

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Phoenix/NE Valley, AZ Chapter

1st quarter 2010

Phx/NE Valley Chapter

Judie Agee, Chapter Coordinator
(480) 837-6323

Email: PhxPL@PhoenixPL.org
www.PhoenixPL.org

Total blankets delivered:

26,393

National web site:

www.ProjectLinus.org

Teen Homeschool Honor Society Makes Blankets By Katherine Messer



On March 20th 2010 local high school students got together and made blankets for Project Linus. The group was a home school honor society that avidly serves its community. Almost every month of the year the group gets together to do a service project. This month its service project was to make quilt tops for Project Linus.

One of the members of the honor society, 14-year-old Katherine Messer, is working on her Girl Scout Silver Award. For this award she must put in 40 hours of work on a project and involve others in working on it also. She chose to make a total of fifteen 40" by 60" Conversation Brick quilts for Project Linus.



On the 20th, Project Linus Coordinator Judie Agee joined Katherine at the honor society meeting. The students worked for three hours sewing, cutting, and ironing. In those three hours they completed sewing together 4 and a half quilt tops and cut out about 3 and half more.

They all enjoyed the service project and said that they would like to do it again sometime.

Note: Katherine Messer's mother Pam has been a volunteer for our chapter for over 10 years. I am pleased to see that Pam passed along her great sense of volunteerism to Katherine. Judie

Chapter Status

By Judie Agee

As most of you know, I announced my "retirement" from the job of Coordinator, Phoenix/NE Valley AZ Chapter as of October 31, 2010. Because no one has formally applied for the position of Chapter Coordinator yet, we are making plans to close the chapter on that date.

I remain hopeful that our chapter will continue to flourish and our blanket deliveries will continue without a hitch.

2010 Blanket Bee Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Meal Plans
Saturday, May 8	9 am – 4 pm	Fountain Hills Community Center 13001 N. La Montana Dr., Ftn Hills	Bring your lunch; soft drinks, bottled water and coffee will be provided.
Saturday, August 14	9 am – 4 pm	Fountain Hills Community Center 13001 N. La Montana Dr., Ftn Hills	To be announced
Saturday, October 23	9 am – 4 pm	Fountain Hills Community Center 13001 N. La Montana Dr., Ftn Hills	To be announced

Websites for Crafty Volunteers

- www.freespiritfabric.com – Click on “free patterns” link for quilt patterns
- www.connectingthreads.com – Free quilting patterns
- www.fabric.com - Great place for bargain fabrics
- www.marshalldrygoods.com - Really good prices on fabric
- www.bernatcares.com – Free knitting and crocheting patterns for charity
- www.allfreecrochet.com – “For Happy Hooking”
- www.knitting-crochet.com – A free pattern treasure chest

Also www.fabricdepot.com - Fabric bought online is always 30% off and they often have 40% off sales. They didn't have as much of one fabric as I had ordered and they called to tell me that. When I told her the fabric was for Project Linus, she found some kid fabric, called me back to describe the fabric and sold it to me at a discount. That's service!! If you're ever in the Portland, Oregon area - don't miss going to Fabric Depot. It's wonderful - like being in a candy/toy store for kids! This store is heaven for quilters!!!!

From Donna Aten, PL Coordinator in Boise, ID

Ideas for Getting Donations

- ♥ Ask the store you shop at if they want to donate scraps, or old supplies that did not sell.
- ♥ Mention when you are purchasing something (yard sale, JoAnns, etc) to anyone that might hear – that you are getting this for Project Linus. It generates discussion with other shoppers and may get you free items.
- ♥ Ask person selling at a yard sale if they have any yarn, thread, or fabric for sale. You may have just missed it, or they may get items from the house. Again, this often generates free donations with the homeowner feeling great about sending their stuff to a good cause.

Inspiration Corner



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
Leo Buscaglia

Carol's Corner

Carol Kries will be selling her handcrafted items (including a few of her famous totes!) at the blanket bee in May. Cash or checks made out to “Project Linus” will be accepted.

