arow: 17 blankets

Clare Racine: 7 blankets; 23 squares

Beaver Creek Helping Hands Ministry: 46 blankets

Joyce Seidel Hausman: 7 blankets, lots of Yarn and thread

Jayne Gustafson: 12 preemie hats, 5 afghans, 22 squares, yarn

Rocky Hill 3rd Graders: 7 fleece blankets

Hilari Frederick: 4 blankets

Mara Eckhardt: 1 blanket

First United Methodist Church: 43 blankets

Beth Stephan: 2 blankets

Kathy Minter: 3 blankets

Betty Richardson: 1 blanket, 2 newborn hats, 2 squares

Barb McFalls: 2 blankets

Kim Harris: Hefty BIG Bags

Helen Low: 4 afghans

Judy Montgomery: 1 blanket w/ matching cap

Wanda Nance: 10 blankets

Mabeline Sizemore: 1 blanket, 2 caps

Carol Yates 2 quilts

Park West Church: 4 blankets

Phyllis Mason: 6 blankets

Sandy Rea: 7 blankets

Barbara Golec: ?

Ms. Mills and Suffern: 14 blankets and 4 scarves

First United Methodist Church (3316 Kingston Pike Knoxville): \$45

Betty Richardson: \$20 Walmart Gift Card

Mickey Thompson: \$30

Helen Forbes and Dorothy Cameron: 15 quilts

Ruth Rosenbaum and Lois Noe: 15 Quilts

Bettie Hite: 2 blankets made from donated "squares". These are cute "patchwork" blankets!!!!

Anonymous donation of \$50 in memory of Sheila's husband Bob Lappin

Ann Brush: \$350 for cookbook sales and the \$37.50 of mailing costs to get them to her!

Special thanks to:

- **Doris and Jim Cole** for donating postage and mailing the newsletter, deliveries/pick-ups and much much more.
- **Mara and Tom Eckhardt** for help with deliveries/pick-ups.
- **Sheila Lappen** for help with deliveries/pick-ups.
- **Kim Harris, Denette Flynn, Kelley Thomas, Debbie Petree and Sug Sexton** for help with deliveries/pick-ups.
- **Thanks to the staffs at the TN Career Centers in Alcoa, Lenoir City and Rockwood**
- **Thanks to the gang at ETHRA Workforce Development**
- **Dorothy Cameron** for her quilting services for Project Linus.
- **Patti Stewart** for help with deliveries, shopping and whatever else I need her to do!
- **Kathy Bates** for sewing on labels.
- my folks **Irene and Don Hawker** for delivery of blankets in Cumberland County
- **Wanda Nance** for the great work on the website.

If I missed thanking you for a donation, please accept my apologies and let me know so I can recognize you next time! Sometimes we get behind in picking up and unpacking blankets – please don't be offended; just let me know and we will be sure to get your items logged in and passed on to recipient organizations.

- Del

The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have.

- Leonard Nimoy

A Note Received at the National Office:

Dear Project Linus,

I am not sure who to contact so I came through the website. Our son has been hospitalized since Mother's Day with a ruptured appendix and many associated complications. Via Abington Hospital here in Pennsylvania (I believe Montgomery County) Tyler received a wonderfully soft red and black blanket that they said came from Linus. As you can imagine it's been a hard road for him, and made even more difficult by the fact that he's autistic and can not verbalize his feelings--emotional or physical. What nobody could have known is how much this child loves a soft blanket.

A touch of kindness from total strangers has given us a tremendous (and needed) boost of faith in humanity. We live in a world dedicated to Me, Myself, and Mine. There simply aren't proper words to thank whatever person who remains nameless and faceless to our family for what they have given to us-- a gift well beyond that of the blanket.

