

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

**Montgomery/Bucks Counties, PA Chapter**  
**[www.projectlinusmontgomery-buckspa.org](http://www.projectlinusmontgomery-buckspa.org)**

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## March, 2009 Newsletter

On April 24, 2008 we delivered our 20,000<sup>th</sup> blanket. Here's the story behind that blanket. On April 1 I was invited to Lower Salford Elementary School to receive a quilt that had been made by Mrs. Champion's third grade class. Michelle Johnson, whose daughter was in that class, had each child make a square and then she put them together to make a beautiful quilt. I promised that I would see that that quilt was given to the Emergency Department at Central Montgomery Medical Center because that would be one of the hospitals which would address the needs of children living in Harleysville. I called the Director of Marketing at CMMC and she and the Chief Nurse Officer received the quilt. A picture of this quilt and the presentation can be viewed on our website.

By the end of March, 2009 our total blanket distribution is 24,457. Most of these blankets have been distributed to children in need in these facilities:

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
Shriners Hospital for Children  
Abington Hospital  
Visiting Nurses Association of Abington  
Jerusalem Community Food Pantry

Lankenau Hospital  
Pottstown Medical Center  
Laurel House  
Cribs for Kids  
Mercy Suburban Hospital  
Community Cupboard, Ambler

Other facilities to which we used to deliver no longer have pediatric or maternity services.

The fire at the Millenium Apartment Complex in Conshohocken in August was a devastating loss to many families. Through the Red Cross, the twenty children who were dislocated because of this fire were given blankets prepared by our chapter. How satisfying it was to be able to offer comfort in this way to the children who were impacted by this disaster.

Until now we have also reported delivering to children in the Lehigh Valley area. The agencies that we have helped include Lehigh Valley Hospital, Visiting Nurses Association of Lehigh Valley, and the Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Home. For several years Jean Larison, of Allentown, has been faithfully collecting and distributing blankets and has recently received a letter of thanks from Douglas Reichley, her State Representative, commending her on the partnership she has established with that funeral home. She has received many letters of appreciation from parents of young children who have found comfort at the time of their bereavement. Thank you, Jean, for a job well done.

One of the changes that is happening within our chapter is that we will no longer be having the joy of this relationship with Jean because at this time a new chapter has been created which will cover all of Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Jean's experiences will provide valuable help to the newly appointed coordinator as she and Jean carry on our mission there. Best wishes to Jean and Judy.

There is a faithful group of women who meet at the Senior Adult Activities Center in Ambler on the second Monday afternoon each month. These women repair and label all the blankets that come in each month. There is such a pleasant camaraderie in this group that no one misses a meeting. We'd welcome additional hands; so come to join us.

Just to let you know how generous these women are - on November 22, 2008 several of them volunteered a few hours for Cradles to Crayons by sewing labels onto polar fleece scarves to be distributed to needy children. This organization is located in Horsham and responds to the needs of local social agencies. We were pleased to learn of the volunteer opportunities that exist in this organization; we toured their warehouse facility and saw the inner workings of this group. This was an example of how great a need is "out there".

We recognize the hundreds of hands which make the blankets which we distribute. Many are crocheted, knitted or quilted. Recently there has been an increasing interest in fleece blanket making. Here's some information about our concerns about using fleece:

Please use only good quality fleece.

Please remove the selvages before working with the fabric.

Size of fleece blankets does matter – no smaller than 44" square, including fringe.

Check our website to see different ways of finishing fleece blankets; fringing them is not the only, nor the easiest way.

Children making fleece blankets should be carefully supervised.

Sizes of crocheted, knitted and quilted blankets vary from 36" square, to 45"x 60". Please use soft, cuddly materials which give that snuggly feeling to recipients. Remember, we distribute to children from 0 to 18 in accordance with our mission: **to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers"**.

Our namesake, Linus carries a blanket through all the comics we see of him. Read on:

Linus has a blanket that's all his very own.

It comforts and sustains him when he's feeling quite alone.

He knows that others love him for 'twas made with special care

And because it means so much to him, it's carried everywhere.

You, too, can have a blanket that's created just for you,

To comfort and support you when you're feeling rather blue.

It's yours to keep forever, so you may always know

That others out there love you and to you our wishes go.

