



Project Linus

October 2008

We Gottcha Covered!

Phoenix/West Valley, AZ Chapter

First Annual Blanket Extravaganza!

Yes, we did it, we made blankets, played games and made more blankets for 12 full hours at our July Blanket Bee. Volunteers wrangled pledges and we found donations for a silent auction and we crocheted and sewed until our little fingers were blue.

We had a blast. There was never too much sitting with our cake walk for blanket kits, duck throw for prizes and just plain fun for all. We even



calmed down in the evening and watched a movie or two. Best of all, we made \$2200 for our chapter funds so lots of material and fleece has been purchased and used already.

We will be doing this again so think about what who you would like to ask to pledge. Introduce Project Linus to all your friends and family and let them have the opportunity to give to this wonderful organization.

October Blanket Bee Updates!

JOIN US AT THE FAIR!

Project Linus will be at the State Fair on October 25 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will be hosting an information table and having kids color squares for our "comic strip" quilts. If you would like to help we can order a ticket for parking and entrance into the fair. Just give me a call or send an e-mail. Kathy Atha: 602-402-5438 or katatat623@cox.net

OCTOBER BLANKET BEE

So.... we'll be at the fair but what about blankets?!? Eve Buck will be hosting a drop off for blankets at our regular site on October 25. No worries! Just come to the Blanket Bee as normal but don't plan for a big day. Eve will need some help with scanning and bagging blankets so whoever can volunteer, please do!

Total blankets delivered since March 2005: **8013**

Ways to help:

1. Make a blanket out of soft, washable fabric or soft acrylic yarn. It can be crocheted, knitted, quilted or sewn, any method is acceptable.

Suggested sizes:

Preemie: 20" x 25" to 30"

Baby: 25" x 30" to 30"

Child: 35" 40" to 45"

Teen: 40" x 60"

Large: 50" 70"

Please no holiday or religious fabrics.

2. Donate materials such as yarn, batting or fabric. Or donate gift cards to fabric and craft stores.*
3. Donate office supplies such as stamps, paper, or used printer ink cartridges. *
4. Monetary donations, if in the form of a check, can be made out to "Project Linus". *
5. Volunteer time to write thank you notes, sew on labels or make quilt kits.

* Project Linus is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided upon request.

Blanket Challenge

In June, Kathy issued a challenge to the blanketeers to create blankets from the donated yarn. The winner was selected at the August Blanket Bee and was Mary Riley.

Now Kathy has issued a new challenge. The due date is the January 2009 Blanket Bee and the challenge is to create blankets in white yarn only.

Let's see what wonderful white blankets are presented!



Waiting for your newsletter?

Not sure if you missed one or if you are up to date with what is going on with the Phoenix West Valley Chapter of Project Linus? Here's your answer:

Your local library will allow you to use their computers to get on-line and view the latest news from our chapter. You can even print the newsletters, new and old, or any patterns, directions or other information you want. You can sign up for a free e-mail address through Yahoo.com or Hotmail.com and check your e-mail anytime the library is open. Technicians are available and you don't need a lot of computer skills to learn how to use the Internet or e-mail. For those who don't have computers, this is a free, easy way to stay in touch, get information and learn new things. Of course you will not be restricted to our web site or e-mail addresses, search the web for free patterns, yarns and fabrics, guild information and websites from other PL chapters.

Website address: prjlinus-phxwestvalley.org

E-mail for Kathy Atha, chapter coordinator: katatat623@cox.net.

Retreat Thank You!

We would like to thank Mul Queen's Sewing Center for providing 3 sewing machines for the retreat, Quality Inn and Suites for providing our lunch room, Howard Sobelman and Charles Hauff for sponsoring our lunches and Steve and Reesa Ferreria for providing our entertainment. Without the generosity of all our donors and volunteers, this retreat could not have happened. Thank you to each and every person who made this event a success.