Carol is also gearing up for a mini bazaar in August. If you have any holiday-themed fabric, please make sure it gets to her! You can give your fabric to Carol at the blanket bee or call Judie at 480-837-6323 to make arrangements for a pickup.

Back a Quilt Top with Fleece

It is not difficult to back a quilt with fleece. Simply put the fleece on a table and smooth it out. Cut off the curly selvedge edges. Lay the quilt top on it, and smooth it out. I often use plastic spring clamps (from Sears or a hardware store) to hold every thing still and stretched smooth.

Use safety pins to hold the 2 layers together. Quilt using an even feed foot. Less quilting is required because nothing will slip, bunch or shift on the inside. Add binding.

You are done!

Quilts with fleece backs are so cozy! Fleece is also great for those quilt tops that end up just a little wider than 42", since the fleece is 50 - 60" wide!

Another method: fold a neatly cut or pinked fleece edge from the back to the front and top stitch.

Donna Clarke, PL Coordinator in Lower DelMarVa

Quilt Sayings

Quilters make better comforters.

A fat quarter is not a body part.

My husband lets me buy all the fabric I can hide.

“Fabricologist Resource Center” – now doesn't that sound better than “fabric stash”?

Quilting fills my days, not to mention the living room, bedroom and closets.

Good friends are like quilts. They age with you but never lose their warmth.

When I give to you what I make with my hands, I share with my heart.

Project Linus Notes

Hi, I recently sent an email for donating a blanket. I was thinking that maybe I had not added enough information. Let me tell you a bit about me. I am a 60-ish semi retired grandmother of 5. I am blessed beyond measure with these children. I had mentioned that I once owned a craft shop that we created the items for. The more I thought about this project the more I really wanted to be able to provide a blanket for a child. Just this week a local family lost their 2 year old daughter to childhood cancer. Neuroblastoma. She fought hard for 11 months. We attended charity events for her and my youngest granddaughter played with her a couple times. It reminds me to count my blessings each and every day. I would love to provide a blanket for a child or adult, it surely would be one of the blessings that I could count. It's the little things sometimes that make the tough things a little bit easier to handle.

Ina

I am in first grade. I received a blanket one time when my sister was in the hospital and it was awesome!!! I am a Tiger Scout and I would like to make a blanket for someone else. Please let me know how I can help. Thank you.

Andrew

I had a young lady appear at my doorstep today and wanted to share something with me. If some of you remember I received a real initiation into Project Linus almost 5 years ago when, just a couple weeks after being named coordinator we had the shootings in Red Lake and other coordinators blessed me with 761 blankets to pass out at the school. When we distributed them I laid them all out and each young person selected the one they wanted. There was one that was a beautiful pink color with hearts and the words "Jesus Loves Me" all over it. I was too green to know we weren't supposed to pass out religious blankets and someone had sent it to me so I laid it out with the rest. This young lady shared with me that previous to the tragedy she had been placed in a group home and was so belligerent that they would not keep her--plus her family and friends kept smuggling in drugs and cigarettes to her. She was at home and still leading a life that kept getting her in trouble and everyone had given up on her. One night she was all alone at home and all of a sudden realized that the only one that had told her she was loved in years was her blanket. She then decided to turn her life around and this spring will be graduating from college. She is so proud because very few of her friends will accomplish that goal. She was also excited to tell me she was going into Social Work so she could help some other young people, as her blanket helped her, by telling them she cared about them. She thanked me, gave me a hug and then burst into tears. I just held her because I actually didn't know what she was feeling. When she composed herself she apologized and then said, "Those were tears of total joy and thankfulness for what has happened in my life. I am now a healed person with a goal in life of something other than destruction."

I have to admit that when she left I was the one in tears--just to think that a PL Blanket carried that much influence over this young lady. We DO make a difference and we never know what the "hug" will mean to a child. I feel we saved a young woman from destroying her life with that one gesture.

Now I can face the Haiti situation with a total different feeling--there may be other teenagers searching that we can turn around and help them be successful.

Jonette Anderson, PL Coordinator in Northern MN

Judy, just wanted to share this note with you and your group. These blankets are the best thing we have ever been able to give to our clients. We have teddy bears but the bears don't keep you warm when you have lost almost everything in a fire. Please extend our heartfelt thank you for all the work that goes into these blankets.

