

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

January 2008

East Tennessee Chapter

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

Coordinator's Corner

Wow! It was a very busy 2007 for Project Linus as you can see from the information to the right. As is always evidenced by the notes we receive from our recipient organizations and the parents of the children, each blanket is truly appreciated and makes a difference in the life of a child going through a traumatic situation. Each of your donations has truly made a difference and is appreciated.

Of special note, I'd like to thank Teresa Chasteen and the WIN organization for funding a storage unit. See article inside.

The First Farragut United Methodist Church has once again provided us a generous donation of \$502.35 to help offset the costs of labels, printing newsletters, supplies and more. A big thanks!!!!

Thanks to the group of women that helped me in December to catch up putting labels on blankets. I had gotten sorely behind in sewing on labels and one email brought forth enough volunteers to get us caught up so the blankets could be delivered in December.

Our blanket donation goal to recipient organizations in 2007 was 2000 and we exceeded it by 26%. Project Linus of East Tennessee has donated 8,601 blankets to children in traumatic situations since April 2003. I'm hoping we can continue to grow and achieve over 2800 blankets in 2008. Thanks to your generosity I'm sure we can.

Happy New Year,

Deb

Hold Your Calendars for February 16th!

This is national "Make a Blanket Day". I'm still working on details, but please hold this day on your calendar if you can for our Winter 2008 Meeting and Celebration. More details will be in the February Newsletter.

PLET donated 2,520 blankets in 2007 – 520 more than our goal of 2,000. We achieved 126% of goal thanks to all of your efforts. Whether you made one blanket, many, donated your time or supplies or made a financial donation, you helped make 2,520 blanket hugs to children in traumatic situations possible. – THANKS!

National Statistics as of Sept. 30, 2007

♥ Blankets Donated to date: **2,293,340**
♥ Chapters: **406**

"I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."
- Stephan Grellet

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: 35 blankets**
- ❖ **Hope Resource Center - Knoxville: 38 blankets, sweater sets, stuffed toys for babies, booties, caps, etc.**
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ **East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville: 87 blankets**
- ❖ **UT Medical Center–Knoxville: 72 blankets**
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room): 56 Blankets**
- ❖ YWCA Domestic Violence Program Shelter – Oak Ridge:
- ❖ **CEASE Domestic Violence Shelter & Program – Morristown: 20 blankets**
- ❖ Katie Miller Group Home/Child and Family, Inc. – Knoxville:
- ❖ New Life Inn/Knox Area Rescue Ministries:
- ❖ Children’s Center of the Cumberlands (Scott County):
- ❖ REACHS Children’s Center of the Cumberlands (Campbell County):
- ❖ Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane):
- ❖ **Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville: 48 blankets**
- ❖ Mission of Hope:
- ❖ **Department of Human Services: 80 blankets**
- ❖ Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:
- ❖ **Avalon Center–Cumberland County: 26 blankets**
- ❖ Avalon Center – Morgan County:
- ❖ ETHRA for needy families:
- ❖ A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of TN – Maryville:
- ❖ Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge:
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA – Knoxville: 60 blankets, bags and stuffed toys**
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ **14 blankets to children in refuge families from Burundi sponsored by the First United Methodist Church**
- ❖ **20 blankets to babies born drug addicted and being served through local agencies and the Elks Lodge of Oak Ridge**
- ❖ **4 blankets to needy children in Roane County**
- ❖ **14 blankets, caps and scarves to needy children in Morgan County**

Wish List



- Stamps
- Standard white 8 ½ x 11 copier paper
- Garbage Bags – large heavy duty
- Safety Pins – small to medium
- Yarn (bright child friendly colors – washable)
- We NEED \$\$\$: We always welcome financial donations to help 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, , K-Mart, etc.), check made out to Project Linus or cash.
- Remember Project Linus is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. Be sure to check with your tax advisor regarding applicable tax deductions.

"How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving."

