

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

March 2009

## 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

It's been another busy month for Project Linus of East Tennessee. We had a great time at our meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup>. In January, I had the pleasure of talking with the Susanna Wesley Circle group at Concord United Methodist Church – they were very excited about our work and I suspect we got some new volunteers from the group and the church. Concord United Methodist, as well as many other local churches, are so supportive of our work and we really appreciate it.

Please be sure to read the information below and in the article near the end of the newsletter regarding the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. It is important that your blankets or other donations do NOT include embellishments (buttons, etc. children can swallow), fabric paint or metallic threads. As other information becomes available, I'll be sharing it with you.

*Deb*

The Consumer Product Safety Commission released a press release that indicates they have decided they need more time to make rulings and so the Act will not go into effect until at least FEBRUARY 10, 2010. This is wonderful news, in that it gives everyone, including charities more time to get the clarification that they need. Thank you all for your help and letter-writing. I am constantly amazed at your love for this organization and your willingness to do whatever is needed. Thanks for all of your help! Please see the letter herein from PL headquarters with more information about the new law.

#### Jim Cole

##### A Good Christian Man

Please keep **Doris Cole** and family in your thoughts and prayers. Jim and Doris have been great supporters of Project Linus and many other worthwhile causes and community organizations. Jim passed away March 8th. Those of you wanting to send cards to Doris, can do so at 229 Towne Rd., Knoxville, TN 37922. We appreciate the family designating Project Linus donations as a way to remember Jim.

COLE, JAMES (JIM) FRECH - age 77, of Knoxville, TN, formerly of Rochester, NY, passed away Sunday, March 8, 2009. Jim was an active member of Farragut Christian Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and was retired from Rochester Gas and Electric. Jim volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Project Linus and Dream Connection. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Doris Cole; children, Wendy (Doug) Benedict of Caledonia, NY, David (Tarma) Cole of Fairport, NY, Melody (Geoff) Proud of Knoxville, TN, Ronda (Todd) Vangellow of Fairport, NY; grandchildren, Chris (Jenna), Matt, Mike, Tim, Brian, Steven, Katie, Emily, Nick, Cole; 1 brother; several sisters and brothers-in-law. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mobile Meals, P.O. Box 51650-1650, Knoxville, TN 37921, The Dream Connection, P.O. Box 10924, Knoxville, TN 37937 or Project Linus, 282 Orchard Valley Dr., Harriman, TN 37748.

*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: 26 bl.**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children's Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ **East TN Children's Medical Center – Knoxville: 74 blankets**
- ❖ **UT Medical Center–Knoxville: 60 blankets and caps (March)**
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women: 32 blankets**
- ❖ CEASE Domestic Violence Shelter & Program – Morristown:
- ❖ **Lisa Ross Center: 17 blankets and caps**
- ❖ **Children's Center of the Cumberland (Scott County): 36 blankets**
- ❖ Campbell County Children's Center:
- ❖ Community Health of East Tennessee (Campbell County):
- ❖ Kids First Child Advocacy Center - 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Loudon/ Meigs/Morgan/Roane):
- ❖ Mission of Hope:
- ❖ Department of Human Services:
- ❖ Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:
- ❖ Avalon Center–Cumberland County:
- ❖ **Cumberland Medical Center: 30 blankets**
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA (East TN): 39 blankets**
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ Saving Little Hearts (East TN):
- ❖ Family Promise:
- ❖ Clinch Valley Childrens Center (CAC Anderson County):
- ❖ **MidEast Community Action Agency: 10 bl.**
- ❖ Women's Care Center of Sevier County:
- ❖ **Roane Youth Leadership/Lakeside Family and Children's Services: 50 blankets**

## Wish List

- Stamps
- Gas Cards are appreciated
- Ink Cartridges: HP 54 and 57
- 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.

## PIN CHECK

Please remember to check and double check all of your blankets for pins before donating them. Also, please do NOT use straight pins in attaching your name or other items to blankets. Please use tape, yarn or a new/clean safety pin. THANKS!

**Thoughts and Prayers:** Please keep **Kathie Short** in your thoughts and prayers. She fell recently and broke her hip. Kathie has been very supportive of Project Linus and the blankets donated through Concord United Methodist Church.