Joyce Adams
American Red Cross
Team 1 leader

Joyce,

I wanted you to know that the blankets you provided to us in January from Project Linus were put to very good use. We responded to a fire call in Chandler on January 22 for a single mother and 7 children (3 hers and she's the guardian for 4 more!). They had minimal usable clothing they were able to retrieve, but had nothing warm for the kids. The blankets were a godsend, both physically and spiritually. We had to meet with the family in a Chandler fire station due to weather and you have should have seen the reaction when we brought in the blankets.

In a time of grief and sadness, the blankets really helped. We hope they will continue to be available. We will certainly use them when they are needed. A huge Thank You to the folks who are taking the time to make and distribute them. We really appreciate it!

Thank You,

Hank & Joyce Whitney - Team one
East Valley Disaster Response

Project Linus Notes (cont.)

Occasionally Project Linus Coordinators deliver blankets to the children of fallen soldiers. This is the note we all received from Ursula in San Diego when she delivered a blanket to Yvette, the daughter of a soldier killed in action:

Today I delivered Yvette's quilt to the pastor at Rock Church. The funeral was at 12:00, so I thought I'd give myself plenty of time and get there at 11:00. There wasn't a parking space within two miles of the Church, I exaggerate not! All the streets were lined with police cruisers, sheriff's vehicles and police units as far away as Los Angeles County. Seems our soldier was a 5 star police officer, and prior to that a deputy sheriff. He was on the San Diego Special Weapons and Tactics team at the SDPD. He was a real overachiever and so loved by all his fellow officers.

Since there was no way to park anywhere, my hubby dropped me off in front, and I walked into the church lined with full color guards from the Marine Corp, Police and Sheriff. The sidewalk leading to the church was also lined with more police and the Patriot Guard. There were literally hundreds of American flags lining all the streets leading to the church. I've never seen anything like it! I was there a little after 11:00 and the church was 3/4 full to capacity already. Rock Church is one of the largest in San Diego with a capacity of over 1,000. I can tell you there were probably close to 2,000 folks there and I'm sure half of them stood.

Through the maze of officers, I found the pastor and he assured me that he would personally give the quilt to Yvette. Yvette is 11 years old, and there was a giant slide show playing when I arrived. I left in awe! Our news media had full coverage and said it was one of the largest attended funerals in S.D. All our S.D. dignitaries were there including the Mayor, Chiefs of P.D. and Sheriff, Brigadier General William G. Beard, Army; and more dignitaries from Civil Affairs Command, and the list goes on. You just wouldn't have believed the spectacle of all this. I hope our little Yvette wasn't too overwhelmed. I was fairly intimidated myself. I got to talk with the pastor for only a few minutes but he was touched by our Linus Mission, and he wanted me to mail him an extra brochure! What a morning. So many folks paying their respect, and sending such a message of love to the family. On my way out I addressed several of the Patriot Guards saying, "Thank you for being here", and they replied in unison, "It's our privilege!"

Thanks for letting me share this awesome story... makes me feel warm and tingly.
Hugs, Ursula Sorensen, PL Coordinator in San Diego

There was a girl whose mother was in an accident and taken to the hospital. The girl was given a blanket while they were taking care of her mother.

For her next birthday, her 12th, she asked her mom if she could have a PL blanket making party. Her mom asked if she was sure that was what she wanted, and she said yes, she had enough stuff. So she and five of her friends made some fleece blankets for Project Linus. I made sure those blankets were delivered to the ER... along with the story. I've told it many times.

I also got a Thank You this week from a girl who received a blanket. It's short but says it well...

Dear Project Linus, thank you for the blanket I got when I was in the hospital. When I got the blanket, I loved it and felt safe. Love, Jessica E.

Gina Loss – PL Coordinator in Great Falls, MT

Judie....THANK YOU!!!!!!

