

Project Linus News

Boise/Southwest Idaho Chapter

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
August 2004
Volume 5, Issue 2

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

5,017

Children
Have Received
Blankets from
Project Linus
Boise/Southwest Idaho

♥ ♥ ♥

Important Dates

Sept 10, 2004

Make A Blanket Day
Marilynn's Pickets &
Patchwork, Nyssa
10 am - 2:30 pm

Sept 16, 2004

Make A Blanket Day
(Tiny Baby Sets)
Country Quilter
1002 Vista Ave, Boise
(located in Vista Village)
10 am - 3 pm

Oct 2 & 3, 2004

Design A Block for Linus
Boise Basin Quilters
Quilt Show
Boise Centre on the Grove

October 23, 2004

Make A Blanket Day
Robinson's Sewing Center
572 Caldwell Blvd, Nampa
10 am - 3 pm

November 12, 2004

Make A Blanket Day
Marilynn's Pickets &
Patchwork, Nyssa
10 am - 2:30 pm

December 4, 2004

Make A Blanket Day
Robinson's Sewing Center
572 Caldwell Blvd, Nampa
10 am - 3 pm



At the annual Project Linus conference held in Bloomington, Illinois, in June, Carol Babbitt, Project Linus President, announced that we have donated one million blankets. Left to right in the above picture: Kirk Babbitt (Facilitator), Carol Babbitt (President), Mary Balagna (Vice-president), Terry Balagna (Secretary), Karen Loucks (Project Linus founder), and Betsy Elliott (National office volunteer)

Crime Prevention Fair & Kuna Quilt Show

Project Linus attended both of those events with wonderful success. At the Nampa Crime Prevention Fair in July, almost 200 muslin squares were colored by kids (and adults). Submarines, John Deere tractors, butterflies, frogs - you name it we probably have a picture of it!

We had some really busy volunteers at the Kuna Quilt Show - they sewed together seventy-two quilt tops (yes, that's right - 72!) during the two day show.

All these squares and quilt tops need to be made into quilts. If you can help at any of the scheduled work days, we would love to have you. Give me a call if you need more information about the Blanket Days.

Or, if you would like to take some of the squares or quilt tops home with you to finish - just let me know.

To all the volunteers that made both of these events so successful - **Thank You!**



Boise Basin Quilters Quilt Show

Design a Block for Linus has been invited back to the Quilt Show again this year.

If you would like to use up some of your scraps, we will need many, many 3 1/2" squares. Last year we made over 1,000 nine-patch blocks - that's over 9,000 little squares!

We will need volunteers to help sew all those squares into nine-patch blocks. If you would like to help at the quilt show, give me a call.

The quilt show hours this year are from 10 am - 5 pm on October 2 and 3. I'll also need help with setup Friday afternoon, October 1. ♥

Postage and E-mail Addresses

I'm trying to send as many newsletters as possible by e-mail. If I don't have your e-mail address, please send it to me at Southwest.ID@projectlinus.org

If you could bring just 5 new first-class postage 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!

Project Linus Annual Conference

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Project Linus conference in Bloomington, Illinois, in June. The best part of the entire conference was seeing old friends and making many new ones. There were coordinators attending the conference from twenty-six states.

There were several mini-classes on Thursday, the first day of conference. I tried the crochet mini-class and discovered why I quit crocheting years ago - I'm a klutz! I did get 6 skeins of beautiful yarn for taking the class. That yarn has been given to one of our volunteers who will make a Linus blanket. If left up to me that blanket would never be made! I did better at the other mini-classes - picking up patterns and fabric for a windmill quilt, a paper pieced quilt & instructions for making greeting cards at the stamping booth.

Friday was meeting day with several interesting topics covered. See "Smells, Mildew and Smoke" on the next page for information about keeping our blankets safe for children.

Show 'n' Share was a highlight of the conference. Chapter coordinators brought blankets to share, ideas of what did and didn't work for their chapters, fund raising ideas, funny stories and sad stories; one coordinator even showed off the Linus tattoos on her ankles!

I bought fleece for a special price offered only to Project Linus coordinators at the conference - 35 yards of it! That will make quite a few blankets.

Saturday was fun day! We went to the annual National Quilter's Association Quilt Show which just happened to be in nearby Peoria, Illinois, this year. The quilts were beautiful and the vendor's booths full of wonderful things to buy!

I came home with lots and lots of information and ideas. ♥

Project Linus Trivia

Project Linus was born on **December 24, 1995**.

