

Volunteers
Are Very
Important People!

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Boise/Southwest Idaho Chapter

July 2007
Volume 8
Issue 2

12,173

Children
Have Received Blankets From
Project Linus
Boise/Southwest Idaho

Help Needed!

Our chapter received a donation of 200 yards of polar fleece. Please help us get all this polar fleece made into blankets! The drop off site said that the fleece was donated by a school, but didn't know which school. If you know who made this wonderful donation, please tell them Thank You!

Would someone like to volunteer to write Project Linus thank you cards to the wonderful people who donate to our chapter? I could really use help in that area. I will furnish you with the cards and postage stamps.

We have a lot of blankets that need to be tied. If you want to go by and pick some up to tie, they are all stored at Robinson's Sewing Center in Nampa.

Give me a call at 250-2119 if you can help.

***Volunteers Are
Wonderful People!***

***You have no idea how
much difference you make
in the life of a child by
volunteering to
make blankets!***

Donna Aten, Coordinator
21484 Case Lane, Wilder, ID 83676
208 250-2119
Website: www.LinusIdaho.org
Email: donna@LinusIdaho.org

PieceMakerS Quilt Show Idaho Woodworker's Show

Kuna High School
Saturday August 4 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday August 5 10 am - 4 pm

The PieceMakerS have invited Project Linus to their Quilt Show again this year and they are providing a much bigger space for our booth.

We will be sewing Topsy Turvy blocks. You don't have to be a quilter to sew these fun and easy blocks. These are the same quilt blocks we made at the BBQ Quilt Show last fall.

If you would like to help cut fabric for the quilt show, we can use:

- ♥ Kid or novelty prints cut into 6" squares.
- ♥ Solids, fabrics that read as solids, or small prints, in good quality kid friendly colors, cut into 3½" strips.

If you would like to sew for an hour or two and don't want to haul your sewing machine to the Quilt Show, Idaho Sewing and Vacuum will furnish our booth with a few sewing machines for volunteers to use. Anyone that plans to stay most of or all day should bring their own machine, if possible.

There will be many, many beautiful quilts to see and a Merchant Mall with lots of wonderful things to see & buy!

The Idaho Woodworker's Show will be at Kuna High at the same time as the Quilt Show. They will have art pieces to sell and demonstrations throughout the weekend.



Riley

Dear Project Linus:
Our son's name is Riley and he is 3 years old. He had a terrible accident about 3 weeks ago. He tripped and fell by the lawn mower and 3 of his toes were cut, one broken. It was horrible. My husband only turned away for a second to yell at the dog to stop chasing our son. A specialist was able to help Riley and one of his toes had to be pinned and he has to have a cast for a month. We spent the night in Mercy and Riley was so brave. They did emergency surgery that night. The next day one of the nurses gave Riley a blanket that you made and he loved it. He has used it ever since.

He wanted to send you a picture he colored and my husband, myself, and Riley wanted to say "Thank You" for what you ladies do. It is wonderful and selfless and you are helping so many children to smile and feel better. We really appreciate what you do.

God Bless You!
Riley and his parents



The best kind of sleep under
heaven above,
is under a blanket made with love.



Why We Make Blankets

Received by East Tennessee Project Linus Chapter:

I just couldn't go to bed tonight without saying to you how grateful that I am for your love and kindness. This has been one of the hardest days of our lives. I took my little 8 year old daughter to the children's center for a forensic interview. She was so brave and so strong. I cried as I sat in the other room while I worried about her being all alone. I was so proud of her for having the courage to tell these people about the things that had happened to her so that they can prevent this from happening to any other little child.

When she finished with her session a wonderful lady named Miss Sandy talked to her and gave her one of your blankets as a gift. She read her the poem and told her it would help make her feel safe and help the bad dreams stay away. The tears changed to a smile and she then asked for one for her little sister. This is the first night that she has slept in her own bed since she told her daddy and me about what was happening to her.

I realize that the light green blanket with puppies and kittens on it is not magical but it sure is a gift from God. I believe that not all angels have wings. Now I know that some of them just have the talent of sewing. Thank you for letting God use you and your talent to help heal broken hearts and to bring comfort to frightened little girls in their time of need. I don't know whose hands crafted this special blanket, but as I pray tonight I will lift you up to the Lord and I ask you to remember my little girl in your prayers. Thank you So Much and may God Bless You!

Sincerely,
The mother of a precious gift
on loan from God.