I was away for a while and saw that the blankets and afghans got here safe and sound and are now in the Chinle hospital nursery. One of our nursery nurses said she is so thrilled to be able to lay the new blanket in the baby crib when she returns the babe to his or her mother. Today our new mom that delivered early this morning received a light green knitted afghan with a chevron pattern....beautiful, beautiful.

Please pass on to all your crafty angels how appreciated....that's not even a strong enough word for it....how in awe we are of their thoughtfulness and generosity with their time and talent in thinking of our newest little human beings.

I cannot thank you enough.

Deborah Gilburn, CNM

Four Corners Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives

From PL Headquarters:

My 4 year old son just got home from a 2 night stay at the Winchester Medical Center. He has been very sick and we still don't have any answers. However, while he was there he was given the choice of several beautiful blankets and he saw this monkey quilt and his face completely lit up. It made him so happy. While he was covered in it that very night he ran his hand over it and said, "beautiful blanket". Thank you so much for doing what you do. It really blessed my heart and his. God Bless!

Erin Wright

The Twisted World of Mr. Yarn



No Skein Left Behind

I am often intrigued by how something one has learned earlier in life ends up being applied later in life in a totally unexpected and unrelated way.

This happened to me one day in October when I wandered into a Walmart store and decided, since I was already there, I'd take "just a minute" and mosey on over to the yarn section. As I approached the racks, red CLEARANCE signs grabbed my attention. With an increasing heart rate and a quickened pace (but not so quick as to alert other yarn buyers), I scurried over to the racks and discovered that certain Red Heart colors were \$1.50 per skein. For Mr. Yarn that was, in a word, a Bonanza!

Returning with a cart, I emptied the section of clearance skeins, starting from the upper left and working my way methodically across the rows to the lower right, much like one might eat an ear of freshly-buttered corn. As I was greedily grabbing skein after skein of this Mother Lode, a long-ago habit suddenly popped into my mind.

Flash back to the late 60s, early 70s, to my first "real" job, working as a stock clerk at Safeway. While replenishing the shelves, if I had just a few bottles of Wishbone Thousand Island Dressing left over from a case, instead of taking those few bottles back to the stock room I would "hide" them behind, say, the Wishbone Italian Dressing. Less to drag back to the stock room and have to drag back out later.

So, over 33 years later, as a customer, not an employee, I wondered "did the yarn stock clerk use that same hiding technique--and is there more clearance yarn to be had?" I bent down and peered at the back of adjacent rows--and got my answer. As I smugly snatched the additional hidden skeins from behind other colors, I had to smile at the irony of it all, finding extra \$1.50 skeins because I happened to recall a stocking method I used long ago, when I was paid anywhere from \$1.80 to \$2.98 per hour for my labors.

With a triumphant, Cheshire-cat grin on my face and chest thrust out, I confidently strode to the checkout counter with my haul, immensely satisfied that I had fulfilled my philosophy of "no (clearance) skein left behind."

Tips and Tricks for Blanketmakers

For knitters and crocheters (from Lionbrand.com):

- ♥ It is always better to join a new ball of yarn at the beginning of a row, rather than in the middle.
- ♥ If you are worried that you are going to run out of yarn to do another row, measure it. If you have at least four times the width of your project left, you can safely go across the row. If you don't have enough yarn, better to cut it, leaving a four-inch tail, and join a new ball.
- ♥ How do you find the beginning of a "pull skein"? If you don't want to work from the outside and there is no visible end coming from the center, you can find an end as follows:
Insert the thumb and index finger of each hand into either side of the skein, moving your fingers until they meet. Feel for the very center. Pull this out and the end should be with it. Extra yarn will usually come out with it but is quickly used up.



For quilters:

- ♥ When tying a quilt with square knots do not bother to cut between knots. Just move on to the NEXT square knot. When you have used all the thread, then go back and clip between each knot. - Sue Z.
- ♥ Take a balloon (do not add air to it!), tie 18 inches of string to one end and pin the string to your quilt. It'll be handy to help pull a needle through. - Winnie
- ♥ To get traction for sliding fabric into position, from an office supply store, get Sortkwik Fingertip moistener or similar gel product. It'll keep fingers moist longer, won't stain fabric. - Lynda N.