- James Cash

"Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out." ~

Frank A. Clark

While most of our blanketeers are women, we have some wonderful men that support us in our efforts. Please keep the following special PL male helpers in your thoughts as they continue to deal with health problems:

- Jim Cole as he deals with breathing and related issues
- Jane Crowley’s husband Mickie with cancer
- My husband Bob with prostate cancer and going through radiation

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

Pericles



Elizabeth Anderson: \$20 Susan Casada: \$100
Rob and Linda Hughes: \$50 Melissa Chambers \$30
Sue Foster: \$145 for Cookbook Sales
Restorative Justice – Farragut Christian Church: 4 blankets
Carol Tweety – 2 books of stamps
Jim and Doris Cole: blanket, fabric and envelopes
Amanda Haskins: 4 blankets
Dean Smith: 3 blankets
Judy DuBois: 9 blankets
Mabel Wheat: 4 blankets
Alice Richardson: 1 blanket
Paula Nelson: 1 blanket
Beth Stephen: 4 blankets
Kathy Minter: 8 blankets
Nettie Peters: 3 blankets
Bev Abele: Cookbook Sales: \$20
Mary Bohanan: 5 blankets
Barb Loadholtz: 4 blankets
Ann Milner: 3 blankets
Jackie Godden: 8 blankets, 15 bootie/cap sets, 5 bonnets, 2 santa caps with booties; 12 Santa and Pixie Caps
Jane Hembree Crowley: 4 teen blankets
A large number of quilts and blankets were donated without names on them. I think these came from Oak Ridge Senior Center and Bits and Pieces Quilt Guild in Norris – there were at least 102 of them.
Dorothy Cameron: 10 blankets and 22 caps
Lois Noe and Dorothy Cameron: 10 blankets
Ruth Rosenbaum and Dorothy Cameron: 36 blankets
Helen Forbes and Dorothy Cameron: 40 blankets
Special thanks to Ila Mae Norton and Mae Etta Conrad for helping Helen hem quilts.
Maribeth McHone: 50 preemie blankets
Lorene Roach: 3 blankets
Mrs. Mills and Suffern: 2 blankets, 3 cap/scarf sets, 15 caps
Francis E. Robinson: 2 baby blankets
Anonymous: 1 blanket; 2 - 8” squares
Marj Gossett: 5 blankets
Barbara Golec: 6 blankets
Kathy Van Houton: 1 blanket

Karen Barry: 3 blankets
Jen Goforth: 3 blankets
Sandy Rea: 1 blanket, 2 hats
Dorcas Quilters: 13 blankets, 6 stockings
Amanda Haskins: 1 blanket
Clare Racine: 4 blankets
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.
- **Barb Loadholtz** for picking up blankets at Lucille Sherrod's, sewing labels and for providing yarn to Lucille.
- **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.
- **Teresa Chasteen and WIN** for paying for the PL storage unit each month

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

More Donations



Marianne Weston: 3 blankets
Friends of Marianne Weston:
Bag of Yarn
Betty Keller: 2 blankets
Wanda Nance: 9 blankets
Roberta Barndt: blanket& yarn
Karl Notz: 3 bags of fabric
Carolyn Phipps: 2 blankets
Lucile Sherrod: 12 blankets
Vicky Frye: 2 blankets
Barbara Sparks: 1 blankets
Drama Russell: 1 blanket
Pat Hunter: 6 blankets
Donna Miller: 1 blanket

A Farragut Service Unit Girl Scout event was held on November 1 and 20 blankets were made for Project Linus at the First Farragut United Methodist Church. Girls participated from troops 44, 300, 534, 899 and 1054. They included Aubrey Armstrong, Taylor Ysteboe, Zena Gottholm, Carisa Ownby, Megan Paris, Sherry Paris, Kerry Memory, Caitlin Keough and Zoey Gotthom. Other Girl Scouts participating included Diana, Margie, Samantha, Susan, Amanda, Cassi, Charlotte, Tracey and Mariah. Steve and Cathy Hurrell also worked with the Girl Scouts and accepted the blankets on behalf of Project Linus.