Jane Chapman's Conference Experience:

Conference. Wow! What can I say? Thank you to Kathy and Project Linus for giving me the opportunity to grow in my love for this wonderful organization. When I came to my first meeting (over two years ago), I was welcomed with open arms into a sisterhood of women (with a few men) with one goal in common—making blankets for children to give them warmth and comfort in their time of need. After I left that meeting, my heart and soul were filled with something it was missing for a very long time. Now attending my first conference, hopefully not my last, I was a little nervous but that was soon put to rest. I met so many wonderful women from all over the country who all have the same goal—blankets for children. Everyone was so nice, helpful, and full of information it was hard to leave. We laughed, cried, shared tips, techniques, ideas, and stories; you'd have thought we were all family. And we were. One nationwide family of dedicated people helping ease a child's fears, pain, or whatever the case may be. It's not about who has money, status, or anything like that. Which I was soulfully reminded, no matter what the cost of material to make a blanket, doesn't any child deserve it?

On Thursday, they have what's called the Expo. In a huge conference room there are about 25 booths set up which have some vendors but mostly volunteers teaching, crocheting, sewing six different type of blocks, and other techniques. There were lots of freebies and a cake walk with two very handsome fellas running it. They are the sons of Mary, who is on the board. There was a store, door prizes, tons of fun, and new ideas for the coordinators to bring back to their groups. I won an Edgery-Do to help with my fleece blankets. I was so Happy I was in tears.

We had wonderful food. Our banquet was a lot of fun. We heard from the Singing Quilter who's from Canada and has great songs that made us laugh and cry. She also had some beautiful quilts she had done. We heard from two men, one wrote a book called Help. I Married a Quilter who was funny and a great speaker. He stayed around after the banquet and helped with boxes that we were sending home. Our last speaker was very inspiring and funny. He has written a couple of books to help motivate us and children on the right thing to do.

I could go on and on. It was a great experience and I only pray the Lord will allow me to continue with this wonderful organization. He has filled my heart and soul with a desire to help warm the children.

Thanks again to Kathy for her leadership and friendship and all of my sisters (and brothers) in our common goal—covering any and all children with out blankets of love.

THANK YOU NOTES!

I never knew where the blanket came from but I think that today I figured it out. A close "on-line" friend of mine has a blog and a tag for Project Linus on the sidebar and I decided to check it out and I found all of you. My son Derek received a kidney transplant August 30, 2007. Since then he has been in and out of the hospital several times. During our last visit he was admitted to PCTICU at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center (that was the only room available and he has to have a private room because he is immune suppressed). During our "visit" in January he was given a blanket in black, white, and red (Cowboy/Bandana motif). Next to his "Grammy blanket" it is his FIRST RUNNER-UP. It really did bring him comfort at a time where he and I needed it most and it still does. Thank you so much for sharing your craft and providing comfort to children away from home and sometimes their families.

Destiny Rattner

On behalf of the children we serve, we wish to express a very special thank you for your recent blanket donation! We are so appreciative to have your continue, wonderful support.

It is truly through the generosity and kindness of people like you and organizations like Project Linus that we are able to continue our efforts of enhancing the lives of the infants, children, and young adults of Hacienda HealthCare and the Children's Angel Foundation.

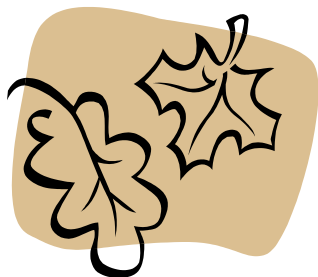
Thank you again for helping us, help the children! You are making a difference in the lives of many of Arizona's infants, children, and young adults.

Staci Glass

Thank you for your donation of 50 handmade blankets and quilts to Phoenix Children's Hospital. Hospitalization is never easy for anyone, but it is often especially difficult for children. Any assistance in helping us to make their stay as comfortable and pleasant as possible is always welcomed.

Your donation, therefore, is greatly appreciated, and we hope it gives you great personal satisfaction to know that you are helping to provide the gift of compassionate, high quality, family-centered health care to every child we serve.

Steven S. Schnall



Thank you for your recent donation to the Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Your generous gifts of baby blankets will be used to assist women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy or are in need of baby items. We appreciate your support of CPC by making these donations.