Project Linus has delivered **1,012,000** blankets as of **June 30, 2004**. If 60% of them are fabric, that translates to about **1,808,301** yard of fabric. If 40% are afghans, that is about 3,214,760 skeins of yarn.

Project Linus delivers an average of **695** blankets per day, **365** days per year. That means about **29** blankets are delivered every hour of the day, or about **1** every **2** minutes.

If each blanket is an average of **60"** long, and we laid them end to end, they would stretch **5,023,060** feet or **952** miles. They would go from Bloomington, Illinois, to Houston, Texas.

On average, we estimate a volunteer force of about **35,000** people in the United States.

If you do a search on Yahoo, you will find **20,600** references to Project Linus. ♥

Strippy Quilts

We made 72 quilt tops at the Kuna Quilt Show. The quilt tops just flew together because all we used for the quilt tops were strips of fabric cut 4 1/2" wide X the width of the fabric. Bright colors, contrasting colors, and novelty prints were used to make bright, cheerful quilt tops. We used 10 strips, 12 strips, or 15 strips for 3 different sizes of quilts.

It's a great way to use up those scraps of fabric that aren't big enough to make quilt blocks or backings. ♥

M.I.S.S. Foundation

Project Linus Boise/Southwest Idaho has joined forces with M.I.S.S. to ensure that even more children who need a hug receive a Project Linus blanket.

The M.I.S.S. Foundation is a nonprofit, international organization which provides immediate and ongoing support to grieving families, empowerment through community volunteerism opportunities, public policy and legislative education, and programs to reduce infant and toddler death through research and education.

Nancy Grayson, the local M.I.S.S. coordinator, delivers Project Linus blankets to funeral homes for children who have lost a sibling or young parent.

These are sad situations and we don't like to think about them, but they do happen, and we are pleased that Project Linus is able to provide comfort to these children.

Project Linus is making Tiny Baby Sets which are burial sets for preemies. If you would like more information about M.I.S.S. or the Tiny Baby Sets, please give Nancy, 853-8988, or me a call. ♥

Tiny Baby Sets Day at Country Quilter

Project Linus is planning a work day on September 16, 10 am - 3 pm, at the Country Quilter Quilt Shop on Vista Avenue in Boise to make Tiny Baby Sets. You will need to bring your sewing machine and regular sewing notions. There's a really nice deli next door to Country Quilter or you can brown bag it for your lunch.

If you have flannel and polar fleece scraps in soft colors, suitable for tiny babies, that you would like to donate - we could use them for the Baby Sets. The flannel needs to be cut 12" x 18" and the polar fleece needs to be cut in approximately 18" squares.

If you need information about the Tiny Baby Sets, please call me, 250-2119, or call Karen at Country Quilter, 424-3188. ♥

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

Smells, Mildew and Smoke

One of the subjects covered at Project Linus conference in June was about the problem of mildew and smoke in blankets.

We were told that even though the smoky smell may be gone after laundering, tobacco residue may still remain. Regular washing of blankets, fabric or yarn does not always remove the toxins, molds or spores that can cause adverse or allergic reactions.

Mildew/mold grows in moist, warm areas. So, washing blankets that have mold/mildew spores will not destroy the spores - they like a moist/warm environment.

For some people, a small amount of mold spores can create health problems. Those most susceptible to mold health problems are individuals with existing respiratory conditions. Infants and young children are at higher risk, as are children undergoing chemotherapy.

If unusually strong smells due to chemicals in detergents, fabric softeners, dryer sheets, or smoking products are apparent, most hospitals will discard the blanket rather than jeopardize the health of a patient.

Personally, one of the worst allergic reactions I've ever had was after opening a huge plastic bag full of donated fabric scraps (which we destroyed) that had evidently been stored for many years. If I had that kind of reaction - what kind of a reaction do you think a sick child would have from a blanket made from that fabric?

If you have had fabric or yarn stored that smells musty (which can indicate mold spores are present) or smoky, please don't donate it to Project Linus to make blankets for children.

We wouldn't think of donating a blanket with a pin sewn inside - we should be just as careful when a blanket has a smoky or musty smell which can also cause injury to a child. ♥

Thank you to:

The Hemophilia Foundation for the gift card from Joann's. We were able to buy 105 yards of batting with the card.

The Cremation Society for the money they gave M.I.S.S. to buy fleece for Project Linus baby blankets.

Summers and Alden-Waggoner Funeral Homes for donating the use of their copy machines to copy Project Linus brochures and flyers.

All the volunteers who have bought batting for Project Linus quilts.

