

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

September 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

Project Linus Blanketeers and Recipient Organizations:

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting on September 22. Note, if you want any of the yarn/fabric to be sure to come early and find my van in the parking lot out by the road.

We really surprised Lucile Sherrod on her 94th birthday with all the cards. She sent a nice note thanking you all for the cards she received.

I'm in particular need for older children and teen blankets. We will be delivering to many of the Child Advocacy Centers in the next couple months and they serve a lot of older children and teens. These blankets really make a difference when these children have to through medical exams because of the abuse they have suffered.

The Yarn Haven on N. Cedar Bluff in Knoxville has been added as a drop off spot. See the last page of the newsletter for details. Sandy, at the Yarn Haven, and her customers are good supporter of our efforts.

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 13th. Blanket drop offs can resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

As you will see further in the newsletter, I've focused a lot on the TAPS program. This is an important program in serving the children and grandchildren of our military. Please be sure to read about the difference our blankets are making. Take Care.

Deb

PLET Annual Meeting: Saturday, September 22nd

The annual meeting will be at 2 PM at JoAnn Fabrics on Peters Rd. (near Cedar Bluff) in Knoxville. I hope to see many of you there. For those of you that have not been there before, the purpose of the meeting is just to get together, ask questions and share information. I have a new DVD from PL National that's really good. And for those of you that didn't see Helen Forbes and me on Live at Five or the Al Roker PL segment, I've got videos of that, too. If you've got a new pattern you've tried out that you want to "show off", be sure to bring it with you. This can be for blankets, caps or other items of interest. If you are bringing BAGS of blankets to turn in, please do NOT bring them in the store. We'll put them in my van after the meeting. I will have some fabric and yarn to share (first come, first served) and, of course, door prizes!!!

PRE-Annual Meeting: Saturday, September 22nd 1:15 – 1:55 PM

I have LOTS of fabric and yarn. We will NOT try to carry this all into JoAnn's. So, if you are interested in any of it, I'll be parked in the last row (out by the road), at 1:15 PM for you to go through it – first come first served! I'll have my white van with PL signs on it! Bring a BAG to carry it all away in.

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: 36 Blankets**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center - Knoxville:
- ❖ Pathways Family Shelter – Harriman:
- ❖ **Smoky Mountain Children’s Home – Sevierville: 54 blankets, hats and scarves**
- ❖ **East TN Children’s Medical Center – Knoxville: 55 blankets and baby caps**
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville:
- ❖ **Baptist Hospital West/Baptist Hospital for Women (Nursery/Emergency Room): 15 blankets and caps**
- ❖ 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 Cumberlands (Scott County):
- ❖ REACHS Children’s Center of the Cumberlands (Campbell County):
- ❖ Child Advocacy Center of the Ninth Judicial District (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane):
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Center – Crossville:
- ❖ **Mission of Hope: 38 blankets, winter caps and scarves, booties/slippers and misc. hand made toys.**
- ❖ Department of Human Services:
- ❖ Good Samaritans – Cumberland County:
- ❖ **Avalon Center – Cumberland County: 25 blankets**
- ❖ **Avalon Center – Morgan County: 10 blankets**
- ❖ 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:

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.

Thank You From CAC/Kids First

The Child Advocacy Center of the 9th Judicial District of Tennessee services the children in Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane Counties. This organization, like their counterparts in other counties, serves children that have been abused. The work they do is very important to helping these children recover and breaking the cycle of abuse. They are so appreciative of our blankets and recently wrote:

“I am writing to thank you and your volunteers for donating and delivering the generous amount of beautiful handmade blankets. The CAC is dedicated to serving children through prevention, education and intervention. Our services include the investigative interview conducted in a non threatening environment, counseling for the abused child and his or her non-offending family members, support to the child and family during the court process, and prevention education outreach in the community. Also our medical room is fully equipped and operational with an on call doctor and nurse (trained in working with abused children) providing medical examinations and treatment. We are a non-profit organization that relies completely on donations like yours – it certainly makes a difference in our work here at the Center. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely,
Ms. Christine Evans
Executive Director



Donations - Thank You

Dorcas Quilters of West Park Baptist Church: 8 quilts

Ms. Mills and Ms. Suffern: 11 blankets
Restorative Justice Teens at Farragut Christian Church: 5 blankets

