

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

May 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

I hope this note finds each of you doing well and enjoying the beautiful spring. Project Linus has kept me very busy with all the wonderful donations you have been making, getting blanket deliveries ready and much more. I've been a little behind in getting supplies out but think I'm caught up, so if you are still waiting for something from me, please contact me to make sure I've not lost your request.

A big effort this month was getting all of the TAPS blankets in and ready to mail to Washington DC for the Memorial Day Weekend Good Grief Camp. A special thanks to all of you that made patriotic blankets and to Patti Stewart for her help in packaging and mailing the blankets. More info is inside these newsletter about this important project.

I'm happy to report that Jane Crowley's husband Mickie is doing much better as is Jim Cole. Unfortunately, I can't report the same on my husband Bob. The good news is his prostate cancer tests all look very good and the radiation appears to have worked. Unfortunately, his congestive heart failure is not under control and has caused major swelling and poor circulation in his legs. He was in the hospital a week and now is at NHC in Oak Ridge. He's getting physical therapy and slowly improving. I'm hopeful he'll be able to come home soon.

I need some time to get "caught up" with all that has been going on with Bob. Consequently, there will NOT be a June newsletter. You can expect to receive your July one as normal.

Take care.

*Deb*

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization with a two-fold mission:

1. First, it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers".
2. Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

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

- Leonard Nimoy

**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:**  
40 blankets
- ❖ **Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:**  
20 blankets and hats
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ **East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville:**  
76 blankets and hats
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville:
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room):**  
37 blankets
- ❖ YWCA Domestic Violence 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):
- ❖ Campbell County Children’s Center:
- ❖ REACHS House of Hope (domestic violence) in Jacksboro, TN:
- ❖ Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane):
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville:
- ❖ **Mission of Hope: 66 blankets**
- ❖ Department of Human Services:
- ❖ Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:
- ❖ Avalon Center–Cumberland County:
- ❖ Avalon Center – Morgan County:
- ❖ A Secret Safe Place for Newborns of TN – Maryville:
- ❖ Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge:
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA (East TN): 40 blankets**
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ Saving Little Hearts (East TN):
- ❖ Faces of Hope:
- ❖ Family Promise:
- ❖ **Clinch Valley Childrens Center (CAC Anderson County): 40 blankets**
- ❖ **TAPS Program: 62 patriotic blankets**  
See more info in this newsletter about the TAPS program

## Wish List



- Stamps
- Standard white 8 ½ x 11 copier paper
- 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.

### Family Promise Blanket Delivery

I delivered the blankets to Family Promise today to their day center called Harley House. It was late in the afternoon and several children and their mothers were there. The Family Promise director unloaded each one amid oohs and aahs. The children were so excited and surprised that someone had made a blanket just for them. It was a joyous time.

The families are hosted by a different church each week until arrangements for housing can be made. I will let you know when I need more blankets for drop off for this program. Thanks for your support and thanks to all the blanketeers.

Cathy Hurrell

From Nicole Craig, Executive Director:

Thank you so much for the recent donation of blankets...They are all absolutely gorgeous and I am sure they will be treasured by the families. We greatly appreciate your support of our programs and the families we serve.

Through the continuing commitment and support ....we are making a difference to families who need our help while they work toward regaining their independence....

*"Realize that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself."*

Og Mandino



**Bev Abele: Cookbook Sales \$45**  
**Kathy Short: Cookbook Sales \$30**  
**Stephanie Szymanski & Ruth Cook: LOTS of Yarn**  
**Wanda Nance: 20 blankets; 4 hats**

**Rocky Hill Elementary**  
**Mrs. Ivey's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class: 10 blankets**  
**Mrs. Smith's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class: 6 blankets**

**Helping Hands Ministry of Beaver**  
**Creek/Cumberland Presbyterian Church: 25 blankets**

**Holy Hands Sewing Group/Oral Baptist Church,**  
**Lenoir City, TN 7 blankets**

**Barbara Golec: 7 blankets**  
**Judy Montgomery: 1 blanket**  
**Beth Combs: 7 blankets**  
**Mabeline Sizemore: 5 blankets**  
**Parkwest Quilters: 4 blankets**  
**Wendy Mundt: \$20**  
**Women of the Moose, Knoxville Lodge: 18 blankets**  
**Helen Low: 3 blankets**  
**Patti Stewart: 1 blanket**  
**Diane Mraz: 15 blankets**  
**Janice Roberts: 2 blankets**  
**Helen Forbes: 40 blankets**

**Jane Hembree Crowley: 30 blankets some with matching items - 2 pillows, 2 books, 4 teddy bears and/or hats**

**Carol Brown: 1 blanket**  
**Drama Russell: 1 blanket**  
**Sandra David: Yarn and fabric**

**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 and many other things.
- **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 Debbie Petree and the gang at ETHRA Workforce Development**
- **Dorothy Cameron** for her quilting services.
- **Diana 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*

Thanks: I was blessed enough to receive a blanket from the Linus Project this week. I wanted to write you and tell you how much you have touched me by this gift. I've been in the hospital for 4 weeks tomorrow. I was in a car accident and got pretty hurt. When I received the blanket it made me cry. To some people this might have been such a small gesture. But to me this was such a big deal. I know quilts are a lot of work and you could've easily made money off of this. That's why it meant so much to me. That's why I promise I will hold this blanket close to my heart and even though I've never met you will always remember what you've done for me. God Bless You.