Holy Hands Oral Baptist Church: 8 blankets, 1 fabric book
Tellico Village Knit and Crochet Club: 65 caps
Margery Allard: 2 blankets
Jackie Szcapanik: 5 blankets
Betty Richardson: 2 blankets and 1 scarf
First United Methodist Church – Knoxville: 65 blankets
Lynda Everman: 3 blankets
Kathy Messer: 1 blanket
Joyce Seidel Hausman: 11 blankets
Diana Moore: 14 blankets and 6 tote bags
Parkwest Quilters: 8 blankets
Judy Hair: 1 blanket with cap
Mabeline Sizemore: 1 blanket
Jane McDowell: 1 blanket
Brenda Sizemore: 1 blanket
Wanda Nance: 3 blankets, 1 pair booties and toy ball
Jo Hatfield – approx. 20 blankets
First Farragut United Methodist Church: \$502.35

Special thanks to Ruth Ochsenrider for sponsoring her “Coffee with Ruth” at Love Lady Christian Church and First United Methodist Church (both in Byrdstown). These ladies recently made and donated 25 blankets.

Storage Unit: While our growing number of blankets is GOOD NEWS, hauling them into the house and the space they take up in my guest room to get them checked, tagged, packed into bags, etc. has been a major frustration for me. I had reached the conclusion I had to do something outside our house, but couldn't really afford with Project Linus funds the cost of a storage unit. Just as my frustration had peaked, a wonderful donor came forward to pay for a storage unit each month. A big THANK YOU to Teresa Chasteen and the WIN organization in Kingston for this generous donation. I have found a very nice clean climate controlled unit in Kingston that is convenient for me to stop at on my way home from work and only 10 miles from the house. The temperature stays between 68 and 70, the humidity at 65 percent and there is security 24/7. The unit opens to an inside climate controlled hallway with monitored security cameras. I've got everything moved into the unit, shelving in place, etc. It is wonderful and my stress level has been significantly reduced! Thanks again to Teresa Chasteen and WIN.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

--Winston Churchill

Ursula - our coordinator from San Diego, asked us to post this note for her:

We at the San Diego Chapter are so appreciative of the many donations from Chapters all over the Country, and the deliveries have gone so well. It's exactly what the kids needed. Now that the evacuation centers are closed, we are concentrating on the 4 Assistance Centers in the County. These centers are ONLY for the folks whose houses have been completely destroyed. So far we've blanketed 2 such centers. At the Rancho Bernardo Assistance/rebuilding-relocation Center (one of the hardest hit areas in the county), our blankets are being given out by 2 agencies. San Diego County Mental Health (our partner) has a huge Teddy sitting on the table. It is draped by one of our Linus quilts and it holds a Linus H.Q. Brochure. Too cute! The 2nd is the San Diego Crisis Intervention team of officers (also a new partner) who tell us they are also giving out blankies to families having had complete melt downs. So sad. They also have a child day-care area at the center, and the 1st time we delivered blankets to them, the volunteers nearly jumped for joy. They said it was exactly what they had been praying for. Needless to say we've been back. Yesterday was our 3rd tip. 20 to each station, that's 180 blankets giving out much comfort and snuggles to kids that walked away with nothing. Because the fires moved so quickly, fueled by such catastrophic winds, many folks tell us the reverse 911 call came so late, and for some not at all. They had less than 5 minutes to evacuate. The donated blankets have been a God-Sent! You all have truly made a huge difference in the lives of our San Diego children; covering them in love, comfort and warm snuggles and hugs. With much appreciation from our whole San Diego Chapter, we're sending you big hugs.

Ursula Sorensen

REACHS Children's Center

wanted to say THANK YOU for the beautiful quilts that were donated to us. When a victim of abuse comes in for their medical exam here, we let them choose a quilt to cover up with during the exam. The children love them and feel instant comfort. I also wanted to let you know that as of January 1, 2008 we will be an independent non-profit organization. Our new name will be Campbell County Children's Center. Congratulations on your goal progress and welcome to the new volunteers, you have chosen a great way to help.

Thank you,
Tena Way, Victim Advocate
REACHS Children's Center

From Nonie Beach - La Mesa, El Cajon, Santee, and South Bay areas:

I would like to thank all of you who donated blankets for our most recent fires. I personally went to 11 different evacuation/shelters in several areas of the county. I heard many stories like "I know who you are, I remember you from our last fire" or my child received one of your blankets when we were in the hospital". So you can see we do make a difference in a child's life.