Thank you.
Fondly,
The Williams Family

Thanks

Child Advocacy Center (Roane, Meigs, Morgan and Loudon): *THANK YOU* for the beautiful blankets. You know how much our children enjoy the warmth and comfort of the blankets your volunteers provide us. We continue to be grateful to Project Linus for their support. – Chris

From Matti, Shawn and Baby Matthew: Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt we received after the birth of our son. It is truly a treasure. Thank you for taking the time to share a precious keepsake with us.

Ronald McDonald House: “Thank you for your donation of lovely quilts for our families. We appreciate your support of our House.”

Sue Beverly, Director

Quilting Assistance: Diana Mraz, of Jacksboro, is willing to do quilting for PL volunteer's quilt tops. If you are interested, contact Diana direct for details. 423-563-0157 or tnbuckeye@wildblue.net.

Project Linus was glad to be able to get blankets to the children victims of the floods and oil refinery spill in Kansas and Oklahoma.

PL of East TN volunteered to send blankets, but their need was filled before they got our email. This is just another way that PL helps children throughout the country. Below is the note originally received by a coordinator near the impacted area:

“Over the last 3-6 weeks parts of Kansas and Oklahoma have been inundated with rain causing major flooding in some of the small towns. I have been contacted about the need for blankets for Coffeyville Kansas and Independence Kansas. Coffeyville was not only flooded but the flood waters got into a very large refinery and as a result they also had an oil spill that covered the town. Anywhere that there was water, they were to told to throw everything away whether it was ruined or not. I am asking for assistance in this. There is no coordinator in that area. If there is anyway that you can share some blankets, I would appreciate it.

Do You Want Your Newsletter Sent by Email?

Don't forget if you would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to you in Word format on email to let Deb know at Miller1219@aol.com

Blanket Squares: I'm behind in getting blanket squares put together into blankets. If you are interested in helping, I'll gladly get you the squares. I've got them sorted into bags for blankets of 9 (3x3); 12 (3x4) and 16 (4x4) and a few larger. The squares can be sewn or crocheted together and then it's nice to add a crocheted edging on them. You might have to get yarn to match to attach them. I've got some, but not for all of them. If you are interested in helping, let me know.

-Deb

Large Plastic Bags for Blanket Deliveries

As I've said before the new large Ziploc Bags are great for putting blankets in for special deliveries. Kim Harris donated some similar ones that were HEFTY BIG BAGS – these are even BETTER!

**National Project Linus
Statistics as of March 31, 2007**

♥ Blankets Donated: 2,007,148

♥ Chapters: 406

As many of you know, Sheila Lappin and I were co-coordinators up until a few years ago when she needed to focus more on family priorities. I received the attached note from Sheila recently and she asked that I share it with you.

Dear Deb and PLET Sisters and Brothers,

I've been remiss in not keeping in touch since Robert passed away. Sorry. Until recently I haven't kept up with much that's not totally necessary. I clean the house, pay the many outstanding medical bills and take care of the pup...

I want to thank every friend who sent cards of condolences and encouragement from all over the country. It's overwhelming that so many care, but it's been a gift from God. I have kept every card; I have felt the effects of your prayers. And I have thanked God for you!

Although it's been physically painful to bear the loss of my soul mate of 38 years, I know the Lord is in control of this too. I saw His hand on Bob. He was comforted and calmed by listening to me read the Scriptures, especially certain Psalms. And I was awed to watch him raise his frail arms toward the ceiling as he was dying. Although his physical eyes were closed, his spiritual eyes saw Heaven, and that gave him the strength to eagerly reach for Jesus. It seemed appropriate to engrave the first two lines of the soundtrack from the movie "Amazing Grace" on my husband's stone:

"My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, My Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending Love, Amazing Grace."

I miss Bob so much -- but he's blissfully happy. I pray for each of you that when your time comes to experience this kind of loss, that: first, you know you will join your loved one for eternity in Glory; and, second, that you have the comfort and prayers surrounding you as I've had. Thirdly, I pray that you will remember that our Father purifies us through the fires we pass through so that we will be stronger.

