

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

November 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

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, I thought it would be a good time to share extra thank you notes with you that I receive and also ones received at headquarters. I think they truly represent the importance that Project Linus and each of you have in others lives.

Speaking of thankful, we are particularly thankful this month to Walmart in Rockwood for their generous donation to our chapter of \$500!

We'll be spending Thanksgiving with family in Ohio. I hope each of you have a good Thanksgiving and time to spend it with family, friends and loved ones.

*Deb*

### Blanket "Break"

We will take a 'blanket break' again this year. This gives us time to get extra blankets delivered for the holidays and a nice break for our volunteers that pick-up and deliver blankets. **Please have all blankets dropped off by Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.** Blanket drop offs can resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

**A BIG THANKS to Walmart** in Rockwood for their generous donation of \$500. It will go a long way in helping us get more blankets to children in traumatic situations. If you shop at the Rockwood Walmart, be sure to ask for the manager and thank him the next time you are there.

**A Big THANKS to Susan Foster** for selling 83 cookbooks netting Project Linus \$415. And, she's got more to sell! Way to go Susan!

**We donated 1,825 blankets from Jan – Sept. 2007. With 131 more this month, that's 1,956. We will easily meet our goal of 2000 blankets this year!!!**

### No December Newsletter

There will not be a December newsletter. You will get your next one in early January. Have a wonderful holiday season.



*We cannot hold a torch to light another's path  
without brightening our own.*

---Ben Sweetland

*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: 31 blankets**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ **East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville: 38 blankets**
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville:
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room): 36 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:
- ❖ 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:
- ❖ Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge:
- ❖ CHILDHELP USA – Knoxville:
- ❖ Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep – East TN:
- ❖ **One to the newborn son of a homeless family**
- ❖ **10 blankets to the PL Coordinator in Crandon, Wisconsin to assist with needs due to the tragic shootings in their local community.**
- ❖ **5 blankets to the PL Coordinator in Cleveland, OH to assist with needs due to the tragic school shootings.**

## SPECIAL NEEDS!

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

## Cookbook Fundraiser

We sold 3 cookbooks at the annual meeting and some of you took cookbooks to sell. These would make great stocking stuffers (Christmas is just around the corner), a nice housewarming or wedding shower gift. We’ve reduced the price to \$5. Contact Bev Abele or Deb Miller to get cookbooks or for details:

Bev: [abelebv@comcast.net](mailto:abelebv@comcast.net)

865-481-3674

Deb: [miller1219@aol.com](mailto:miller1219@aol.com)

865-435-9045



## Do You Want Your Newsletter Sent by Email?

Don’t forget if you would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to you in Word or PDF/Adobe Acrobat format on email to let Deb know at [Miller1219@aol.com](mailto:Miller1219@aol.com)

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

-Leonard Nimoy

## Donations - Thank You

**Left off from September:**

**Dorothy Cameron: 10 caps**

**Wanda Nance: 1 blanket**

**Ella Ford: 3 blankets**

**First United Methodist Church – Knoxville: 15 blankets**

**Parkwest Church: 1 blanket**

**Judy Montgomery: 1 blanket with cap**

**Lucile Sherrod: 21 blankets**

**Faith Lutheran Church Oak Ridge: 6 blankets**

**First United Methodist Church – Knoxville: 8 Blankets**

**Dean Smith – 1 blanket**

**Betty Keller - 4 boxes Ziploc Bags**

**Helen Low - 3 blankets**

**Mills Suffern - 6 blankets**

**Kathy Minter - 3 afghans**

**Debby Stephan - 1 quilt**

**Doris and Jim Cole – envelopes and batting**

**Ms. Mills and Suffern - 6 blankets and 12 caps**



- **Unidentified Blankets: 3 quilts – 1 is blue and yellow; one is teal and purple and the other is brown, blue and maroon with airplanes on it. Let me know if these are yours!**

**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.
- **Kim Harris, 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.

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*

**Thank you received at headquarters:** I am writing from Michigan to let you know how your John Deere Blanket has helped my son. My father passed away suddenly of a heart attack in November of 2004. He was a very special man to many people. My parents had been married for over 40 years and he was a loved father by 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. His first grandson (my son) held a special place in his heart. My son looked up to my dad more than words can say.

