

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

November/December 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

First of all Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. I hope each of you have a blessed holiday season.

I am off work for two weeks and hope to use a lot of the time to get caught up around the house, on Project Linus and many other things. I do also plan to spend some time with my folks and friends here in the area. I went to Ohio for Thanksgiving to visit with Bob's family, my Aunts and Uncle and their families and close friends. I hope to not to have to go NORTH into the cold weather until Spring. That combined with another trip to Ohio in late October for a family wedding and to Washington DC for a week on business added to my falling behind in my Project Linus work.

Speaking of needing to catch up, I'd need to apologize in my delay in getting the newsletter out, getting checks deposited and cashed and getting all of the blankets logged in. I was literally overwhelmed with blankets in October and November – the storage unit was packed to the gills. I would go down and pack blankets up and Tom and Mara Eckhart would have to pick them up before I had room to work on more blankets. If you have donated blankets prior to December 1 and they are not recognized in this newsletter, please call or email me so I can be sure to find and recognize them. If you've sent in a check, rest assured, they will be sent to PL national to our bank account before year end.

While 2008 has been a tough year for me, I truly have a lot to be thankful for including the support I've received from Project Linus volunteers and recipient organizations. Together, we really make the difference in the lives of many children in need.

Blessings,

*Deb*

### 2008 Blanket Statistics:

I set a lofty goal of 2800 blankets to be donated to recipient organizations this year. We didn't quite make the goal, but we got real close – 2,717 blankets were donated to our many worthwhile groups that serve children in the area. That means we've donated over 11,318 blankets since our inception. That's a great job and we all deserve to feel proud of our work!

*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: 67**
- ❖ **Hope Resource Center - Knoxville: 35 blankets**
- ❖ **Smoky Mountain Children's Home – Sevierville:**
- ❖ **East TN Children's Medical Center – Knoxville: 114 blankets, pillowcases and caps**
- ❖ **UT Medical Center–Knoxville: 45 blankets**
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women: 45 blankets**
- ❖ **YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter – Oak Ridge: 21 blankets**
- ❖ **CEASE Domestic Violence Shelter & Program – Morristown: 35 blankets**
- ❖ **Lisa Ross Center:**
- ❖ **Children's Center of the Cumberlands (Scott County): 30 blankets**
- ❖ **Campbell County Children's Center: 30**
- ❖ **REACHS House of Hope (domestic violence) in Jacksboro, TN:**
- ❖ **Kids First Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane): 50 blankets**
- ❖ **Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville: 20 blankets and caps**
- ❖ **Mission of Hope: 25 blankets and caps/scarves**
- ❖ **Department of Human Services:**
- ❖ **Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:**
- ❖ **Avalon Center–Cumberland County:**
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA (East TN): 60 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:**
- ❖ **Women's Care Center of Sevier County:**
- ❖ **Misc Holiday Needs: 19 Blankets**
- ❖ **33 blankets were delivered to the church in Knoxville where the shooting took place this summer. These will be presented to the children that witnessed the shooting during a special service in December.**
- ❖ **Snowball Express (part of TAPs): 20 patriotic 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.

From Tamara at **Hope Resource Center:**

I delivered to our clinic the WONDERFUL blankets you provided for the December baby shower. Of course, the staff went wild! Thank you for all you do for HRC as well as the many other worthy groups in our area.

God Bless You All!

To All Involved at Project Linus:

I work full-time at the Hope Resource Center. I want to say thank you for all the wonderful blankets. They are a real blessing to so many. Being a mom of a sweet daughter who still loves her blankey, I know what a comfort they can bring to a soul. In Him Forever-

Jodi Nakamura - Hope Resource Center

### From the Women's Center of Sevier County

The blankets the ladies made were absolutely beautiful. We at the center and ALL of our clients truly feel blessed. May God Bless you abundantly.

Debbie Norris, Director

### 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.*



Correction from October Newsletter: Jackie Szczepanik dropped off two blankets not one as indicated. Sorry for the error.

Concord United Methodist Church/United Methodist Women: 113 blankets (see story below)

Dorothy Lowe: 5 bags of yarn

Gladys Holt: 11 tote bags

Park West Quilters: 9 blankets

Barbara Golec: 8 blankets

Helen Forbes, Dorothy Cameron and Ruth

Rosenbaum: 30 blankets

Helen Forbes and Dorothy Cameron: 20 blankets

Dorothy Cameron: Caps and Hats

Ruth Rosenbaum: 12 blankets

Ruth Rosenbaum and Dorothy Cameron: 10 blankets

Lorene Roach and Dorothy Cameron: 20 blankets

Janice Roberts: 1 blanket

Dorcus Quilters: 2 blankets

Judy Shane: 1 blanket

Jackie Godden: 1 blanket & Santa caps for newborn babies

Lois Noe: 14 blankets

Restorative Justice Girls: 6 blankets

Joan Pfrommer and Sewing Buddies: 9 blankets and ink cartridges

Fran Burns (new volunteer): premie and newborn baby hats

Carol Brown: 3 blankets

Anna Nichols: 1 blanket

**Donated through Pappy's Quilting in Blount Cty:**  
Seymour Quilting Guild: 14 quilts

Fabric donated by **Pappy's** for the following:

Stephanie Morgan (Senior at Gibbs in Corrytown): 1

Harley Winchester (Senior at Gibbs in Corrytown): 1

Tina McCarter: 1 quilt

Courtney Zagger (Jr. at William Blount in Maryville): 1 blanket

Imogene Fowler: 1 quilt

**Once again First Farragut United Methodist Church has made a generous \$500 donation to Project Linus of East Tennessee. THANKS 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.
- **Karen Eidson** for help sewing labels.
- **Barb Loadholtz** for picking up blankets at Lucille Sherrod's, sewing labels and for providing yarn to Lucile.
- **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.**
- **Special thanks to Sue Presswood and Joy Margrave for helping with deliveries.**
- **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.

*- Deb*

**More donations:**

Wanda Nance: 45 blankets, hats and handmade toys  
Lynda Everman: 6 blankets with matching caps  
Angela Shilling: 2 blankets  
Grainger County Lakeview FCE: 28 blankets  
Mabeline Sizemore: 8 blankets, caps, booties and bears  
Pat Hunter: 5 blankets  
Marie Mitchell: 1 blanket  
DyAnn Wilson: 2 blankets  
Heather Frederick: 3 blankets  
Pam McMillin: 5 blankets  
Sally McMillin: 4 blankets  
Grace Ingram: 1 blanket  
First United Methodist Church Knoxville: 12 blankets  
Sherry Ketterer: 6 blankets  
Helen Low and Carolyn Gill: 6 blankets  
Helen Low: 2 blankets  
Kathy Minter: 22 blankets  
Beth Stephen: 6 blankets with matching caps and booties  
Holy Hands Quilt Group Oral Baptist Church: 17 blankets and pillowcases  
Mary Edna Williams: 47 blankets and hats  
Cathy Prater: 4 blankets  
Wendy Prentice: Bags  
Brenda Oaks: 1 blanket and hats  
Barb McFalls: 2 blankets with matching jacket & hat  
Maribeth McHone: 20 blankets  
Lucille Sherrod: 15 blankets  
Barb Loadholtz: 2 blankets  
Judy Montgomery: 2 blankets  
Sue Foster: 3 blankets  
Ms. Mills & Suffern: 5 blankets, bags, caps  
Janice? Hatch: 4 blankets  
Diana Moore: \$20  
Ann Milner: 5 blankets  
Helping Hands Ministry of Beaver Creek/Cumberland Medical Presbyterian Church – Knoxville: 26 blankets  
Karen Barry: 2 blankets  
Linda Myers: 4 blankets  
Tamara Ownby: \$20  
Mary King: 1 blanket  
Phyllis Mason: \$20

**PROJECT LINUS  
DID YOU KNOW?**

Here are some interesting facts and figures about Project Linus:

- Karen Loucks started Project Linus on December 24, 1995. The Sacramento Chapter began in January 1997.
- Project Linus has been alive for 4,785 days as of January 1, 2009.
- Project Linus has had nonprofit status since May 12, 1997.
- Project Linus has officially collected 2,493,964 blankets as of June 30, 2008. If 60% of them are fabric, that translates into about 3,586,819 yards of fabric. If 40% are afghans, that is about 9,576,822 skeins of yarn.
- Most importantly, that means that 2,493,964 kids were comforted by our blankets.
- If each blanket is an average of 60” long, and we laid them end to end, they would stretch 12,469,820 feet or 2,362 miles. That is as tall as 429 Mt. Everests, or 9,216 Sears Towers, or as long as 41,566 football fields.
- Assuming each delivered blanket so far had a label, the cost for labels would be \$872,887.
- As of January 1, 2009, Project Linus has 400 chapters in the United States. We have 400 wonderful, compassionate coordinators.
- If each of our 400 wonderful compassionate coordinators donates an average of 20 hours per week to their chapter, that would mean about 1,040 hours per year each. And that’s just coordinators!

**Concord United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Women**

The church has not only been wonderful in allowing us to hold our meetings at their facility, but they have also embraced Project Linus as a project. They delivered their first group of 113 blankets in October. The blankets were beautiful. Best of all, the church held a wonderful October 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday blessing of the blankets ceremony where each blanket was touched and blessed on/near the altar. The blankets were also displayed at other church events to help garner future interest. We had women attending the meeting on November 1 that heard about Project Linus through the work of the United Methodist Women at Concord. We’ve been blessed to have them support our efforts.