The devastation I observed first hand was something you don't forget. I visited a trailer park that had 48 out of 60 structures burnt to the ground. To watch some child play amid the chaos was both heartbreaking and heartwarming. Children are so resilient :) There is a "tent city" that was set up in our back-country that I will visit one more time. However, due to your heartfelt generosity I am more than set on blankets.

Thanks and my deepest gratitude to all of you who donated and those of you who offered.

It was good to hear from Janis Gammons this month:

I want to thank you & all of my fellow blanketeers for the thoughts & prayers for a speedy recovery from my leg surgery in September. Needless to say, I am on a lengthy recovery since they had so much to repair. Since surgery, my left arm has been giving me fits. The doctor thinks it might be from leaning to the left on my walker a lot. I am trying to get it back in shape so I can get back to crocheting.

My name is Amy Morrison. My parents were involved in a home invasion a year ago today. My mother flat lined in the hospital three times during her stay and my dad suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. They had given up on my mother. My husband had to take my children in the chapel and explain to him that their mommom would not be going home with us. Nine and five, they were devastated. A wonderful lady in the gift shop at UT hospital gave my daughters a blanket to share. I never met this lady but she found a way to comfort my children with a beautiful blanket. After ten long hard days we brought my mom home. Now she is back at UT in MCCU, today makes three weeks. We have high hopes of bringing her home again. God has shown us many miracles.

My son Ben was born 3 months ago. He was injured at birth. He has Erb's Palsy. His right arm is paralyzed. He will have to have a nerve transplant, muscle transplants, and bone shavings during the next year if his nerves do not begin to work.

It means so much to know that such wonderful people are spending their time to comfort our children when they are in need. I look at that quilt and hold it dear to my heart knowing how much love went into each square of fabric. Who knew how happy that would make my daughters and now (if they'll share :)) it will comfort my son. A big thanks to all of you angels that wrap our children in your love. Keep us in your prayers. Thank you!

Lots of Love, Amy Morrison
Rutledge, TN

Students from the Crandon Wisconsin school that received Linus blankets from East Tennessee and chapters all over the U S to comfort them after the loss of 6 students from their school due to a shooting. Teens love these blankets as much as small children.



My name is Angie Arp and we live in Maryville Tn. Laura is 5 years old and has been recently diagnosed with Leukemia. She goes to Childrens Hospital in Knoxville, and was there today for a bone marrow and a spinal tap. While she was recovering a nice lady came in and gave her a beautiful blanket to keep her warm. I just wanted to Thank You for thinking of the sick children and taking time to put a smile on their faces, you are all Angels! God Bless each and every volunteer who helps make these. We wish all a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Thank You again! Love, Angie and Laura Arp

Dear Project Linus & Volunteers:

I want to thank you for the wonderful blanket we received at the Baptist West Hospital (in Knoxville). When my 20-month-old son, Hunter, tried to swallow a 1½" screw we went immediately to the hospital by ambulance. I had no time to bring a blanket or other comfort object, nor did I even think of it during the panic. I was absolutely devastated knowing he could choke to death and I was beside myself seeing him cry as he was scared and hurting. A nurse gave us the blanket as we sat and waited for the X-rays to show where the screw was located. Meanwhile, Hunter wasn't allowed to eat lunch or drink anything.

The blanket helped provide a sense of home (for both Hunter and me) in such a sterile place. It helped to calm me down and allowed Hunter to snuggle and fall asleep for the ambulance ride to Children's Hospital, where a doctor later removed it from his nasal cavity.

You
are proof
that
one person
can make
a difference.



Thank You

Gratefully Hunter's throat was only scratched and there was no major damage. Hunter has healed up fine and he doesn't put foreign objects in his mouth anymore.

I thank God for giving Hunter and me a second chance and I thank God for people like you who take time out of their lives to try and make others' lives a little better. God bless you! I've enclosed a picture of us and a donation. (I wish I could give more.)
Sincerely, Melissa Chambers

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.