

Chapter Information

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Blankets Delivered
By Our Chapter

13,339

Blanket Drop Off Locations

Blankets and other donations may be dropped off at:

Robinson's Sewing Center
572 Caldwell Blvd, Nampa
466-7642

Marilynn's Pickets & Patchwork,
Nyssa, Oregon
541 372-5336

Idaho Sewing and Vacuum
4500A Overland Road, Boise
338-0144

2 Sisters Quilting Shoppe
35 E Fairview, Meridian
887-4707

Quilt Expressions
9165 Chinden Blvd, # 102,
Garden City
338-8933

Knit One, Quilt Too
708 E Wythe Creek Ct, Kuna
922-1906

Charm Shack Quilt Shop
199 S Oregon
Ontario, Oregon
541 889-3085

Project Linus Plans 10th Anniversary Event at Karcher Mall

Our chapter is 10 years old and we're going to celebrate with a National Make a Blanket Day and Chapter 10th Anniversary Celebration in the Karcher Mall Main Lobby in Nampa.

Put February 16, 10 am - 6 pm, on your calendar and help us celebrate! Everyone is invited - bring your friends, your kids, your grandkids, your neighbors!

We will fringe fleece blankets, color fabric squares (kids young and old like to do this!) sew quilt blocks & quilt tops and tie quilts.

Blanket Challenge - Cats and Dogs, Blue or Purple! We're having a Blanket Challenge. Make a quilt that features dogs or cats (or both), make an afghan with predominantly blue or purple yarn. Deadline for entering your blanket is February 9. You can bring it to the Celebration, but we need to know how many we will need display space for. If you're planning to enter a blanket in the challenge, please let me know as soon as possible - I need to have an idea how many blankets will be entered. Prizes will be awarded including a People's Choice Award. The

People's Choice Award will be a fund raiser for our chapter. Enter your blanket and then get all your friends to come vote (\$1 for one vote, \$5 for six votes) for your quilt. The money will be used to buy blanket making supplies, the blankets will be given to kids who need a warm blanket hug.

You can bring your own sewing machine if you want to help sew quilt blocks, quilt tops, or sew on labels. However, Robinson's Sewing Centers will be providing four of their new Viking Sapphire Sewing Machines for our use. Come try out the new machines!

Volunteers will be needed to oversee some of the event areas - including fringing fleece blankets, coloring fabric squares, sewing blocks and tops, tying quilts, keeping track of finished blankets and selling tickets for challenge votes. Stay all day or just for an hour or two - we can use your help!

We will also need help setting up at the Mall the morning of our Celebration.

If you can help, please give me a call at 250-2119.



10th Anniversary Celebration

**Karcher Mall
Main Lobby**

**February 16, 2008
10 am - 6 pm**

**Public
Invited!**

**Help Make
Blankets for
the Kids**



Subscribe to "The Blanket Beacon" - Our Chapter Could Win \$500

"The Blanket Beacon" is the title of the first newsletter produced by our Project Linus national headquarters. Read the first issue by going to www.projectlinus.org then click on the Blanket Beacon graphic. The newsletter has great information including patterns, information about the Skip Stitch blades, and letters from blanket recipients and parents.

Sign up to get the newsletter through email and help our chapter win the contest! The Project Linus chapter that has the most volunteers subscribe to The Blanket Beacon will win \$500. Subscribe today and tell all your friends to subscribe, too! Please enter "Boise/SW Idaho" when asked for the chapter name in the sign up window.

Why we make blankets

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. Al's 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.

Caralee

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This is from an email received from Project Linus National Office . . .

This person did not say where they are located - if you have a blanketeer named "Anna" who made a Dora the Explorer blanket for a special child - this thank you is for her!

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 slept 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 24 hours, 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

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On behalf of St. Al's Behavioral Health Center, I wanted to thank you so much for the last delivery of blankets.

The children are always so amazed that someone made a blanket especially for them. They can't believe that they get to take them home for their very own.

Please convey to all the ladies (and men?) that put so much care and effort into this labor of love, many thanks.

**Karen D, R.N.
Behavioral Health - St. Al's**

Note: We have received some really cute thank you cards from the children at St. Al's Behavioral Health Center.

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I would like to Thank You and all of your volunteers, you have a very special place in my and my family's hearts. My 1 year. old daughter, Jade, received one of your very special blankets. She was scheduled for a procedure at a Legacy Children's hospital in Portland, OR. Well, something went awry in the prep for the procedure and she became very ill. My husband and I live 2 hours from the hospital the procedure was scheduled at and we have 2 older children. When we were told by Jade's specialist to rush her to the hospital, we didn't

hesitate. By the time we arrived she was in intense pain and inconsolable. My husband left with the older children to find accommodations for them. The nurses and doctors did their best for my daughter but there was only so much they could do. During this time I realized that I had forgotten to bring any of my daughter's blankets with us. I had her special Hippo (which she kept throwing at me) but no blankets to wrap her in and snuggle. I asked the nurse if there was anything I could use to keep her warm (for some reason all hospitals seem to like to keep their patients chilled) and the nurse brought back this amazingly bright, beautiful and soft blanket, with a very touching tag on it. Jade immediately loved that blanket. She snuggled with it all night. All through that hard hospital stay and the procedure that followed, when nothing else would comfort her that cheery, soft blanket would. She has recovered quickly and is doing much better now. She still sleeps with her special Project Linus blanket every day, and on days when she still feels ill, that special blanket is there to comfort her. Your love has reached out and touched my daughter deeply and even from a distance she feels that caring every day. That blanket also reminds my husband and I that even though you don't know us, there is still kindness and caring for others in the world. I never thought that a blanket could change so many lives, but it has. Thank you so much.