We live in a somewhat small farming community and once my father retired he went to help out our neighbors when they needed help on their farm. As a young girl growing up, my sister and I would go over for many summers and help them with the chores, haying, feeding, whatever needed to be done. My son as a young boy grew fond of farming and helping out on the farm with my father and the friends that I grew up with that still worked the farm. My son, as we all were, was devastated when my father passed away. We are a very close family and we spoke every day and had breakfast often at a local restaurant. It took a lot for me to pull my self together for I knew I had to help my mother on her long journey as well as my son. My husband and I did the best we could.

It wasn't until recently my son received a book from Lapeer areas Heartland Hospice. It is a book to help deal with death of a loved one. But at the same time he was allowed to pick a blanket. There was a John Deere one that was made by your organization. The following spring he went to a retreat for kids who have lost a loved one and he spent three days with kids his age that were grieving as well.

We are coming up on the third anniversary in November and we still have our bad days, but to this day, the blanket from your org. still lays on my sons bed and comforts him in times of need.

I hope that you know the hope, and comfort that you offer to many in need. May you be blessed in all that you do. Thank you for helping us in our journey of healing.

Amy

I am the new parent of a one week old. My husband and I have been married for one year and wanted children very badly. However, we were not sure if we could conceive as I have endometriosis and only have one ovary. Luckily, I was able to get pregnant without much hassle and had a largely uneventful pregnancy. When we passed our due date, we decided to be induced. We were in labor for 12 hours and gave birth to a beautiful 7 pound 8 ounce baby girl. However, as soon as she was born, we realized she was not breathing properly and her breathing only seemed to deteriorate as time went on and the nurses worked on her. She was taken immediately to the NICU and placed on oxygen and a chest x-ray was ordered. She was diagnosed with a bilateral spontaneous pneumothorax and a pneumomediastinum, or a small collapse of both lungs and air around the heart. She had to be admitted to the NICU for 3 days, have a tube placed in her stomach, and IV inserted and we were told she might need a chest tube (although thankfully did not). I am a physician assistant by trade and I understood all of these medical terms and even I was scared. We weren't allowed to hold our baby until the second day and we couldn't even touch her initially. It was heart-breaking to see her lying in a little crib with tubes and wires coming out of her. It was on the second day in the NICU that she was given a hat and blanket made by a volunteer through Project Linus. It touched us deeply that someone was thinking about our daughter and had her in their prayers. Not only were they adorable, but they helped to hide all the tubes and wires and we were able to take pictures of her and look at her without looking at her illness. Her condition improved and she was subsequently discharged with the blanket and hat. Every time we look at it, we remember the angel that looked over our little girl. For that reason, I wanted to take the time to personally thank you for your generous contribution. It is sincerely appreciated.

May God watch over you and your volunteers.

Kimberly

Thank you so much for my new blanket. I love the animals on it and it makes me feel special. I am a preemie and I was born three weeks ago at 1lb, 5 oz. I am very small but they treat me like I am a king. I know that I will make it because special people like you are thinking of me. Thank you very much.

Love, Alex Pellissier at St. Vincent's Womens Hospital NICU

**Dear Project Linus,**

As a middle school teacher I have had several classes become involved in making quilts and blankets for Project Linus. Then last year, my daughter received one of your blankets - She hasn't sleep one night without it since then. I never thought we would ever be on the receiving end of a blanket. My 2 year old daughter entered the hospital through the emergency room. We were visiting friends and had not planned on being away from home for more than a few hours so all we had was a basic diaper bag, no pajamas, no stuffed animal, no blanket. After seeing Anna's Dora the Explorer shoes and diaper, the nurse came back into the room with the softest, warmest and most cuddly Dora blanket that I had ever seen. For the next 24hrs, as my daughter struggled to breathe, she was kept warm and comforted by her new blanket. To Anna, that blanket is what makes her feel better and keeps her safe. Thank you from the mom of a little asthma patient. Now I see our classroom service projects in a whole different, much more meaningful light. Thank you.