I look forward to getting involved again with PLET soon. Meanwhile, I'll be finishing up the crocheted afghan for our newest grandson Taylor, who was born 6 days after his PaPa passed away.

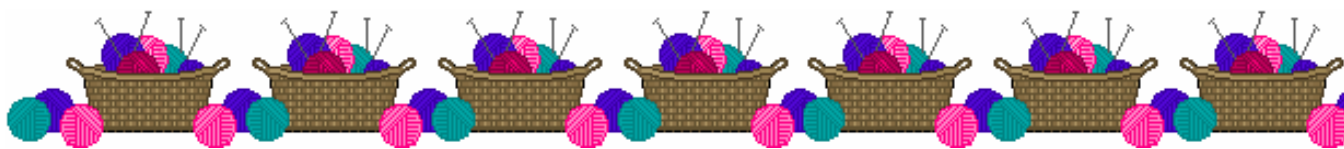
Thank you again and again

Project Linus of East TN has received a lot of thank you notes over the years, but this one touched my heart like no other....

"I just couldn't go to bed tonight without saying to you how grateful that i am for your love and kindness. This has been one of the hardest days of our lives. I took my little 8 year old daughter to the children's center for a forensic interview. She was so brave and so strong . I cried as i sat in the other room while i worried about her being all alone . I was so proud of her for having the courage to tell these people about the things that had happened to her so that they can prevent this from happening to any other little child. When she finished with her session a wonderful lady named Miss Sandy talked to her and gave her one of your blankets as a gift. She read her the poem and told her it would help make her feel safe and help the bad dreams stay away. The tears changed to a smile and she then ask for one for her little sister. This is the first night that she has slept in her own bed since she told her daddy and me about what was happening to her. I realize that the light green blanket with puppies and kittens on it is not magical but it sure is a gift from God. I believe that not all angels have wings. Now i know that some of them just have the talent of sewing. Thank you for letting God use you and your talent to help heal broken hearts and to bring comfort to frightened little girls in their time of need. I don't know who's hands crafted this special blanket but as i pray tonight i will lift you up to the Lord and I ask you to remember my little girl in your prayers. Thank you So Much! and may God Bless you !

Sincerely

The mother of a precious gift
on loan from God.



LIFE IS LIKE A QUILT

Life is like a patchwork quilt
And each little patch a day
Some patches are rosy, happy and bright
And some are dark and gray.
But each little patch as it's fitted in
And sewn to keep it together
Makes a finished block in this life of ours,
Filled with sun and rainy weather.
So let me work on life's patchwork quilt
Through the rainy days and the sun
Trusting that when I have finished my block
The Master may say, "Well done." ...unknown

Patterns

I have new patterns for:

- ❖ An Easy Strip Quilt
- ❖ Wanita's Diagonal Baby Block
Afghan – crocheted
- ❖ Star Light Blanket for Intermediate
Knitters

If you want a copy of any of these, send me an email (if you can receive Word attachments like the newsletter) or self addressed stamped envelope with a note indicating the patterns you want.

New Recipient Organization – Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge

Many Project Linus organizations around the country provide blankets to funeral homes for families that have babies that die. **Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge** provides the arrangements for a lot of babies in Anderson County. They will have a supply of blankets to use as they deem appropriate to include with the baby at the viewing. Often, times the small flannel blankets will be very appropriate in this situation.

Additionally, as we know, funeral homes often work with families that have children that have lost a loved one. These children could definitely use a “blanket hug”. Glen King at Martin's will ensure these blankets are distributed to children in traumatic situations. We appreciate being able to help Glen help the families that lose babies and children that lose loved ones.

Thinking of You

*To those of you that have lost loved ones recently,
our sympathies are with you.*

*To those of you that are ill,
we hope you are feeling better soon.*

Give the world the best that you have, and the best will come back to you.

-Madeline Bridges