



Second Quarter 2018

Perspectives by Patty:

7,000,000 What???

WOW! WE have delivered over 7,000,000 blankets as of March 2018!

I want to THANK each and every blanketeer for helping us reach 7,000,000+ children! Without our volunteers, we could not come close to these numbers. We also want to THANK those who make financial contributions - you help us to purchase much needed supplies to make these blankets. In addition, there are many others out there that contribute to Project Linus by providing space for meetings, donations of supplies, mailing/delivery of blankets, and much much more. To each of you who helped us, Thank You!

Patty Gregory

Blankets donated since 1995:

7,020,362

Local Chapter Highlights:

The Griffin/Spalding, GA Project Linus chapter recently delivered their 25,000th blanket since their chapter started in 2002. They have also recently received grants from The Clothes Less Traveled Thrift Shop and The Exchange Club.

Their youngest volunteer is 4 year old Covin. He loves to carry completed blankets to the area where they can be folded and bagged.



The Tri-Cities, WA chapter just celebrated delivering their 30,000th blanket since their beginning in 2002. This is thanks to great volunteers and Make-a-Blanket Day events – at the April event they collected over 2,000 blankets!

The Tucson Chapter was awarded a \$2000.00 grant from the Sundt Foundation and highlighted the chapter in their annual Foundation Report. Sundt also provides a room for the monthly chapter meetings. *continued inside*

Inside this Newsletter...

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Page 1: Perspectives by Patty
Local Chapter Highlights</p> <p>Page 2: Coordinator Corner: Sharon Garver</p> <p>Page 3: Board Member Profile: Mary Balagna</p> <p>Page 4: Project Linus Links/Local News continued</p> <p>Page 5: Retirement Communities and Senior Centers</p> | <p>Page 6: Corporate Connections</p> <p>Page 7: Corporate Connections cont./Youth Serving Youth</p> <p>Page 8: Serving Marshall County High School</p> <p>Page 9: Linus Love Notes</p> <p>Page 10: New Chapters/JoAnn's/Mary-thon</p> <p>Page 11: National Make-a-Blanket Day</p> <p>Page 12: National Make-a-Blanket Day continued</p> |
|---|---|

Coordinator Corner: Sharon Garver (serving Santa Clarita Valley / Antelope Valley / Sylmar, Los Angeles, California)

Sharon first learned about Project Linus when her son, Evan, received a blanket in the NICU in West Hill Hospital in March 2010 from Suzann Mc Ginnis's Los Angeles Burbank chapter. She was so moved by the poem on the blanket (written by Pam Braden) and the gift itself, a white knitted blanket, that she started making the tied fleece blankets. The rush she felt was something she wanted to share with her high school students and in three months, Sharon's freshmen students and her made 110 blankets to donate to the chapter that gave her son his blanket.



Sharon then contacted the national Project Linus office to see what was required to open and run a chapter and also met with Suzann and realized she had a whole blanket making force in her school of 400 willing students. Thus, the Santa Clarita Valley / Antelope Valley / Sylmar, Los Angeles, CA Chapter was created starting with an initial donation of \$500 from parents. From there, after a couple of years, Sharon had a new school principal that loved the project so much, he helped the school district see the value and Project Linus was incorporated into a curriculum and a class (Nonprofit Ventures) that helps to meet the Practical Arts requirement for graduation.

In this class, students learn nonprofit business skills as well as sewing skills including quilt making and crocheting. The students run social media campaigns - all the Facebook/ Instagram/ snapchat posts and all the website management - and they do all the Public Relations campaigns including contacting news stations and radio stations as well as giving interviews. They work on their photography skills and make promotional videos that are now being picked up by the TV stations at the local high schools and currently being used by the Logix banking and credit union for their PR campaigns for promoting Project Linus for community service days. Students also run the bi-annual community service events where they work with an outreach program at another high school and host over 350 students and parents for Make-a-Blanket days that typically bring in about 500-600 blankets per event. Food trucks come in to keep volunteers from leaving the event as well, all of which are arranged by students in the Nonprofit Ventures class. Students also help with tagging, bagging, tallying, delivering, customer service, and all aspects of the business. The class went from being small and cozy to a large class of 36 students with a waiting list to get in.

Just think – all of this from one blanket, one great teacher and many wonderful giving teenagers!

Sharon has been married for 12 years to Eddie Garvar who is a Voice Over actor. She has two beautiful children: Bethany who is 11 and Evan who is 8. Sharon says, "My kids are amazing and teach me so much. They love art, sewing, and designing quilts. They love to help with Project Linus in so many ways. They help design quilts by arranging squares, they iron fabric and squares, they pin quilt sandwiches all the time to help save my back, they help put fabric through my electric go machine so I can make kits for my students (and they help make kits) and they help with deliveries." This summer she plans to teach her daughter to sew (her son wants to learn, but she'd like him to be a little older).

Sharon has her bachelor's from California State University, Long Beach in English Education - Creative Writing Emphasis and a Master's in English Literature. She is credentialed in Secondary Education - English and will be Credentialed in Business and Finance as well as Education, Child Development and Family Services within the year (I just have to fill out the paperwork as my coursework is done).