**Roane Youth Leadership** is a group of juniors in high school in Roane County that have been selected for this special program. Their group project is to provide "blessing bags" to children at LakeSide Family and Children's Services. These children have been removed from their homes by the TN Dept. of Childrens Services. Project Linus was pleased to be able to provide 50 blankets for these children in need.

## Special Request for Swaddling Blankets

The Lisa Ross Center works with their teen mothers on learning the swaddling blanket technique with their babies. They'd love blankets that are about 42 inches square made of light weight fabric like light fleece (finished edges not tied) or flannel. This is an ongoing request with no specific due date. Just donate them through your regular PL drop off site. I found this information at:

<http://www.mypreciouskid.com/swaddle-blanket-sleep-sack.html>

**SWADDLE** - Have you discovered the miracle of swaddle blankets? Swaddling soothes newborns and reduces symptoms of colic by recreating the familiar, comforting snugness of the womb. Swaddling in a Snug & Tug Swaddle Blanket also reduces the incidence of the startle reflex, which can upset babies and increase the frequency of waking and crying. I teach all the moms in my new mommy group the miracle of swaddling their babies from birth. We find it really does help them sleep better. Have you tried to swaddle your baby? Swaddle every night for a week and you will be convinced.

You can find more information and ideas by going to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in 'swaddling blankets'.



Kathy McConnell: 2 blankets  
Concord United Methodist Church/Susanna Wesley  
Circle: \$10  
Sandra Huddleston: \$50 for supplies  
Kathy Minter: 30 blankets for TOPS  
Dyann Wilson: 14 blankets for TOPS  
Tamsin Miller: Printer Cartridge  
Kim Harris: Large Ziploc Bags  
B.L. Littleton: \$40  
Linda McPheron: \$35 from cookbook sales  
Bev Abele: \$10 from cookbook sales  
Anonymous: \$50 donation  
Helen Low and Carolyn Gill: 4 blankets  
Nancy Farmer: 11 blankets for TOPS; 1 blanket  
Carol Brown: 3 blankets  
Terry Tucker: 6 blankets  
Marilyn Dunn: 1 blankets  
Park West Quilters: 18 blankets  
Sheila Timm: 1 blanket  
Sherry Ketterer: 5 blankets  
Bits and Pieces: 6 blankets  
Carolyn Roark: 7 blankets  
Deserie Cook, Verna short, Michelle Hanks, Cindy  
Knowles, Bonnie Knowles: 5 blankets  
Deborah Seaman: 1 blanket  
Jean Brown: 20 blankets  
Wanda Nance: 14 blankets, hats, toy  
Mabeline Sizemore: \$10  
Mara and Tom Eckhardt: 2 blankets  
Karen Fitzgerald: 1 blanket  
Barb Knight/Farragut Christian Church: 7 blankets  
Ms. Mills and Ms. Suffern: 7 blankets, 21 caps and 3  
bags  
Jen Goforth: 2 blankets  
Sharon Carey: 16 blankets  
Sandy Rea: 1 blanket  
Sharon Lewis: 1 blanket  
Marie Giusto: 7 blankets, caps  
Ruth Kidder's daughter: 5 blankets  
Vi Baughman: 3 blankets  
Pappy's Quilting Place:

- Linda Stackpole: 2 quilts
- Terri and Courtney Zagger: 18 preemie quilts

Leslie O'Connor: 1 blanket  
Teresa Branham: 2 blankets  
**See below for more blanket donations!**

**Special thanks to Claire Chitwood, Karen Eidson and Elise Williams for helping me with the special mailing last month regarding the new Consumer Product law.**

**Special thanks to:**

- **Doris 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 and many other things.
- **Karen Eidson** for help sewing labels.
- **Barb Loadholtz** for picking up blankets at Lucille Sherrod's, sewing labels and for providing yarn.
- **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 Lenoir City and Rockwood**
- **Thanks to the gang at ETHRA Workforce Development.**
- **Dorothy Cameron** for her quilting services.
- **Dianna Mraz** for her quilting services.
- **Patti Stewart** for help with deliveries, shopping, cutting fabric and whatever I need!
- **Kathy Bates** for sewing on labels.
- my folks **Irene and Don Hawker** for delivery of blankets in Cumberland County
- **Wanda Nance** for 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*