The Kuna Piecemakers Quilt Guild & Kuna Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to the Kuna Quilt Show.

The Nampa Police Department for inviting us to the Crime Prevention Fair at Lakeview Park.

All the volunteers who have spent countless hours making quilts and afghans for the children in the Treasure Valley.

Anyone else that I forgot - **THANK YOU!!!!** ♥

The Orange Blanket

From Patty, Child Life Specialist, at St. Al's

A little three year old girl was admitted to St Al's who was inconsolable. She cried and cried and cried. Nothing her parents or the nurses would do calmed her down. She just kept crying and crying.

Finally, Patty, asked her what her favorite color was. Through her tears, she said, "oorraannggee." Patty went through all the Linus blankets in the hospital and luckily found an orange blanket. She took it back to the little girl and said "Here's a blanket for you. It's your favorite color." The little girl took her new orange blanket and calmed down immediately - they never had another minute's problem with her. ♥

Just shows you the power of our Linus blankets!

Thank You Cards Received

Hello All,
You continue to share your love, hard work, and support for us! Thank you - your blankets and quilts are amazing. We love you all!

Thank You!
All the NICU Staff at St. Luke's

My daughter was recently a patient at St. Alphonsus. While we were there, the nurses gave us one of the Project Linus quilts that you and your quilting group made. I wanted to write to you and say not only thank you, but also tell you how much my daughter loves her blanket. It has become the only blanket she will let me put on her crib, and she won't go to sleep at night unless she is curled up in it. Every night when I tuck her in I look at the Project Linus tag, and I thank God for you. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your kindness. As the years pass my little one will forget her hospital stay, but she will forever have the love of strangers to keep her warm.

Thank you again and may God Bless You!
Michelle

♥

Camps, Camps, and More Camps!

We now distribute Project Linus blankets to four different summer camps for kids:

Royal Family Kids Camp (for kids at-risk in foster care) - this is the sixth year we have provided blankets for this camp.

Camp Rainbow Gold (for kids diagnosed with cancer) - fourth year for this camp.

Camp Hodia (for kids who are diabetic) - third year for this camp.

HFI Summer Camp (for kids who have hemophilia) - first year for this camp.

A big thank you to LaVera Basey, who makes the special camp labels that are attached to all the camp blankets. ♥

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Boise/Southwest Idaho Chapter

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

E-mail:
Southwest.ID@projectlinus.org

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

Chapter Established:
February 1998

Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting™ Magazine

Subscribe to or renew Fons & Porter's *Love of Quilting™* magazine and help Project Linus at the same time. A one year subscription is \$20 - \$10 of that will go to our chapter.

It is a very nice quilting magazine with lots of good ideas and nice patterns.

You must subscribe through Boise/Southwest Idaho chapter for us to receive the \$10. Just send me a check for \$20 made out to Project Linus and you will be getting your magazine soon. Be sure and indicate whether this is a new or renewal subscription. ♥

Blanket Tips

Pins: When sewing or quilting blankets for Project Linus, use pins with colored heads that are a different color than the fabric. For example, if sewing on red fabric, use pins with blue or yellow heads on them. They will be more noticeable when it is time to remove them.

Don't use steel pins that do not have a colored head. They just disappear into the blankets. We find more steel pins left in blankets than we do any other kind.

Save those chopsticks! When turning an envelope-style quilt right side out, use a chopstick to push out the corners. It won't poke through or damage the fabric and helps to form a nice square corner. ♥

We're Going to the Library!

Project Linus will have displays at the Caldwell Public Library the entire month of September and at the Boise Public Library the entire month of January. Stop by and see us! ♥

Last Minute Announcement!

"Sandwich" A Quilt Afternoon
at
Cindy's Quilt Shop
220 S 7th
Caldwell, ID

1 - 4 pm

We will be sandwiching quilt tops made at the Kuna Quilt Show with batting and backing.

Hope to see you there!

Wish List

Volunteers . . .

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

Blankets . . .

- ♥ Quilted, tied, crocheted, or knitted
- ♥ Any pattern, kid friendly colors
- ♥ Sizes (approximate): 36" x 36", 40" x 60", 45" x 72"
- ♥ Must be new, clean, handmade, and washable

Blanket Supplies . . .

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

Other Donations . . .

- ♥ Gift certificates from fabric or quilt shops
- ♥ Cash donations for batting, postage stamps, paper, ink cartridges for printer, and other chapter expenses

Donations may be dropped off at:

Robinson's Sewing Center, Nampa
572 Caldwell Blvd
208 466-7642

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

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

Volunteers Are Very Important People!