Anna's Mom

**Here's a thank you note to share with all of you who sent blankets to Greensburgh KS:**

My 3 1/2 year old son and I lived in Greensburg, KS, up until the EF5 tornado destroyed 95% of the town on May 5, 2007. Through the shelters and emergency relief efforts after the storm, we ended up with two beautiful Project Linus blankets for my son. They have been such a joy in our house, providing warmth, comfort, closeness, color and cheer. I am so touched by your organization and what it does for children who are in need of a comfort so simple yet so impacting as a blanket! I have seen it in my son as he wraps up in the blankets at nap or bedtime, and even when he plays with them during the day! Thank you so much for your support and efforts to aid Greensburg and the residents. We appreciate it more than you could ever know!

Blessings!  
Kathy and Caelen Arendt

**From PL Coordinator in Idaho: I just this minute received this thank you and want to share it with you. So many of the thank you notes we receive are from parents of small children.**

On Aug 18th my 13 year old daughter was camping with friends, they were jumping off a bridge into the river. My daughter jumped and hit the concrete pylon that holds the bridge. She nearly ripped her ankle completely off. She was life flighted to St Alphonsus in Boise and has been in and out of the hospital there. She received one of your blankets and she won't let go of it. Even being an older child she needed the comfort and strength that blanket brought her. Three weeks have passed and she has had 11 surgeries to save her foot. Her blanket has been with her through it all. She still has a long road to recovery and I am sure the blanket will go with her every time she goes back to the hospital. I had never heard of your group before this and as a mom of a sick child I just want to say Thank You so much. Her blanket is beautiful and it brings her so much comfort. Thank you.

**From the Avalon Center in Crossville, TN:**

Thank you for the lovely quilts made for the Avalon Center Shelter. You were so kind to think of the children in our shelter and the quilts provide much comfort to them at a very difficult time in their lives. We very much appreciate your support of the Avalon Center and its work. Your gift helps us give assistance to families that have suffered abuse. Your contribution also supports our work in the community to break the cycle of violence for future generations. Thank you for joining with Avalon Center's efforts to make our communities even more wonderful places for us all to live.

Sincerely,  
Carmen Kington – Executive Director



## QUARTERLY BLANKET STATISTICS

### Project Linus of East Tennessee

September 30, 2007 Stats



**Our goal is to donate 2,000 blankets this year to children in traumatic situations.**

**We're 3/4ths of the way through the year and have donated 1,875 blankets.**

**That's 94% of goal and we're only 75% of the way through the year.**

**Since April 2003, PLET Volunteers have made and donated 7,906 blankets!**



## NATIONAL PROJECT LINUS

Statistics as of June 30, 2007

**Blankets Donated: 2,210,100**

**406 Chapters**



To the great people associated with Project Linus:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time to express my sincerest gratitude for the blanket given to my son, Carson. In June, 2006, Carson, then 19 months old, became seriously ill from an E. coli infection, a serious illness that quickly led to kidney failure. My wife, Melissa, and I are both Physician Assistants in Sidney, Nebraska. When Carson became ill, he was cared for initially by his doctor and our colleague, Dr. Clinton Dorwart at Memorial Health Center in Sidney, Nebraska. Since Melissa and I work at the hospital daily, and are great friends with all of the wonderful staff there, we received tremendous amount of love and support. However, while all of these well-wishes, hugs, and prayers us endure this nightmare, most important to Carson was one of your blankets that he was given and soon clutched in his arms.

Carson has always loved puppies. The blanket given to him is made of soft fleece decorated with hundreds of adorable little dogs. Carson remained in the hospital in Sidney for just a few days prior to being transferred to Denver Children's Hospital. He remained in the hospital there for nearly a month, much of this time receiving peritoneal dialysis to rid his body of the toxins that his failing kidneys were unable to filter out of his blood. Carson's "puppy blanket" never left his side. Thanks to his wonderful physicians and nurses, our family and friends, and many, many prayers, Carson's kidneys eventually began to recover. His kidney function will likely never return to normal, however, and he'll likely need a transplant within the next 15 years.

However, life has largely returned to "normal." Carson will turn three in about 6 weeks, and by all accounts looks and acts the part of the typical toddler. He still loves puppies, in fact, after coming home from the hospital, we got him one of his own. It's his "puppy blanket," however, that he sleeps with every night.

I'm certain you receive hundreds of letters like this from parents whose children were comforted by one of your blankets. Please know that you hold a special place in each of our hearts.

Sincerely,  
Mitch and Melissa Muhs

From Crandon, WI (location of recent school shootings). I know many of you have been wondering what happened with all the blankets.