**See below for more blanket thank you's!**

**From the Phoenix Arizona PL Chapter Coordinator:**

We had a blanket bee last Saturday. A good friend of mine who is also a longtime volunteer teaches grief counseling to hospital professionals, facilitates grief counseling for children, is a motivational speaker and also has time to make blankets for us. She brought a woman named Doryce with her to the blanket bee to help us sort and label blankets. Doryce was there because she wanted to "give back". Doryce came over to me at one point and said she would like to tell her story to the group. I asked her to write it up for me so that I could put it in my newsletter and here is what she sent me:

Nearly 5 years ago, my daughter Wendy Ford and her family (husband Thomas, 10 year old Haley and 8 year old Patrick) attended a birthday dinner for my other daughter Ronni. As they were on their way back to their Scottsdale, AZ home, on a Wednesday night at 8 p.m., a drunk driver crashed into their van at nearly 60 mph. My daughter Wendy died at the scene and little Haley died 20 days later at Phoenix Children's Hospital as a result of her severe head injuries. Fortunately, both Thomas and Patrick survived the physical impact of the crash. The young 27 year old drunk driver is now serving 18 years in prison.

For 20 days we hoped and prayed that our little Haley, an accomplished dancer, would survive. When she ultimately succumbed to her brain trauma, our family was asked, very lovingly by Donor Network of Arizona, if we would be willing to donate her organs. Without much hesitation, we agreed. After being taken off life support for a very short time, Haley was declared legally brain dead. For the next 24 hours, she was once again given oxygen to maintain her healthy organs for transplant. Her heart was donated to a 10 year old girl in California and her other organs to unknown older recipients.

By now you may be wondering why such a sad story has been included in your Project Linus newsletter....the reason is, during that 24 hour "wait" period of determining who would be a match for Haley's organs, our precious darling was given a light blue crocheted blanket from YOU, Project Linus... it was heartwarming, even in a time of our worst sorrow, to know that someone, who would be forever unknown to our family, had taken the time to lovingly create this cover for little Angel.

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Judie Agee  
Phoenix/NE Valley AZ

**From the Children's Center of the Cumberlandds (Scott County):**

Thank you for your faithfulness to support the Children's Center. Your donation of quilts for the children was received on January 20, 2009. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation for you making a commitment to share in this GREAT task of providing services for the children and families we serve. The Center and the services we provide for so many children and their families would not be possible without your continued support. Someone once said, "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor was undoubtedly the reward for what he gave." Your give will and has helped change the lives of so many abused and neglected children. We will see that your contribution is used to benefit the children and their families in the best possible way.

"Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure, ye meet with all it shall be given unto you again." (Luke 6:38) As you have shared in our vision of providing hope, help, and healing to our children, who have been victims of abuse, we pray this special blessing upon you, your family and your household.

Thank you again for being God's hands as we continue his work for our children.

Sincerely,  
Tammy Foster  
Executive Director

**Fleece Blankets:** Due to LOTS of problems, I am asking that you no longer donate double layered fleece blankets. This is for a variety of reasons including:

- The size/bulk of these makes them very difficult to store and deliver.
- Washing these blankets has proven to be difficult and often causes them to come apart and/or not lay flat.
- These blankets are often too heavy for use with children in the hospital and other facilities.

If you have blankets already “in process”, please feel free to go ahead and donate them. If you have made double layered blankets in the past, I encourage you to look on our website for ideas on preparing single layered fleece blankets. If you do not have access to the internet and want copies of patterns for single layer blankets, just let Deb Miller know.

### **MORE BLANKET DONATIONS**

#### **Our volunteers were busy this month!**

Holy Hands Oral Baptist Church: 10 hats  
Jane Waldron: 6 blankets, caps and booties  
Karen Cauou: 6 blankets  
Lucille Sherrod: 20 blankets  
Barb Loadholtz: 3 blankets  
Carol Brown: 1 blanket  
Margery Allard: 4 blankets  
Anonymous: 5 preemie crochet blankets  
Mickey Thompson: 8 blankets, hats & booties  
Carolyn Norts: 2 blankets  
Kathy Minter: 10 blankets  
Judy Montgomery: 1 blankets, hat and scarves  
Jessica Hatch: 3 blankets  
Lynda Everman: 2 blankets with caps  
Darlene LaVerdore: 1 blanket  
Claire Racine: 1 blanket, squares  
Michelle Hurrell: 1 blanket  
First United Methodist Church: 4 blankets  
Dorothy Cameron and Loraine Roach: 10 blankets  
Ruth Rosenbaum: 7 blankets  
Diana Mraz: 7 blankets  
Alma Buel: 1 blanket  
Johnnie Rhea: 1 blanket and lots of caps  
Helen Forbes, Dorothy Cameron & Ruth Rosenbaum: 35 blankets  
Bonnie Peyton: 2 blankets  
Concord United Methodist Church Knitting Group: 5 blankets and scarves  
Lora Henderson: 1 blanket  
Sam Hanson: 3 blankets  
Mary King: 1 blanket  
Cathy Prater: 3 blankets