Holly

Hi My name is Cornell. Saturday evening we took our little daughter Kayla to Shore Memorial ER in Nassawadox, VA. Turns out it wasn't serious, strep throat. While we were in triage Layla, who was really frightened, was told by the nurse that she had a special surprise for her. She then unveiled these beautiful quilts which made Kay feel more like she was on a shopping spree than in an ER. After much deliberation, she chose a beautiful quilt made by Mrs. Pat Rebman of Eden MD. To Mrs. Rebman and the Project Linus organization we say Thank You. We can see already that this beautiful quilt will become as vital to our medicine cabinet as the Children's Tylenol. Thanks again, there's no way we could let this kind deed go unnoticed. We will make a donation to the organization.

Last night at the Shore Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, my granddaughter, 6 years old, was given a beautiful blue and green blanket and a blue toy lion. So, we would like to take this time to thank you and your Church. That blanket meant so much to her and me. Please keep up the good work. With God all things are possible.

Roxanne and Ya'naija

My name is Katrina. I am a 33 year old woman who, as a child, had 3 major surgeries at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California. I received a blanket from an organization such as yours on the day of my first surgery. I loved and treasured that blanket so much. It was the only thing in the hospital that was not sterile and that was mine, that no nurse had control over!

I have had several surgeries since then, two as a teen, and have always appreciated that blanket. I still have it today in my living room, in a basket. I have never been able to thank the person that made me this blanket, but I am grateful for it, and would like to encourage your organization by letting you know that these kids will cherish this blanket for the rest of their lives. Please share this with your beautiful blanket makers.

-Katrina

Behind the Seams: *National News*



Welcome to the third issue of our quarterly Project Linus National Newsletter -- The Blanket Beacon! Hopefully you know who we are and what we're all about -- but just in case, here's a brief description of our organization: Project Linus was born on Christmas Eve in 1995 and has grown by leaps and bounds since then. We attribute this to those who support our organization in so many ways. We have found that Project Linus is composed of people who are looking for a way to make a difference in the life of a child and Project Linus provides that way. Through the donations of new, handmade blankets and afghans, we are able to bring a little comfort, a little warmth and love to a child in need. We can't cure the disease, we can't mend families, and we can't undo the abuse. But we can help in the way of a warm hug when it is most desperately needed. In addition Project Linus provides a fun and rewarding service opportunity for members of the community -- as stated in the second portion of our mission statement. Without our dedicated "blanketeers" we would never be able to serve the two million children as we have.

At this time, Project Linus has over 400 chapters across the country with at least one chapter in each of our fifty United States. Our chapter coordinators not only make and collect handmade blankets from local volunteers, but they are continually identifying new recipients as well. Each chapter is always recruiting blanketeers in order to fill the ever-increasing need for security blankets within their chapter areas. Children ages infants through teens, in hospitals, shelters, treatment centers, and more are being comforted because of the tireless efforts of our organization. Trauma in the life of a child manifests itself in so many ways and Project Linus is there, ready to help.

Each quarter, our newsletter will have Project Linus news from our National Headquarters, patterns, coupons, special letters and thank you notes, blanket specifications, chapter ideas as well as ways you can help Project Linus through monetary donations.

Let's keep in touch! Warm blanket hugs from Project Linus National HQ

Squares, Squares, Squares!

So what do we do with all those squares? Thanks to Trish and Chris, they are being made into quilt kits with sashing, batting and backing. Pick up one or two at our blanket bee the last Saturday of the month.



This extra ordinary, designer quality T-shirt can be yours for only \$15.00. Just one more way to show your Project Linus Spirit! Contact Kathy Atha or pick one up at the Blanket Bee the last Saturday of any month

Welcome!

Welcome to our new facilities: Care Corner and the Police Departments of Peoria, Glendale and Surprise.

Welcome to our new drop off site: MulQueen's Singer Sewing Center at 59th Ave and Northern.

Welcome to all our new volunteers and supporters. You are our hearts and hands and we love you!



DO GOOD WITH GOODSEARCH.COM!

You could be earning money for Project Linus while searching the internet. Just go to goodsearch.com and type in Project Linus Headquarters on the line asking you what charity you want to benefit. Then search away. Yahoo will donate funds to our headquarters for every search done from that site. What a quick and easy way to benefit the organization you love.

