

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

June/July 2007

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

Dear Project Linus Volunteers and Recipient Organizations:

Wow! It's been a busy month. Which means YOU have been busy, too. Blanket donations have really picked up and that is great. If this continues, I will be looking to pick up more recipient organizations to which we can donate our blankets. We continue to have particular needs for baby (not preemie) and teen blankets so if you are trying to decide what to make next, a baby or teen blanket would be a good choice.

We've had some big accomplishments this month including a large increase in the number of blanket donations. Nationally, Project Linus reached the 2 Millionth Blanket donation mark – that's A LOT of blankets. Thanks to Dyann Wilson in Rockwood, our cookbook sales have pick up tremendously!!!!

I hope you each know that your work as a volunteer and in our recipient organizations is truly making a positive difference in the lives of children. The staff in our recipient organizations really appreciate the blankets and being able to share them with the children they serve. Keep up the great effort!

Take care.

Deb

I got this note from Sheila on May 17:

'Just a belated note to let you know that my husband Bob entered Heaven on May 4. '

"They say time heals all hurts, but I know it's only God who heals wounds this deep. During his last days I read parts of Romans 8 to him many times. God has promised all this to me, too, and I will cling to that.

I appreciate all of the prayers that have been offered throughout this ordeal.

Sheila"

For those of you that don't know, Sheila was our co-coordinator and a very active volunteer. Her husband Bob had brain cancer. Anyone wanting to send a card, Sheila's address is:

Sheila Lappin
6823 Drybrook Lane
Knoxville, TN 37921

Please keep Sheila in your prayers.

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: 55 blankets**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ **East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville: 93 blankets, caps, baby gowns**
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville:
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room): 49 blankets**
- ❖ YWCA Domestic Violence Program Shelter – Oak Ridge:
- ❖ CEASE Domestic Violence Shelter & Program – Morristown:
- ❖ 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):
- ❖ Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane):
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville:
- ❖ Mission of Hope:
- ❖ **Department of Human Services: 5 blankets for special needs children**
- ❖ 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:
- ❖ CHILDHELP USA – Knoxville:
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ **4 blankets for children of Sgt. 1st Class James David Connell, Jr. of Lake City (killed in Iraq May 2007)**

SPECIAL NEEDS!

- We can always use stamps!
- Black Printer Cartridges for HP DeskJet 882C these are 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!

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

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.*

Project Linus Donates over 2 Million Blankets

The national office is excited to report that as of March 31, 2007 blankets donated are 2,007,148 and the total number of chapters is now 406.

Donations - Thank You

Wilma Shinpaugh: 1 blanket
Cathy Prater: 5 afghans and LOTS of wonderful bags for blanket deliveries
Cathy Prater's friend Rebecca: 3 afghans
Jean Altshuler: 15 blankets, 3 pairs of booties
JoAnn Marshall: \$10 Walmart card
Dorcas Quilters: 10 blankets
Maetta Conrad: 3 blankets; 7 hats
Kathy Messer: 1 blanket
Sharon Carey: 7 blankets
Mary Michel: \$50
Janis Gammons: 7 blankets; 7 caps; stuffed Paddington Bear
Ella Ford: 3 blankets
Helen Low: 4 blankets
Ladies Auxiliary of VFW – Rockwood, TN: \$50
Mara and Tom Eckhardt: 1 blanket
Wanda Nance: 10 preemie blankets, 3 squares
Mabeline Sizemore: 1 blanket
Mary Edna Williams: 56 afghans, 35 hats
Phyllis Mason: 6 afghans
Annhara Henderson: 4 blankets with matching caps
DyAnn Wilson: 1 baby blanket
Marie Howard and DyAnn Wilson: 2 Quilts
Johnnie Rhea: Lots of Fabric
Joy Cook: Lots of Fabric
Dorothy Cameron and Lois Noe: 10 quilts
Ruth Roesenbaum and Dorothy Cameron: 10 quilts
Dorothy Cameron and Helen Forbes: 20 quilts
Patti Sandage: (Helen Forbes' granddaughter from Memphis) 1 quilt
Maribeth McHone: (Helen's niece from N.C.) 68 blankets
Margaret Lindsey: Yarn
Holy Hands Sewing Group – Lenoir City: 18 blankets
Joyce Seidel Hausman: 110 squares and Lots of Crochet Thread and Yarn

Barb Loadholtz: 4 blankets
Claire Racine: 4 blankets
Lucille Sherrod: 40 blankets
Park West Quilters: 14 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.
- **Kim Harris, Denette Flynn, Kelley Thomas, Debbie Petree and Sug Sexton** for help with deliveries/pick-ups.
- **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

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.