A special thanks to Ila Mae Morton for helping to hem quilts!

### **Thank You**

My daughter Audrey had to stay at East Tennessee Children’s Medical Center after a craniotomy. Your lovely blanket was such a blessing to us. She absolutely loves it and now we have a reminder of something truly special from a difficult time. Your blanket made us smile – still does:

Sincerely, The Knepp Family

#### **From Charlene Ellis and the Lisa Ross**

**Center** (serves teen mothers): Thanks so much for the blankets! I am always touched by the beauty and the amount of work that goes into each of them. Thanks again! And please express our gratitude and thanks to all the wonderful people who work with you.

#### **From Betty Hooper, Cumberland Medical**

**Center:** We want to thank you and your volunteers for supplying Cumberland Medical Center with the Project Linus blankets. A hospital stay can be very frightening for a child and having a soft blanket to cuddle can be very comforting to them. Since children often get attached to their possessions, it is nice they are able to take the blanket home with them. Everyone associated with Project Linus should be commended for the time and energy they devote to this wonderful mission.

### **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.*

## Update from PL Headquarters Regarding the New Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

I'm happy to give you yet another update on the CPSIA that goes into effect today, February 10, 2009. As you know, last week the CPSC issued a stay of enforcement of the law. This only stops any enforcement, not the effective date of the law.

That was certainly good news, but this is better. Yesterday, CPSC staff issued a document called Guidance on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) for Small Businesses, Resellers, Crafters and Charities. This appears to finally be the clarification we have been looking for, and you may notice that it in part seems tailored to Project Linus. Maybe our dogged determination payed off. You can access this document for yourself at <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/smbus/sbguide.pdf>. If the link does not work, go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and click on INFORMATION ON THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT and then WHAT'S NEW.

Question #13 in particular applies to Project Linus:

Q. "Can I donate the children's products that I make to local charities and hospitals?"

A. Yes, you can make and donate children's products to local charities and hospitals, if they are made of exempted materials or materials that you feel confident do not contain lead (see Table B). Children's products made of yarn, dyed or undyed fabrics and natural materials such as untreated wood or cotton do not contain lead at levels sufficient to exceed the new lead limits.

If your products are made for children 12 and under, they will need to be third-party tested if you use paint or a similar surface coating. Products for children under 3 will need to be tested to the small parts standard if you create a product (such as a toy, puzzle or doll) that could break into small pieces when used, dropped or otherwise handled by a child.

Avoid making and donating children's products with soft vinyl or plastic, buttons or zipper pulls, or metal jewelry or embellishment or other pieces that may exceed the lead or phthalates limits.

Also, on page 7 you will find a list of exempted materials (are not impacted by the new law), including:

- \* Yarn, dyed or undyed
- \* Dyed or undyed textiles (cotton, wool, hemp, nylon, etc.), including children's fabric products, such as baby blankets, and non-metallic thread and trim. This does not include products that have rhinestones or other ornaments that may contain lead or that have fasteners with possible lead content (such as buttons, metal snaps, zippers or grommets).

Regarding phthalates: there has been some concern about phthalates in fleece blankets. It is my understanding through my own research ( and I am NO expert) that the type of phthalates that can be found in blanket fleece is NOT one of the types that have been banned, or controlled by the CPSC.

**It is more important than ever that coordinators make sure that all blankets are free of embellishments. Metallic thread should not be used nor should fabric paint. We'll be sending out more information about blanket materials soon.**

So, this is good news. We'll be updating our website soon with the latest information. I finally feel we can put this behind us and continue on with what we love to do!

Have a great day!  
Carol Babbitt PLHQ