With love,
Todd, Amy, Tiyler, Wulf and especially Jade

Continued on back page - be sure to read the Why we Make Blankets on the back page



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 a security blanket. About 60% of children in the United States have at least some attachment to a security object."

A Wikipedia entry about "security blankets"

Goodsearch.com - Earn Money for Project Linus

Use goodsearch.com for your internet search engine and you will automatically earn money for Project Linus! Just go to www.goodsearch.com and in the box under "Who do you Goodsearch for?" key in "Project Linus National Headquarters". Click on the "Verify" button, then start searching . . . that's all you need to do.

If all the volunteers in the Boise/SW Idaho/E Oregon chapter used Goodsearch twice a day, we could earn over \$2000 a year for Project Linus. This is a very painless way to donate!

If you purchase items on the internet, please check out the "Who Do You Good Shop for" on the GoodSearch website. This is another way you can help earn money for Project Linus.

If you have questions, give me a call.

"When your talent intersects with a human need, you have found your purpose in life."
Herman Cain

Blanket Guidelines

Blanket Sizes

Baby: 30" x 30" - 36"
(please use soft baby yarn for baby afghans)
Child: 40" x 55" - 60"
Teen: 45" x 65" - 72"

These are approximate sizes. Kids AND blankets come in all sizes. We donate to all ages—infants through teens.

- ♥ Make blankets from NEW, CLEAN, WASHABLE materials in infant, child or teen friendly colors.
- ♥ Make blankets from cotton fabric, flannel, polar fleece, cotton or acrylic yarn. Rug yarn does not make a snuggly blanket!
- ♥ Check and double check your blanket carefully for straight pins.
- ♥ Please do not attach buttons or other embellishments that a child can swallow.
- ♥ Blankets that smell of smoke, chemical smells (e.g., detergent, dryer sheets), mold or mildew cannot be accepted. Hospitals will most likely discard these blankets rather than jeopardize the health of a patient. Recent studies have shown that laundering these blankets does not remove the contamination and in some cases can make it worse.
- ♥ Please do not make blankets out of tapestry, burlap, felt, upholstery fabric, double knit, wool, or wool yarn.
- ♥ Be Creative! Remember these blankets are meant to be colorful, cheerful, and cuddly - a child will be comforted by the blanket you make.

Blanket Making Tips

The following suggestions are offered to help you make beautiful, sturdy, long-lasting blankets that a child will appreciate for a long time.

- ♥ Quilts should be tied or quilted no further apart than 4" unless the batting is needle-punched into a scrim (e.g. Warm & Natural batting) - approximately the width of your fist. Batting will disintegrate if tied or quilted any further apart.
- ♥ Be sure that the batting will be secured by the binding.

♥ Don't cut fringe on polar fleece blankets any longer than 2" - 3" long. Long fringe tangles in medical instruments and tubes. Long fringe doesn't leave as much blanket for snuggling.

♥ Weave ends of yarn into the afghan. You don't want that afghan unraveling while a child is snuggling with it!

Wish List

Volunteers . . .

- ♥ Individuals
- ♥ Youth & church groups
- ♥ Quilt or sewing guilds
- ♥ Civic organizations & businesses

Blankets . . .

♥ Quilted, tied, crocheted, knitted, or made from polar fleece.

Blanket Supplies . . .

- ♥ Washable cotton fabric, flannel or polar fleece
- ♥ Low-loft batting
- ♥ Acrylic yarn

Other Donations . . .

- ♥ Gift certificates from fabric stores, quilt shops, or office supply stores.
- ♥ Cash donations—many of our volunteers have the time to make blankets, but don't have the resources. Your donations will enable those volunteers to make blankets.
- ♥ Cash donations are also welcomed for chapter expenses—blanket labels, postage stamps, copying, printer ink cartridges, etc.
- ♥ Project Linus is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. A tax receipt will be provided upon request. Please consult your tax advisor to determine if your donation is tax deductible.

E-Mail Newsletters

If you received this newsletter in the mail and if you have a working e-mail address that you check fairly often, please send your e-mail address to donna@LinusIdaho.org - put Project Linus newsletter in the subject line, please.

If you don't have email, and could bring just 5 new first-class postage stamps to a Blanket Day, that would take care of mailing newsletters.



Puff Heart Square



Materials: F hook and 4-ply, worsted weight yarn--as much as you need, of course. You can make several squares out of one 3 1/2 oz. skein.

Size: square measures about 7" x 7" depending on your gauge.

Puff Stitch = YO, insert hook in sc, YO, pull loop through even with hook) 3 times, YO and draw through all 7 loops on hook.