Hugs and Stitches: National Conference Report

"County Fair" was the theme of the 10th annual Project Linus National Conference which was held June 18-21st, 2008 at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Conference is held each summer as an educational seminar, and is open only to Project Linus Chapter Coordinators. With approximately 200 attendees and volunteers, truly a good time was had by all! The four-day event began with a day of quilting classes on Wednesday, and a welcome reception Wednesday evening. During Thursday's Project Linus Expo attendees took classes and visited booths where they learned new blanketmaking techniques and patterns. Each will be taking a suitcase full of ideas home to share with their local volunteers. Friday and Saturday sessions offered chapter support and instruction to those in attendance. Mark Hyland, CEO of Handi Quilter and author of "Help! I Married a Quilter," was the keynote speaker for the Saturday Symposium. Author and motivational speaker, Kirk Weisler (www.kirkweisler.com) offered a presentation on Saturday evening. Chef J. Warren, Five-Star Executive Chef and bestselling author, tempted energetic stitchers who have worked up an appetite, with a cooking class on Friday afternoon and Cathy Miller, "The Singing Quilter," provided entertainment at the Friday dinner.

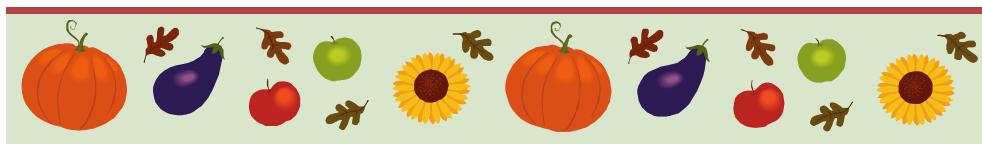
How do we adequately thank those who give and give, and ask for nothing in return? It's not possible to express our gratitude, but we can try. Our most heartfelt Thank You goes out to the following fine companies and individuals for their contributions of time, products and financial resources.

Vicky Hartley--Sewing Center: Thanks to Vicky (and her crew) for again coming to conference and sharing her expertise for our classes. Vicky has come to be an integral part of our conference and our attendees love participating in her classes. Hours of preparation, time away from the store, and enormous resources are quietly given to Project Linus from Vicky, Dave, and this fine company. We are forever grateful.

Dave Gillette -- Sewing Center: There aren't adequate words to thank Dave Gillette for his support of Project Linus and our national conference. Dave is responsible for providing all of the beautiful Brother Sewing Machines that we have the privilege of using at conference, in addition to donating the Grand Prize of a Brother SE270D. Dave never says no to Project Linus, if we ask, he finds a way to make it happen. Countless hours and dollars have been donated to make our conference and our organization a success. We are so fortunate to have his support.

Mark Hyland--Handi Quilter: Mark has donated thousands of dollars so far from the proceeds of his book "Help! I Married a Quilter" and has donated much in the way of time and money to make our conference special. Our hearts are full of gratitude for this new friend of Project Linus!

Meryl Ann Butler--90 Minute Quilts: A huge Thank You to Ms. Butler for taking the time from her schedule to come to conference and teach and share her talents with us. Meryl Ann was instrumental in getting thousands of dollars in fabrics and supplies donated for our conference.



Camp
Erika Sanchez

I went to camp. I didn't go to school that Friday and then Lori picked me and Carmen at twelve. Then we went to pick up Mary. After that we went to KFC to eat lunch.

When I went down stairs I went in the quilting room. In the quilting room there was bags with peoples' names on them. It had a cup, a flashlight, a packet of tissues, a nail file, some lotion and a packet of cookies. Also, the table I sat at had a lot of candy on it and I ate alot of it. Then I started to sew.

Then I went back to quilt. I wanted to finish a quilt. But I only finish the top that day. But, it was okay. Then I went to sloop around 1:30. The next day me and Carmen went down to eat breakfast. We ate egg, sausage and biscuit with gravy, and fruit.

When we got back to the hotel we went to eat. And when we went to the quilting room that had already broke the piñata and cut there cake. But I still got some cake. There was chocolate cake and carrot cake.

The next day we left, I still quilted a little before we let. And we ate lunch too. After lunch we popped balloons and there were coins in them that said an item on it and we got the item.