Received from another Project Linus chapter coordinator:

My friend delivered a Project Linus blanket to a lady who lost her son in an accident. The quilt was for the ladies' granddaughter. She wasn't home but called my friend soon after to thank her for the quilt and tell her of the response from her little 5 year old granddaughter.

It seems nothing had comforted or excited the child during or after the time following the accident. When she received the quilt (which was made of fabric containing sunflowers) she became excited when her grandmother told her it was a quilt to comfort her because of the loss of her dad. She said, "Oh, I can talk to my Daddy and give it a hug when I miss him." Grammy said, "Yes." Her granddaughter had lost a tooth recently and was sad because she couldn't tell her Daddy. She said, "I can tell my daddy blanket about my tooth."

The best part is that the little girl's favorite flower is the sunflower. My friend called me crying as she related the story to me.

What a great experience this was and it makes you keep on keeping on.

Thank you's received by our chapter:

At our Blanket Day in Nyssa last week a young mother came in to thank us for the blanket her 2 year old son received while he was in the hospital. They admitted her son thinking that he had pneumonia, but he was diagnosed with croup and they had to treat him with a breathing machine which he hated! She said he is a little cowboy and the blanket his nurse gave him had horses on the front and horses on the back. She said he just loves his blanket and she just wanted to let us know how much she and her son appreciate his blanket.

To whom this gives thanks;

In November our 11 month old daughter, Kaitlyn, was admitted to St. Al's hospital in Boise. She had Rotavirus and was so dehydrated that she needed an I.V. and we were told she would probably have to stay over night. This was very troubling to our family; first because we had never had one of our children admitted to the hospital and second, it was the night before Thanksgiving. We were all very upset and scared, especially Kaitlyn.

She must have felt like a pincushion with the nurses desperately trying to insert the I.V. Because her veins kept occluding they had to insert it three times; each time she had to be taken out of the room (they didn't want us associated with the trauma) and strapped down so they could do their work.

We could hear her crying from the next room, it ripped our hearts out. But when they finally had a successful I.V. she could rest.

Upon admitting her the nurses gave her a blanket, it was much larger than her, but to a child it didn't matter. It didn't look like the rest of her blankets; which were mostly pink and frilly. It was bright blue with yellow and orange and different states and many attractions were featured on it. It was made out of fleece with fringe all around it. It was comforting, more so than the teddy bear she was also given.

Kaitlyn is two now and very healthy and active. And everywhere that Kaitlyn goes so does her "blankie". At naptime and bedtime you will find her stroking her nose or one of her ears with the soft fringe on one of the corners, soothing herself to sleep. When we travel, so does the blanket.

Wash day is particularly hard for Kaitlyn, she doesn't care how dirty or stinky her blanket becomes, but please don't wash it - she can't bear to be separated from it.

We just wanted to thank all of you at Project Linus for making this special blanket and all the blankets, quilts, and afghans you make for children like Kaitlyn that make being at the hospital a little less frightening. Keep up the good work and know that what you do makes a difference!

Sincerely,
T.K., Kaitlyn's Mom



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!
- ♥ Crochet, knit, quilt, or tie your blankets.
- ♥ 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, 70s type double knit, vinyl, 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.

Holiday Blankets

In the past we have asked you not to make holiday blankets. However, we have been rethinking that policy and this is what we have decided to do about holiday blankets.

- ♥ Piece your blankets with every holiday fabric you can think of - Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween. These blankets can be given out any time of the year.
- ♥ Make holiday blankets, but don't donate them until about a month to 6 weeks before the holiday. That will give us time to get them delivered to the hospitals before the holiday and solve our storage problems.

Patriotic Blankets

We donate blankets to Operation Warm Heart at Mountain Home Air Force Base every year just before Christmas. All of the blankets don't have to be patriotic, but we would like for a lot of them to be patriotic. Please hold these patriotic blankets until November. You have no idea how much the First Sergeants (who run Operation Warm Heart) appreciate your generosity.

Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself.
It's what you do for others.
..... *Danny Thomas*

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.

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.

We ask for these extra steps because we're dealing with sick kids and their blankets have to be washed frequently.