Cathy Hurrell: 7 blankets
Christy Davis: 4 blankets
Joyce Seidel Hausman: 11 blankets and LOTS of Yarn

Wanda Nance: 4 blankets and cap
Brenda Sizemore: 7 blankets
Vicki Frye: 2 dolls, 3 stuffed animals, 3 baby outfits, caps and booties

Donna Miller: 4 blankets
Beth Stephen: 1 blanket
Betty Richardson: 5 hats
Betty Anderson and Edwina Holley: 8 blankets
Sharon Carey: 19 blankets (1 with blanket buddy)
Sarah Casada: Teen blanket and stuffed animals
Lynda Everman: 4 baby blankets
Kathy Messer: 2 prayer shawls
Kathy Van Houten: 3 blankets
Barb Loadholtz: 1 blanket
Lucile Sherrod: 32 blankets
Elaine Rhea: 2 blankets (one with matching cap) and 10 newborn caps

Mary Mize: 6 blankets including one large bedspread type blanket

Park West Quilters: 25 blankets
Judy Montgomery: 1 blanket
Breanna Durbin (age 13): 1 blanket
Brenda Sizemore: 7 blankets
Diana Moore: \$20
Donna Miller: 4 blankets

Unidentified Items: If you donated this bag of fabric, let me know. It was picked up at Park West. - Blue bag with fabric including orange & white football themed fleece

Susan Ford: LOTS and LOTs of wonderful quilting fabric (I'll have this at the annual meeting for quilters – see page 1)

Thanks to Linda Rich for selling PL cookbooks!

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 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.

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

- Leonard Nimoy

Thank You from REACHS (Regional Education and Community Health Services, Inc.)

We received a nice thank you note from Director Tracie Phillips at REACHs in Campbell County/LaFollette this month. REACHS is another child advocacy center that provides important services to children that have been abused. One of the important part of the services at these organizations is that they are provided in a child friendly environment and by trained professionals. The fact that all the services can be delivered in one location so the child does not have to go to the Police Station, hospital emergency room for exams, etc. is very important. Our blankets truly make a difference in helping the child feel secure and add tremendous value during the exam and counseling process.

Greetings from the Outreach of TAPS via Project Linus in North Idaho

945 children were embraced with the security hugs from the coordinators and volunteers of 24 chapters this past Memorial Day Weekend at the Good Grief Camp in Washington DC. The military officers have voted that Project Linus is the "frosting on the cake" for this weekend and for the children and the struggling families of the fallen heroes. What a tremendous outpouring of compassion and empathy you blessed this effort of TAPS.

I have been told that Project Linus is the favorite of all the hugs that these children and families received!...what a pat on the back this honor is for all of you who care so much! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this just a blessing beyond words.

You need to know that 45 of the children went over to some of the military hospitals and visited the wounded. They took their blankets and put them over the soldiers...those big tough men and women...and the nurses and medical assistants related that they just snuggled down and smiled and smiled! They realized how the people back home really supported them! And Project Linus did just that!!!

TAPS would like to invite Project Linus Coords/volunteers to be part of the TAPS weekend next year and help with the blanket distributions. If you are interested, please email me privately with your telephone # and your mailing address and I will keep you informed as the plans forge ahead for 2008.

Also, since many of the wounded are now rotating back to stateside military hospitals and since many of their children will be visiting them there...the TAPS outreach services are asking if any of the chapters could help by having blankets ready for these children. If this fits in your plans, let me know and I will keep you advised of what is needed and when.

Again I want to tell each and everyone of you that you made a difference...God bless you all!

Gratefully,

Barb McLean, PL Coord, North Idaho and Spokane Wa

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Rathdrym, Idaho 83858
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TAPS: Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors - Florida

From Barb McLean, PL Coordinator for Northern Idaho and Spokane WA as well as the national TAPS coordinator: "Late last evening I received communication from Col. Mathewson at Patrick AF Base in Florida. This is the operations center for Wounded Warriors Transition Assistance. The message reads that on Nov 3-4, there will be 400 wounded troops arriving at Patrick AFB. Once again there is a call for help for the families that will be arriving at the base. Also TAPS will be having "mini Good Grief Camps in the following states: Ca, NY, Al and HI. Of course everyone can help but I am sure that each state with chapters will take special interest. The beat goes on but mainly it is the beat in our hearts that makes this a true Project Linus Mission. Thank you for caring so much."