Row 1: ch 26, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in ea ch across, ch 1, turn.

Row 2: sc in each sc across, ch 1, turn.

Row 3: 12 sc, puff, 12 sc, ch 1, turn. (1st puff row)

Row 4: repeat row 2

Row 5: 11 sc, puff, sc, puff, 11sc, ch 1, turn. (2nd puff row)

Row 6: repeat row 2

Row 7: 10 sc, puff, 3 sc, puff, 10sc, ch 1, turn. (3rd puff row)

Row 8: repeat row 2

Row 9: 9 sc, puff, 5 sc, puff, 9 sc, ch 1, turn. (4th puff row)

Row 10: repeat row 2

Row 11: 8 sc, puff, 7sc, puff, 8sc, ch 1, turn. (5th puff row)

Row 12: repeat row 2

Row 13: 7sc, puff, 9 sc, puff, 7 sc, ch 1, turn. (6th puff row)

Row 14: repeat row 2

Row 15: 6 sc, puff, 11 sc, puff, 6 sc, ch 1, turn. (7th puff row)

Row 16: repeat row 2

Row 17: 5 sc, puff, 13 sc, puff, 5 sc, ch 1, turn. (8th puff row)

Row 18: repeat row 2

Row 19-20: repeat rows 17 and 18 (9th puff row)

Row 21: 5 sc, puff, 6 sc, puff, 6sc, puff, 5 sc, ch 1, turn. (10th puff row)

Row 22: repeat row 2

Row 23: 5sc, puff, 5 sc, puff, 1 sc, puff, 5 sc, puff, 5 sc, ch 1, turn. (11th puff row)

Row 24: repeat row 2

Row 25: 6 sc, puff, 3 sc, puff, 3 sc, puff, 3 sc, puff, 6 sc, ch 1, turn. (12th puff row)

Row 26: repeat row 2

Row 27: 7 sc, puff, sc, puff, 5 sc, puff, sc, puff, 7 sc, ch 1, turn. (last puff row)

Row 28: repeat row 2

Row 29: sc in ea row down left side, (ch 1, sc) in corner, sc in ea ch across foundation row, (ch 1, sc) in corner, sc in ea row up right side, (ch 1, sc) in corner, sc across row 28, join with sl st in first st of row 29.

The reason for going across row 29 in the border is so that it will be a "right side" row and the piece will be 7". It takes 63 squares to make an afghan approx. 49" by 63". Heart squares can be alternated with squares of another pattern.



2008 Make A Blanket Days



Robinson's Sewing Centers

572 Caldwell Blvd, Nampa
208 466-7642
10 am - 3 pm
April 12

Robinsons Sewing Centers

116 East Main, Emmett
208 365-3866
January 19
March 29

Marilynn's Pickets & Patchwork, Nyssa

541 372-5336
10 am - 3 pm

(Order lunch at the Koffee Korner in the front corner of the store.)

March 14
May 9
July 11
September 12
November 14

Idaho Sewing & Vacuum

4500A Overland Rd, Boise
(Bring a Sack Lunch)
January 26
March 29
May 24
July 26
September 27
November 22

Charm Shack Quilt Shop

199 S Oregon St, Ontario, OR
541 889-3085
9 am - noon
3rd Wednesday every month



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world - indeed it's the only thing that ever has."
... Margaret Mead

Thank You! Thank You!

... to all the volunteers - individuals, church groups, school classes, Girl Scouts, quilt guilds - who make the blankets that help comfort a child in need.

... to the businesses and individuals who have contributed money and donated fabric and batting.

... to the quilt shops who allow us to have Blanket Days in their shops and serve as drop-off sites for donations.

We Love You All!



Why we make blankets . . . (continued)

Yesterday afternoon, I delivered blankets to a local hospital. The nurse who helped carry in the blankets said that she was supposed to tell me this story the next time I dropped off blankets.

A young boy was recently treated in the ER at that hospital. His parents were obviously NOT affluent. When the nurses gave the little boy one of our Project Linus blankets he cried because he was so happy that someone would give him a blanket.

It brought tears to my eyes to think a blanket that one of our volunteers made would mean that much to a sick or injured little boy.

We Need Help!

If you would like to help get fabric cut for Topsy Turvy blocks we can use your help.

We have bundled fabric into plastic bags with a label on the bag indicating whether the fabric needs to be cut into 6" squares or 3 1/2" strips.

The bags of fabric are in the back room at Robinson's Sewing Center in Nampa (in totes on the floor in front of fabric and blankets that are stored along the back wall).

If anyone that can help takes just a bag or two, we'll have the fabric all cut and ready to sew.

Thank you!

Project Linus 10th Anniversary Celebration and National Make a Blanket Day

Karcher Mall
Main Lobby

February 16 - 10 am - 6 pm

Public is Invited!

You Can Help Make Blankets
for Kids Who Need a Hug!

Tie a Quilt
Fringe a Fleece Blanket
Color a Fabric Square
Sew Quilt Blocks
or Quilt Tops

"The best kind of love under heaven above is under a blanket handmade with love."