- ♥ Quilts should be tied or quilted no further apart than 4" - that's just about the width of your fist. Batting packages read that batting should be quilted/tied at 4" intervals except for batting that has been needle punched into a scrim.
- ♥ Batting will disintegrate if tied/quilted further apart. (Ask me how I know! I learned this the hard way many years ago as a beginning quilter.)
- ♥ Trim backing and batting even with the top. Be sure that the batting will be secured by the binding.
- ♥ If the batting is pretty fluffy, it is sometimes easier to baste around the quilt 1/4" from the edge before applying binding.
- ♥ Stitch the binding to the back of the quilt - raw edges even with the edge of the quilt. Wrap to the front and zigzag or use a decorative stitch to stitch the binding down.
- ♥ Don't cut the fringe any longer than 2" - 3" long. Long fringe tangles in medical instruments and tubes. The longer the fringe, the less blanket there is for snuggling.
- ♥ Weave ends of yarn securely into the afghan. Ends that are cut very short & tied into a knot will ravel out because of all the laundering required.



Mindless Afghan

Foundation chain is length of afghan.

To change color: Bring new color through the last two loops of the sc at the end of the row.

Row 1(right side): With primary color, chain desired length, sk 2 ch (counts as 1 sc). Make 1 hdc and 1 dc in next ch, *sk 2 ch, sc, hdc, dc in next ch*.

Repeat from * to * across to within last 3 ch (if only 1 or 2 ch remain it will still work). Skip 2 ch, sc in last ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1 (counts as first sc), work hdc and dc in same stitch, *sk 2 st, sc, hdc, dc in next st*. Repeat from * to * across to within last 2 st. Skip 1 st, sc in next st, turn. (The pattern will be worked in the single crochet in the row below)

Repeat row 2 until afghan is desired size. Change colors as the creative spirit moves you! On final row do not turn, work border.

Border:

Working across side edge, work *sc, hdc, dc in same space*. Repeat from * to * in every other row. At corner work sc, hdc, 3 dc in same space. Working across chain edge *sk 2 ch, sc, hdc, dc in next ch*. Repeat from * to * across foundation chain, work corner. Repeat from * to * along other edge, work corner, fasten off.

This pattern is reversible and can be made in any size depending on weight of yarn, the number of stitches in foundation chain and the size of hook used.



Project Linus Trivia

Project Linus was born on December 24, 1995.

Project Linus has donated 2,090,392 blankets as of June 23, 2007. If 60% of them are fabric, that translates into 3,762,7067 yards of fabric. If 40% are afghans, that is about 6,689,248 skeins of yarn.

If each blanket is an average of 60" long, and we laid them end to end, they would stretch 10,451,960 feet or 1,987 miles or we could completely cover 871 football fields with blankets.

As of June 23, 2007, Project Linus has 406 chapters in the United States. There are chapters in all 50 states.

Project Linus has affiliate organizations in Canada and United Kingdom.

It is estimated that there are 40,000 Project Linus volunteers in the United States. Estimated number of volunteers that make blankets for our Boise/SW Idaho chapter: 500 - 600.



Kathy's Afghans

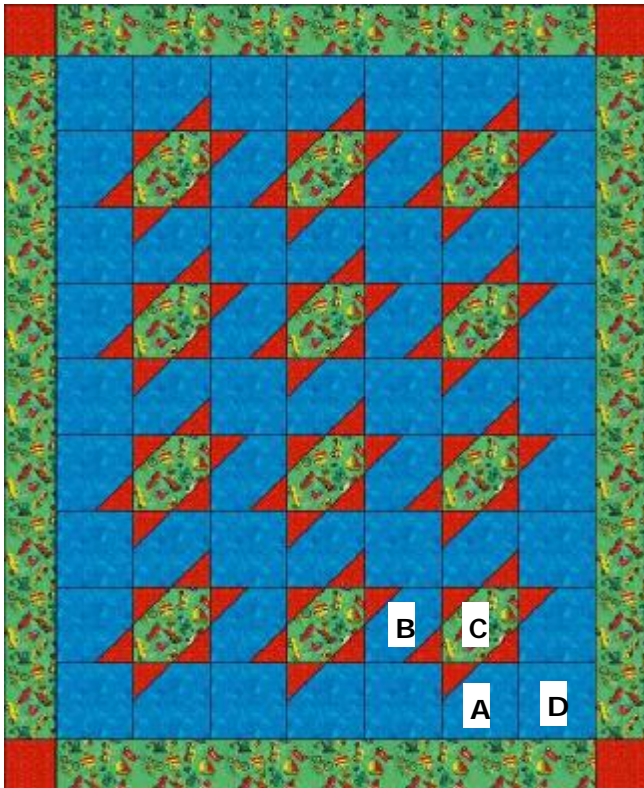
Kathy Allison crochets these wonderful afghans for Project Linus to give to kids who need a hug. Since most of you never get to see her afghans I decided to include pictures of her latest two. What child wouldn't love to get one of these afghans?

