

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Southwest Idaho Project Linus Newsletter

August 2000

Welcome to the first issue of the Southwest Idaho Project Linus Newsletter. I won't say first annual, first quarterly, or first monthly since I'm not sure how often this newsletter will happen!

The Southwest Idaho Project Linus chapter was established in February 1998 and since that time we have delivered 615 blankets to at-risk, abused, ill or injured children who need the comfort and security of their own blanket.

Our chapter was started because members of the Viking Clubs at Robinson's Sewing Center were looking for a way to use their sewing talents to serve our community. When we heard about Project Linus our search was over!

To all of you wonderful volunteers who have made blankets, donated fabric, batting and yarn - and, most of all, donated your time to help make blankets for the kids - -

Thank You! Thank You!
Donna

Christmas Eve, 1995 - Karen Loucks, Founder of Project Linus read about a little girl undergoing chemotherapy who said how much her blanket helped her get through the treatments. Karen had just learned to crochet and decided to make blankets for kids at Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's

Cancer Center. Now, 4 1/2 years later, there are over 350 chapters in 6 countries and over 200,000 blankets have been delivered to children who need a hug.

Karen is proof that just one person with just a single idea can make a difference in this world.

Project Linus was named after the adorable security blanket toting character from the Peanuts comic strip. Creator Charles M. Schulz knew of our efforts and was delighted to have Linus inspire blanket makers to help comfort children in need.

Schulz, 77, died on February 12, 2000. His farewell comic strip became an epitaph for both a comic strip and its creator.

His wildly popular Peanuts comic strip made its debut on October 2, 1950. This comic strip ran in more than 2,600 newspapers, reaching millions of readers in 75 countries.

Eighteen blankets from the Denver Project Linus chapter were presented to the Schulz grandchildren before their grandfather's funeral.

"Of all the things in the strip, I think that I am most proud of Linus' security blanket. I may not have invented the term, but I like to think I made it a part of our language."

- Charles Schulz

Mark your calendars for August 19, October 28 & December 2. Our next Blanket Days will be at Robinson's Sewing Center, 572 Caldwell Blvd., Nampa, Idaho on those dates from 10 am - 3 pm. We welcome anyone who wants to help make blankets for the kids. You don't have to be able to sew! So bring a friend and come on down! We'll have pizza and lots of fun!

Robinson's Sewing Center is a wonderful supporter of Project Linus. They let us use their store as a drop-off point for donations, for Make A Blanket Days, and they answer the many phone calls about Project Linus. Thank you to Doris, my co-coordinator and to Gary for carrying in and out innumerable boxes & bags of fabric and blankets!

Also, thank you to Marilyn's Pickets and Patchwork, Nyssa, Oregon, who also schedule Make A Blanket Days at their store.

Quote from Health & Welfare caseworker, "When we give a Project Linus blanket to a little child, they grab that blanket, wrap themselves up in it, and they won't let it go!"

Volunteers come in all sizes and all ages. At a recent Blanket Day, a 93-year-old lady and a 9-year-old girl worked all day!

The best kind of sleep beneath heaven above is under a blanket handmade with love!

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Project Linus

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Providing Security
. . . . Through Blankets

Project Linus chapters helping other Project Linus chapters! Our chapter just sent ten blankets to Minnesota for kids who lost their homes because of devastating tornadoes. The coordinator was told by rescue workers that 250 - 300 blankets would not be too many. Fifty homes were completely destroyed and many more cannot be lived in until extensive repair work is completed. In May we sent ten blankets to Albuquerque for kids who lost their homes due to the terrible fires in Los Alamos. Four hundred and fifty blankets from all over the United States were sent to the New Mexico chapter for the kids.



Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Project Linus:

- ♥ Blankets can be quilted, sewn, crocheted or knitted.
- ♥ Sizes from 20" x 20" to 45" x 60" - however, there is a greater need for the larger sizes.
- ♥ Blankets must be new, homemade, washable & durable.
- ♥ Donations of cotton fabric, low-loft batting and acrylic yarn are greatly appreciated.
- ♥ Blankets may be dropped off at Robinson's Sewing Centers, Nampa or Emmett. Call me if you need donations picked up.
- ♥ Cash donations are appreciated to help buy blanket supplies and help cover chapter administrative expenses (paper, postage stamps, copying charges).

Make A Blanket Days
August 19 - October 28
December 2
~ 10 am - 3 pm ~
Robinson's Sewing Center
572 Caldwell Blvd ~ Nampa, Idaho
466-7642

The Southwest Idaho Project Linus chapter has donated blankets to the following places:

- ♥ St. Luke's Hospital, MSTI, & St. Al's in Boise
- ♥ Mercy Medical Center, Nampa
- ♥ West Valley Medical Center, Caldwell
- ♥ Walter Knox Memorial Hospital, Emmett
- ♥ Holy Rosary Hospital, Ontario, Oregon
- ♥ Health & Welfare, Caldwell office
- ♥ Valley Crisis Center, Nampa
- ♥ Various police departments
- ♥ Royal Family Kids Camp & Camp Rainbow Gold



Do you know of a facility or center where children could benefit from a security blanket? If so, please contact us.



Volunteers are
Very Important People!



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Thank you, Pete & Alice!*