- Deb

A BIG THANKS TO DYANN WILSON and all her coworkers and friends at the Rockwood Walmart and the Rockwood VFW. Dyann sold 59 cookbooks resulting in \$295 for Project Linus of East Tennessee! Way to go Dyann – this will help pay for copying for the newsletter, shipping of blankets when needed, mailing of blanket labels to volunteers, production of brochures and more! Thanks Dyann for your support of Project Linus of East Tennessee.

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

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.

From Maria, Santiago and Mariano: Our baby boy was born at UT Medical Hospital on April 5. When they bathed him for the first time, he returned wrapped in a beautiful afghan that kept him warm the first days of his life. Thanks you for such a beautiful gift.

I wanted to say **THANK YOU!!** My daughter had to go to CAC for an exam and she received a blanket that you had made. She was so excited and has carried it ever since. I really admire what you and the others are doing. I did see a show on t.v. about Project Linus and was surprised that people today are still thinking of others. It made me cry when I saw the tag on this beautiful blanket because unless you see the children's faces when they get this you can only imagine. I still get teary eyed thinking about it. I just wanted to let you know how much this means to me and my daughter. I work at the court house and I have showed everyone this blanket and bragged to everyone I can what an awesome purpose you and everyone has for these children. I cannot tell you enough how appreciative I am of this small token of kindness, care and loving touches. Again,

Please share this letter with your volunteers.

This is from a family devastated by the Greensburg KS tornado.

My daughter and I were victims of the Greensburg, Kansas F5 tornado on May 4th. Our home and all our belongings were gone or ruined by the tornado. The day after the tornado hit, my father and I traveled to Greensburg to see what I could save from my home. There was no preparation for what I saw as I entered my town. The feeling of loss was overwhelming. My town, my friend's homes, my school (I am the 3rd grade teacher at our elementary school), my neighborhood, my home...all destroyed. I was immediately frozen with disbelief and sadness at the first sight of my and my 2 year old daughter's home. I went into a "save" mode. I wanted to save all that I could for her. Whatever I could find of hers I grabbed. She had so many special blankets and things that were important to her...all covered with tornado debris. Along with the all of the cherished items (pictures, baby books, and the mother's day jewelry) were the afghans and blankets that were made for her when she was born. I grabbed them all. My mother has washed and washed them to try to save what we can, and since have put them away in totes. That's what leads to you... and Project Linus. I was in the Methodist Church in Haviland, KS and the volunteer that was working showed me the boxes of blankets sent from the Fort Wayne/NE Indiana Chapter of Project Linus. I almost cried then and there thinking that would be perfect to take one back home to my daughter. She has pretty much had to "say goodbye" to all her familiar things and go with what she is given to start over. That's not always easy for a 2 year old to do. They want things that they know and are comfortable with. However, knowing that she would love to have another blanket she could call her own would make her happy, I picked out one for her. I chose a soft and fluffy CareBear pattern blanket - the perfect size for her. She loves it and she uses it every night. I just wanted to say thank you. Your kindness and show of compassion gave my little girl a sense of security...she will have her new CareBear blanket with her as we take the next step of rebuilding our lives.

God bless you all and thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Katie Britton & Eva Jo

Thanks and More Thanks

From Ronald McDonald House: Our families continue to benefit from your group's generosity and talent by receiving one of the Project Linus blankets for their child. Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness for our families. – M. Howard.

From REACHS Children's Center: This is a note of Thank You for your donation of quilts and afghans. Our center depends heavily on the support of our community. Caring groups and individuals, such as you, aid in the additional care of the children. Again, we appreciate your support. – Tracie Phillips

Children's Center of the Cumberland: Thank you for your generous gift of blankets and quilts...With your faithful friendship, I know that God will continue to use the center to meet real needs of the children of Scott County in the near future and many years beyond. Thanks you again for being a vital part of all God is doing for our children

. - Tammy Foster

Blankets to Children in Kansas Tornadoes

Project Linus supplied blankets to all of the children impacted by the horrible May tornadoes. PLET did not send any only because the need was met before I could even reply to the email requesting them. The PL coordinators and volunteers across the country are a wonderful group of women (and a few men)!