She has made approximately 50 afghans - all of them have been donated to the CARES unit at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.

She got the idea for these afghans from the Bearghan website on the internet. After crocheting a couple bears, she decided she was bored with bears and she was off and running. Here's the website for the Bearghans: <http://www.geocities.com/cdjsimon/bearghan.htm>

Linus Stars Quilt

42" x 54" without border
50" x 62" with 4" borders
Blocks - 6" finished



General Directions for making star point blocks (A, B, & C):

Cut a 6½" square from background or star centers fabric.
Cut a 3½" square from star points fabric.



1. Draw line from corner to corner on wrong side of red square.

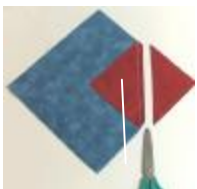


2. Right sides together, place red square on blue square matching corners.

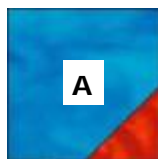


3. Stitch blocks together, stitching on the diagonal line.

Quick Tip: For Step 1 - Fold star corner block diagonally and use your iron to press a light crease in the fabric instead of drawing the stitching line.



4. Cut off corner ¼" out from stitched line.



5. Turn corner up and finger press seam.



6. Repeat on opposite corner for blocks B & C.

Fabric Requirements

Blocks:

- 1¾ yards for background
- ½ yard print for star centers (*see note below*)
- ¾ yard bright or light for star points

Borders (if desired):

- ¾ yard of desired fabric for borders plus four (4) 4½" squares for corners.

Backing:

- 3 yards

Note: This quilt can be a planned three color quilt as shown, or make it scrappy using different fabrics in the C (star centers) blocks.

You have read the General Directions, haven't you?

OK, let's make a quilt!



Make 14 blocks



Make 17 blocks



Make 12 blocks



Make 20 blocks

Cut strips the width of your fabric.

Cut fabric as follows:

- **Background** - cut nine (9) 6½" strips; cut strips into fifty-one (51) 6½" squares. Set aside 20 for D blocks.
- **Star centers** - cut two (2) 6½" strips; cut strips into twelve (12) 6½" squares.
- **Star points** - cut seven (7) 3½" strips; cut strips into seventy-two (72) 3½" squares.

Make blocks following General Directions:

Using background fabric & star points fabric:

- Make fourteen (14) A blocks.
- Make seventeen (17) B blocks.

Using star centers fabric & star points fabric:

- Make twelve (12) C blocks.

Quick Tip: Chain piece the blocks in each step. Don't clip thread or remove block from machine; without lifting the pressure foot slip the next block under the foot and continue to sew until you have stitched all the A blocks, all the B blocks, etc.

Lay out blocks as shown in picture - watch carefully where the star points go. Sew blocks together.

Add borders, if desired.

- You will need five (5) 4½" strips to make the borders and four (4) 4½" blocks for the corners.

Layer backing, batting, top - quilt as desired.

Bind quilt with fabric of your choice.

Your quilt is finished - ready for a child who needs a hug!

Make A Blanket Days

All Make a Blanket Days
Are from
10 am - 3 pm

Robinson's Sewing Centers
572 Caldwell Blvd, Nampa
October 6, 2007
December 1, 2007

Robinsons Sewing Centers
116 East Main, Emmett
September 29, 2007

Marilynn's Pickets & Patchwork,
Nyssa
(Order lunch at the Koffee Korner in
the front corner of Marilyn's)
September 14, 2007
November 9, 2007

Idaho Sewing & Vacuum
4500A Overland Rd, Boise
(Bring a Sack Lunch)
September 29, 2007

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

PieceMakerS Quilt Show Idaho Woodworker's Show

Kuna High School
Saturday August 4 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday August 5 10 am - 4 pm

Quilt Show

There will be many beautiful
quilts to view,
demonstrations, and a
Merchant Mall with
wonderful things to
see and buy.

Woodworker's Show

There will be demonstrations
all weekend, displays of skill
and art in wood, and
art pieces to buy.



21484 Case Lane
Wilder, ID 83676