The first load was a little over 200 plus Robin from Iron River brought down 40. I spoke with the High School Councilor she looked overwhelmed and wasn't sure if they could use all the blankets. I was sure they would need to call me for the other 100 + blankets I had waiting at home for them when they were ready. Needless to say I was disappointed at the possibility that the effort was in vain.

Then about a week later I got a phone call from the Middle School Councilor asking if we still had more blankets. They had started handing out blankets that day, and the kids LOVED them. All the staff was surprised at the impact these blankets were having on the students.

Monday my husband and I took the second load of 100 + blankets up to Crandon. It was very cool to take my husband, so he could see what exactly it is I have been doing. He was amazed when the boys ( jocks ) helping bring in the blankets were saying " I get first pick!"

Then he got to read the 10 pages of thank yous I was handed and see the pictures of the football players with blankets around their shoulders. Before he had his doubts about High School students needing blankets... now he's a true believer.

I know this is getting long but I would like to share a few of the Thanks Yous from Crandon:

The Crandon High School was Vary thankful for the blankets, everyone wanted one. It's not just a blanket to keep you warm but a blanket to remind you of all the people killed in the shooting. Thanx a bunch. ( Stephanie S. Junior )

This blanket is a memory of my brother Bradley. ( Schyler S. )

The blanket makes me think of Linsey, colorful and full of character. In memory of my Best Friend. ( Halee G. )

Thank you for the blankets. It is very special to me. I lost my brother, Aaron and my best friends. Thank YOU all a lot ( Alyssa S. Freshmen )

We all thought it was great to see that communities are willing to show how much they care. The blankets were a great gift, thanks alot! ( Jenna B. Sophmore)

Thank You for the blanket. It will remind me of Bradley and how he loved sports. ( Nick Q. Freshmen )

Thank You so much fir the blankets, it was the sweetest gift you could have given us. ( Nicole W. Senior )

Thank You for the awesome blanket I hung it on my wall at home so I can look at it everyday. ( Dillon P. )

Thank You for the awesome blanket. It was a cool thing you did for our school. It brings back all the good memories I shared with the kids who passed on. Thank You so much. ( S. Kennedy 12th grade )

I appreciate what you did for us, it put a smile on my face! Thank You.

I believe what you do is amazing. I can't even imagine how much hard work and love everyone put into these! Thank You! ( Cassey F. )

The students were truly touched and proud of the blankets. The staff was truly amazed at how the blankets fit the personality of the students. From horses to eagles to homemade quilts. The students brought the blankets with them the rest of the day. I've asked students what they did with their blankets. Some hung them on their wall, others are taking them to bed with them. What a true blessing and kind hearted gift you gave our students. ( Karen Lehman Family & Consumer Economics & Health Teacher )

To whom it may concern,

I have a little girl who is now two years old. A year ago she got very ill for the first time and was hospitalized. Six months later and many hospital stays later she was diagnosed with a rare disease called Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome as well as Vanwillebrands disease.

During our second long hospital stay 9 months ago she received a blanket from you. We still have it. It's beautiful and she loves it. It was very hard for me not knowing if my child was going to be okay. It is always hard when a child is sick. But the long stays in the hospital especially away from home cause a feeling of disconnect from the rest of the world. I felt like no one besides the other parents cared or knew how it felt to be desperate for your baby to get better.

But when I got the blanket for her I felt like some one out there really did care. And it helped me to feel connected to the outside world. Over all is just really touched my heart that some one cared enough to take the time to make the blanket and create an organization just for sick children. Every time I look at it, it touches my heart.

I just wanted to say thank you and let you know that the work you do really does make a huge difference in peoples lives.

Sincerely, Karen Goodwin

It is so nice to know that people who don't even know us are thinking of us. The blanket given to our 1 month old son while he was in Children's Hospital in Knoxville was a thoughtful gift in our time of need.

Thank you,  
The Bottoms Family

Thank you again for what you do for us.

Please tell each person involved I wish they could see the faces of the young ladies when they realize they get a NEW, HANDMADE item for their baby. Most of them get used items (and are happy with that). You make what we do so very extra special. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tamara W. Ownby, CFRE

Director of Development

Hope Resource Center

**"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 Penny**

### 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.*