



Project Linus News

Boise/Southwest Idaho Chapter

February 2004
Volume 5, Issue 1

**Blankets
Delivered
4,245**

Important Dates

- February 20, 2004**
Project Linus Work Day
Snake River Quilters
Senior Citizen Center
9:30 am - 3 pm
Homedale
- February 21, 2004**
Make A Blanket Day
10 am - 3 pm
Robinson's Sewing Center
Nampa
- March 12, 2004**
Make A Blanket Day
10:30 am - 2:30 pm
Marilynn's Pickets &
Patchwork, Nyssa
&
Blanket Day
Bishop Kelly High School
- April 24, 2004**
Make A Blanket Day
10 am - 3 pm
Robinson's Sewing Center
Nampa
- May 14, 2004**
Make A Blanket Day
10: 30 am - 2:30 pm
Marilynn's Pickets &
Patchwork, Nyssa

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

Make A Blanket Day - February 21, 2004

Come join us for our annual National Make A Blanket Day and our Chapter 's 6th Anniversary Celebration on February 21, from 10 am - 3 pm, at Robinson's Sewing Center, 572 Caldwell Blvd., Nampa, Idaho.

Bring your favorite finger food or appetizer; soft drinks and water will be furnished.

We will have door prizes and other surprises, so come join the fun.

We will be working on blankets for the kids, but if you just want to drop by to see what we're doing, eat some good food, and visit with other volunteers, you are welcome.

Chapter Chatter

We're Pretty Proud!

Our chapter has much to be proud of! In six years we've gone from 91 blankets delivered in 1998 to 1,446 blankets delivered in 2003. Only 99 of the 4,245 blankets delivered by our chapter have gone out of Idaho.

These blankets were delivered only because of our many wonderful volunteers who range from 9 years old to great grandmothers; church groups, youth groups, civic groups and hundreds of individuals all help make blankets for kids who need a hug.

Nationwide, there are over 300 Project Linus chapters with more than 800,000 blankets delivered worldwide.

Quilt Show a Big Success
We had a booth at the Boise Basin Quilters Quilt Show last September and ended the show with 1,127 quilt blocks completed. Many, many people volunteered to work at our booth - several worked all day both days. We really appreciate you.

We have been invited back to the Quilt Show again this fall. Anyone who volunteers in the Project Linus booth can see the quilt show free of charge.

Blanket Sizes Revisited

Last newsletter I mentioned how much we need bigger size blankets - at least 45" x 60". However, after talking to a NICU nurse, we have found that we also need many, many premie sized blankets - either 36"x 36" or 45" x 45". They send home approximately 50 to 75 babies every month and we would like for as many of those babies as possible to have their very own Project Linus blanket to take home with them.

She told us that the parents and the nurses love the Project Linus blankets - they warm the sterile hospital environment and make it look a little more like home. Six percent of the live births at this hospital are in the NICU for varying lengths of time. That's a lot of babies that need quilts!

That doesn't mean we don't still need the larger blankets - we need all sizes since we donate to kids from newborn to the age of 19.

Kids Making Blankets for Kids

The Silver Sage Girl Scout Council, which covers all of southern Idaho, selected Project Linus again this past fall as their service project. So far, I

have picked up 128 completed blankets from the Girl Scouts with more still to come. Girls from one of the Caldwell troops have started coming to our Blanket Days and say they think it's lots of fun!

Volunteers Needed

Project Linus will be spending the day at Bishop Kelly High School on March 12 for an all day Blanket Day. If anyone would like to come help work with the kids, give me a call.

This is the same day as the regularly scheduled Make A Blanket Day at Nyssa, so we'll have two Blanket Days that day!

Postage and E-mail Addresses

I'm trying to send as many newsletters as possible by e-mail to save the cost of postage. If I don't have your e-mail address, please send it to me at: LinusSWIdaho@citlink.net

If each of you could bring just 5 new first-class stamps to blanket days, that would take care of mailing newsletters.



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

Donna Aten, Coordinator
21484 Case Lane
Wilder, ID 83676
208 250-2119 208 482-7772

E-mail:
LinusSWI daho@citlink.net

Website:
<http://donnakwilts.tripod.com>

Chapter Established:
February 1998

Chapter Chatter, cont. **Blanket Buzz**

Project Linus Work Day at Homedale

The Snake River Quilters Quilt Guild will hold a Double Sandwich Day on February 20th from 9:30 am - 3 pm! They are going to sandwich a bunch of quilts for Project Linus.

The Double Sandwich Day will be at the Senior Citizen's Center in Homedale. If you would like to help, bring a sack lunch (or a sandwich) and come help sandwich quilts!

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From another chapter: While delivering blankets, I met a woman who told me this story: When she was visiting her mother in the hospital, her nephew came in carrying his Project Linus blanket. "Here Grandma, you can use my Linus blanket. You need it more than I do right now". Then he put the blanket on the bed beside her.

This message was posted to an internet quilter's newsgroup that I like to visit . . .

We Were Linused!

Poor baby Ryan had to go to Seattle Children's Hospital today to get some lab work done for his upcoming appointment with the "specialist."

He had a really tough time in the lab. They were doing some special test that I had to schedule in advance and they wanted a *lot* of blood. My poor little man is only 6 months old and it seems he's inherited his mother's hiding veins. They poked him in one arm, one wrist and one ankle. They

were looking at his little head and I suggested a break. Luckily they decided they could use what they had and just had to poke his little finger to do the CBC.

Afterwards, I was sitting in a vacant waiting area trying to settle my baby down and a nice volunteer lady came by and handed us a blanket. I told her he wasn't an inpatient and besides, I'm a quilter. She pointed out that he's upset, doesn't have a blankie with him and that's what the blankets are for. So I took it. It's a big, fleece panel with the satiny blanket binding sewn all around. Ryan grabbed it and rubbed it against his face a few times, then went to sleep. He hasn't let it go since we got home. Ryan's alternating between rubbing the fleece against his face and chewing on the binding.

So, for all of you who are involved with Project Linus, **THANK YOU**. Your efforts really do make a difference. The blanket I got doesn't look like it took much time or effort

(unless you're like me and have trouble with satiny blanket binding), but it's just as comforting as if it had taken months.

So for anyone who's considered helping out with Project Linus, but didn't think you could sew well enough, do it anyway!

Recently I picked up a hamburger at a fast food drive through. The lady at the window saw the Project Linus sign on my mini-van and told me that her daughter, who has a heart condition, received a Project Linus blanket while in the hospital. Her daughter loves her blanket and carries it with her everywhere. She said to thank all the wonderful volunteers who make blankets for the kids.

Thank You
to
Bar Diamond, Inc.
Parma, Idaho
for donating the use of
their copy machine for
this newsletter.

Volunteers Are Very Important People!