Sincerely, Elizabeth

There will NOT be a June newsletter. The July letter will be distributed as normal.

### 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.*

### Blanket Stats

PLET has donated 1046 blankets

this year to our recipient organizations.

Our goal is 2,600 and we're 40% of the way there and only 33% of the way through the year.

### Security Blanket Research

"Research with children on this subject (security blanket) was performed at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee by Richard H. Passman and his associates. Among other findings, they showed that security blankets are appropriately named — they actually do give security to those children attached to them.

Along with other positive benefits, having a security blanket available can help children adapt to new situations, aid in their learning, and adjust to physicians' and clinical psychologists' evaluations. Dr. Passman's research also points out that there is nothing abnormal about being attached to them. About 60% of children in the United States have at least some attachment to a security object."

### New Drop Off Location

"Yarns Above"

209 Jackson Square - Oak Ridge

Phone: 483-6435 Owner: Donna Bennett

Website will be available soon.

Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM Monday – Friday

9 AM – 2 PM Saturday

Some classes on Thursday evening

As with all drop off locations, please put your blankets, yarn, etc. in a bag with your name in the bag. Donna has a nice antique cedar blanket box to display your donations in for a short time until I pick them up.

Donna, will also take drop offs of yarn donations. She will have this yarn available so if you want to pick up yarn from the donations to use ONLY for Project Linus blankets, you can do so.

Good Luck, Donna, on your new business venture and THANKS for your support of Project Linus.

### Clinch Valley Children's Center

#### New PLET Blanket Recipient Organization

Project Linus of East Tennessee has made it a priority to provide blankets to our local Child Advocacy Centers (CAC). These include ChildHelp for Knox and many rural counties northeast of Knoxville, Children's Center of the Cumberlands (Scott Co.), Campbell County Children's Center and the Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane counties). Anderson County had been one of the few counties in Tennessee without a Child Advocacy Center. Their new center will open May 1 with Project Linus blankets on hand to help provide security to their young clients.

Child Advocacy Centers are nonprofit facilities that provide a warm, caring and nurturing environment for children who have been victims of physical or sexual abuse. The centers serve a dual role: They help law-enforcement officials conduct investigations into child abuse while providing much-needed counseling and support to children who have been robbed of their innocence. More info is available at: [www.tncac.org/](http://www.tncac.org/) . Tennessee's first lady Andrea Conte has made child advocacy and these centers a top priority and regularly supports them with media events, participating in fundraisers and much more.

[http://www.state.tn.us/firstlady/priorities\\_chid.html](http://www.state.tn.us/firstlady/priorities_chid.html)

## TAPS: Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors - Good Grief Camp for Young Survivors

The TAPS project is supported by PL organizations around the country. For the past 14 years, the TAPS camps have been held in Washington DC each Memorial Day weekend to help young survivors that have lost a loved one in the military and other actions in support of our country. These camps provide the children the opportunity to bond with others in similar situations, learn about service to country and much more. There are also camps held around the country throughout the year. More info is available at [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org). Project Linus of East TN is PROUD to have recently mailed 62 blankets to Washington DC. These red, white and blue blankets, along with others from around the country, will be distributed to the children attending the Good Grief Camps. THANKS to each of you that made blankets for this effort. We will do this again next year so feel free to turn in your patriotic blankets throughout the year. We also keep a supply of patriotic blankets on hand to provide to local children that lose a loved one serving in the military, law enforcement, fire department and emergency services.

Deb : Project Linus Team!

Wow! what an awesome thing your group is doing. Lindsey opened her present and said "butterfly" right away. She loves this blanket. It will be so special to her. This could not be more perfect for Lindsey. A big thank you to each and every one of you for putting a huge smile on Lindsey's face. I thought you might like to see her beautiful smile! Thanks again! The Longs [www.LindseyAnn.net](http://www.LindseyAnn.net)

From Barb McLean PL Coordinator serving TAPS and Angel Flight West

I am so grateful for your contribution to TAPS and for helping these young "survivors" to focus on the legacy of their hero parent and/or sibling. Do you know how important those 62 blankets are to these children? Well just think about them sitting on those blankets on Memorial Day at Arlington and them reading a poem, telling a story, singing a song, and releasing the tears that are healing...with your blanket to give them that extra security...you have made a difference, a difference that can keep them looking up and forward!

Thank you...all...and God Bless America!