By Soni Uhler, Volunteer in Central Illinois Chapter

This newsletter can best express the gratitude of recipients by including some of the thank you notes we have received:

- My daughter Dalia was recently in the Abington Hospital with respiratory problems. She was given one of your blankets and I am so thankful for it. She was wrapped in beautiful purple, white, yellow, pink and blue crochet stripes and looked like a little angel despite the tubes in her nose and in her hands and seemingly everywhere. I sincerely appreciate your kindness and magical talent.
- Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt one of your blanketeers had made. We were able to keep our newborn daughter warm and cozy on her first car ride home from Mercy Suburban Hospital. Thank you again.
- My daughter received one of your blankets recently. She received it through Childrens Hospital home health care. It was a wonderful surprise when we opened her box of healthcare supplies and there it was. What you do does make a difference. It was a great thing for Sami as well as the rest of us, just something unexpected that is a marvelous gesture. Thank you very much!
- My husband and I recently welcomed our fourth son into the world at Central Montgomery Hospital. Upon leaving the hospital we were given one of your fleece blankets – what a kind gesture and a wonderful surprise. Thank you for your kindness! My husband and I are missionaries in Indonesia – he is a pilot and he helps the people who live interior on the island of Borneo! He often helps women who are having difficulty in childbirth. I think this is something I might try and do for those women...to pass on a neat tradition! Again, thank you for the blanket! Toby will enjoy it!
- On an early Tuesday morning, I packed up my 10 month old baby boy and anxiously drove him to Abington Hospital for his surgery. We walked through the clean, cool and sterile halls and came to our waiting area. Waiting at baby JD's crib was an absolutely beautiful soft blue blanket. Wrapping him in that blanket put my heart at ease. I was overtaken with the love and care that went into making that blanket and felt as though we were among friends. Watching him be wheeled off was not easy but seeing his new blanket there with him made it easier. He loved the blanket from the first minute and has had it by his side every day, sleeping with it at night. I am so grateful to you for giving us this most special gift at a time when we needed it. The blanket is a treasure and we will keep it in our family for a long time to come. More than that, though, the love that came with it will stay in our hearts forever. Thank you so much for all that you do!

Two thank you notes from hospital personnel:

- Thank you for the blankets from Project Linus. We give them to the babies after they are born. They maintain their temperatures better in the open cribs. They are really appreciated by the parents. Thank you.  
- newborn nursery at Mercy Suburban Hospital
- To the wonderful volunteers at Project Linus. The blankets are beautiful, our little patients and some of our big patients as well will appreciate your time and thoughtfulness.  
- Abington Memorial Hospital

It is easy to see the need as well as the appreciation of those receiving blankets. The ongoing efforts of hundreds of people have made our chapter successful in satisfying the needs in our large community. We encourage you to continue to produce such lovely blankets. Use the drop-off sites listed on our website. We'll pick them up and see that they get labeled and then distributed appropriately.

We recognize that the mission of Project Linus is shared by 384 other chapters across this country. Over 2,602,000 blankets have been distributed, and we have done our part.

The second change in our chapter is that of new leadership, a new coordinator. I have been coordinator for seven years and realize that it is time to turn the responsibilities over to another person, to give her a chance to enjoy the joy this office holds. Therefore I must once more express my gratitude for the support and encouragement you have given me in the role of coordinator, and anticipate that you will continue to do the same for my replacement. I've been working with some wonderful, giving people and I look forward to continuing to be part of this effort in Montgomery/Bucks County.

The new coordinator will be Terri Chango. She has been a very active worker, one of those labelers to which I referred earlier. When I approached Terri about taking on this new role it didn't take long for either of us to realize that she was going to be a great replacement. I extend to Terri my best wishes for continued success in our chapter's endeavors.

I'll let her talk for herself as I sign off. My best to all of you, Barbara Epstein.

How does one replace such a wonderful coordinator as Barbara Epstein? Her tireless efforts on behalf of Project Linus are unequalled. She has graciously agreed to help me with any questions I may have. We continue to have the support of many ladies who label for us. Two of those ladies, Eddy Smith and Jackie Cain, also help to pack the blankets and deliver them to area hospitals and agencies. Then there is Dick Butler who delivers to all the downtown hospitals; we appreciate his help, too.

The third change in our chapter's workings regards our newsletter. We appreciate being able to send the newsletters to e-mail addresses. If you do not have access to an e-mail service and would like to continue to receive our annual newsletter, please let me know.

Our supply of blankets last month was very low. Then, suddenly so many people delivered blankets that it seems that we may meet our goal for this month. We are always looking for new blanketeers since the demand for our blankets is increasing. So, if you know of anyone who may be looking for a great way to donate his/her spare time and talent, please mention our organization. Additionally, if anyone would like to donate yarn, paper supplies, or money, we would readily accept such donations. I'm looking forward to your continued support and participation.

Terri Chango

**“The best kind of sleep under heaven above is under a blanket handmade with love.”**