**Read the full commentaries of both girls and see more photos
on our website: www.prijlinus-phxwestvalley.org**

Camp
by Carmen Lopez

When I went to camp, the first thing we did was check out our room. our room was awesome, it had a mini refrigerator, 2 beds, a T.V., coffee maker, and a big bathroom. Then we went into our quilting/crochet room. When we went in, we got our own gift bag that Kathy had made for us. The gift bag had a name tag, lotion, tissue, water bottles, nail file, a pen, and a note book with a magnet. It was really cool. Then me and Erika found a table and sat down. On each table there was a bowl full of candy!

On Saturday morning, I watched some cartoons, then I ate breakfast I ate egg, sausage, biscuit with gravy, and watermelon. After that, I did the batting for all my blankets. If was fun and I got them done.

On Sunday, I woke up and showered. then I went to eat breakfast. I ate waffles and biscuit with gravy. It was good. Then, I packed up my clothes, and put my stuff in the truck. I went back into the room and started to crochet. I almost finished my crochet blanket, but not yet.

Camp was really fun. I hope next time I could go again. It was worth it paying \$55 for camp. I was happy because I got a lot done. I donated 3 blankets with lots of love. I'm hoping next camp I can donate at least 4 blankets. All in all, camp was exciting.

In the Presence of Greatness

During the day on September 27, 2008 Phoenix West Valley Project Linus held our regular monthly blanket bee. I was impressed, once again, of the love and caring in the room. Our members showed compassion and concern for the children we serve. People dropped off their blankets and talked about what fabric or yarn to take to make more blankets. I was once again impressed by their continual desire to make things better for children affected by crisis, illness, violence and natural disasters, one child at a time.

In the evening of September 27, 2008 Phoenix East Valley Project Linus Coordinator Judie Agee was honored for her dedication and efforts toward comforting children in crisis all over the Valley. She received the prestigious Hon Kachina Award. This is an award I have heard about since I was young and has been a symbol of healing and giving in Arizona since its inception in 1977. Judie was accompanied this year by 9 other honorees who have worked for social justice, desert preservation, disaster relief and comforting children. One honoree has coordinated over \$1 million in dental care for the Lost Boys of Sudan, another serves at the Veteran's Hospital and yet another teaches young students to express themselves clearly and gain confidence through public speaking. To make matters even more impressive, Project Linus Founder Karen Loucks Reindollar came to the event to stand with Judie and her husband, Steve, in Judie's time of honor.

I felt overwhelmed with the power of that day, the power of one individual to influence so many others and of the power of so many to make things better, one person at a time.

Kathy Atha, coordinator



Judie Agee, Hon Kachina Honoree



Me, Judie and Karen Loucks Reindollar
We felt like Princesses in fancy dresses!

In our continued effort to work on quality as well as quantity, I wrote this poem while fixing some crocheted blankets. I hope you enjoy it and remember when you are changing colors, weave, weave, weave!

At Wit's End Or When a Knot is Not Enough

*I'm at the end; I cannot go farther than I wanted to.
I'll tie a knot and change my color;
I'll crochet on then change another.*

*Happily I finish up; and leave an inch to weave.
So many colors, it looks so wild,
I know that it'll go to a saddened child.*

*No scents of food or dust or smoke
I'll put it in the wash to make it fresh and bright.
My goal is comfort, with this blanket made just right.*

*....
Oh No! My blanket has some fringe right where my colors end!
The knots are coming all undone,
This blanket can't be any fun!*

*I look at my books to see what's wrong,
Six inches I must leave,
My tails must be long.*

*A stitch I'll take to join the next,
My blankets will be the very best.*

*I'll work in my tails, not lay them flat,
I have a needle just for that!*

*Now I've learned a knot is not an end,
Tails are now my special friend.*

*Making blankets is such fun for me,
And now my blankets will last,
you'll see.*

Kathy Atha, September 2008

CALENDAR

Oct Blanket Bee	Sat, Oct 25	9:00a-4:00p	17621 N 25 th Ave
Oct Blanket Demo	Sat, Oct 25	10:00a-4:00p	AZ State Fairgrounds
Nov Blanket Bee	Sat, Nov 29	9:00a-4:00p	17621 N 25 th Ave
Jan Blanket Bee	Sat, Jan 31, 2009	9:00a-4:00p	17621 N 25 th Ave

Have something to say or share?

Please send articles and things of interest to share. If you want to have it in the next newsletter, please email it to:



newseditor@prjlinus-phxwestvalley.org

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