Barb has done a wonderful job in coordinating the TAPS program donations for Project Linus nationally. We do our part in supporting these programs. As many of you know, PL of East TN has sent red, white and blue patriotic blankets to the TAPS Good Grief camps held each Memorial Day in Washington, DC for children/grandchildren/siblings of military that have lost their lives in service to their country. I hold any donated patriotic blankets for this important program and to be delivered to local children/grandchildren/younger siblings of military, fire or police officers that lose their lives in service to their country.

PL of East Tennessee will be sending bright colorful blankets to Patrick Air Force Base in September to be delivered to the children of the wounded soldiers that will be coming to the Base in early November. While most of our blankets are delivered to children in local traumatic situations, it is important to support this national effort also.

More information is available about the TAPS program at www.taps.org . There are a couple of links to different "Good Grief Camp" videos and info that are very good.

TAPS: Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors - Alaska

From Barb McLean, PL Coordinator for Northern Idaho and Spokane WA as well as the national TAPS coordinator: "As I announced last week, I was contacted by Ft Richardson's Family Services of a special need. If you will recall, last November and early December, the needs for Ft Richardson Alaska came as the holidays were approaching and there were needs for the little "troopers" that were there...in a sudden deployment of their parents. In a matter of hours, you responded so generously and those children were taken care of quickly. This unit of soldiers that went to Iraq suffered 40 deaths in a matter of 3-4 weeks. It was a very low period for the Fort and also for Anchorage! I know because I went home to Alaska in February and spoke at the Chapel! Now the wounded are returning in October. My Chapter (Idaho) has already taken care of the 55 needs for ages 0-4 years old."

Project Linus of East Tennessee will also be helping with this effort by sending blankets in early September to Alaska. Your dedicated work in making blankets and fund raising efforts make it possible for us to be able to help with these national needs.

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.

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

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.*

**Give the world the best that you have,
and the best will come back to you.**

-Madeline Bridges

Project Linus of East Tennessee: Drop-off Spots for Blankets

- **First Farragut United Methodist Church**, 12733 Kingston Pk, Farragut @ Dixie Lee Jct. (8AM-5 PM) in Church Office
- **Oak Ridge: Bev Abele** at 107 Dansworth Lane. Please call first. 481-3674 home/ 574-9451 work.
- **Oak Ridge: ETHRA Workforce Development** (same building as Anderson County Clerk's office behind the Senior Center) at 728E Emory Valley Rd. Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM.
- **Blount County (Alcoa): Tennessee Career Center** at 366 Glascock, Alcoa (right across from Midland Shopping Center) Monday – Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM. Leave blankets with a staff member.
- **Loudon County/Lenoir City- Loudon County Career Center** (part of the new Roane State Campus) downtown at 100 West Broadway Suite 141. They are open M-F 8 AM – 4:30 PM. Drop blankets at the reception desk of the Career Center for Kelley Thomas.
- **Roane County/Rockwood- Tennessee Career Center** located at 1082 N. Gateway (Old Big Lots Building) just south of the new Walmart. They are open M-F 8 AM – 4:30 PM. Drop blankets for Kim Harris.
- **Knoxville:** Park West Church of God, 7635 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville. 9 AM – Noon and 1 - 4:30 PM Monday – Friday
- **The Yarn Haven** 464 N. Cedar Bluff Rd. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM – 6 PM; Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM; Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM.
- **First Lutheran Church**, 1207 N. Broadway - Knock on the church office door on the north side of the building off the parking lot. Deliveries can be made 8:00 AM to Noon, Monday-Friday
- **Clinton/Anderson County Area: Clinton Recreation Center/Patti Stewart**
- **Cumberland County:** Call Irene Hawker (931) 456-0316

Please be sure to put blankets in a tied plastic bag with a note IN the bag with the number of blankets and name of the person/organization donating the blankets.

Contact Deb Miller with details or questions. Miller1219@aol.com or 865-435-9045 or 719-2862.