Sharon's Students in Action with Project Linus:



You can see more of these students "in action", view their videos, and learn more about the chapter at the student designed/maintained website:

<https://scvprojectlinus.org/>



Remember those Granny Square blankets Grandma used to make??? They make great Project Linus Blankets especially when made in pastels and bright colors!!

Project Linus National Board Member Profile:

Mary Balagna

National Vice President Mary has been a Project Linus Volunteer since January of 1999, when she founded the Central Illinois chapter which she continues to coordinate today. Her husband Terry, an Emergency Room Physician, agreed to hand out blankets to ill and traumatized children in the ER and from there the chapter grew tremendously in a very short time. As a loyal Project Linus volunteer, Mary could not pass up another Project Linus opportunity that came her way. When Project Linus reorganized in November of 2000, Mary accepted the position of Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors. In the past she has served in various community and civic board positions. She is the recipient of the 2004 Illinois State Medical Society Alliance Humanitarian Award and the 2008 Forsyth, Illinois Humanitarian Award. In addition to her work with Project Linus, Mary has a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Iowa and has served in various leadership positions in her church. She and Terry are the parents of four children—Cari (James), Rachel (Marshall), Jonathan (Erin), and Alex (Hannah)—and currently have thirteen grandchildren. Needless to say, the 20 year Project Linus tradition of volunteering with Project Linus in the family now includes sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren!



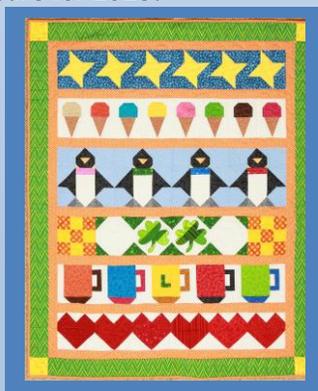
In addition to delivering over 93,000 blankets to children in crisis as the Central IL Chapter Coordinator, fundraising continues to be a major part of Mary's efforts with Project Linus. Mary's personal favorite is the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge. The first mystery quilt challenge took place in 2015 and was called "Lukey the Lucky Penguin."

Mary designed the mystery quilt as a tribute to Luke Shields, Mary's grandson who passed away in 2006. For a \$15 donation to Project Linus, participants of all levels of quilting expertise (including beginners) receive a weekly downloadable clue and video which guides them through the process of creating a beautiful child-size quilt. The tremendous support created by Lukey participants provided the inspiration to continue the fundraiser in 2016 with a quilt challenge named after Mary's granddaughter Gracie called "Gracie's Get Well Garden" and in 2017 "Exploring the World with Ethan." The 2018 Mystery Quilt Challenge will be introduced in August. Here is the link to our Mystery Quilt Facebook Page for more information on past



Cari
and
Luke

challenges: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/848183768557929/?ref=bookmarks>. Please click on the link and request to join the group as we prepare for 2018!



After going through a health crisis in 2010, Mary decided she needed to start living a more healthy and active lifestyle. As a result, she created the "Keep Moving Forward Mary-thon" (no running required) and invited friends, family and interested individuals to join her by setting a fitness goal, selecting an exercise and making a commitment to complete 26 weeks of regular exercise while donating to Project Linus in the process. Registered Mary-thoners earn a finishers medal when they complete their event and over the past 8 years new 26 day challenges and 100 day dashes have been added to the program. In addition, local Project Linus chapters can receive a portion of the participants' registration fees! The Moving Forward Mary-thon has been so successful and Mary-thon events have raised over \$10,000 for Project Linus since 2011. (See www.mary-thon.net for more information or to register for an event.)

Project Linus Links and More:

You Tube is a great website. Go to it and search Project Linus. It's amazing what you will find. The national video and song detailed below, lots of videos on making PL crocheted edge and other blankets, etc. Take a few minutes to explore it - you will find some great information.

Project Linus Blanket Deliveries: Project Linus Coordinators and Volunteers make blanket deliveries to the agencies and organizations that provide blankets to children in traumatic situations. This video is a great example of how these deliveries take place across the nation every week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxD2YyzUqEk>

Project Linus Smiles Video: This video is a clear example of all the smiles Project Linus brings to volunteers and the children we serve. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KX6f1aDpRw>

The Project Linus Theme Song is *Covered in Love*: You can hear it on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUAW2bSjSvq>

Project Linus Website: www.ProjectLinus.org

Project Linus Facebook – We'd love to have you "join us": <https://www.facebook.com/projectlinus/>

Local Chapter News continued:

The Orange County, NY / Pike County, PA chapter (Coordinator Julia Sullivan) is starting its 18th year and donated their 39,000th blanket in January 2018. Little did Julia know when she made the first deliveries on March 28, 2001 that the volunteers, their friends and families would bring the chapter to this monumental moment! The chapter has continued to grow and had the pleasure of working with Girl Scouts, future doctors at a local medical college (Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Middletown, NY, to help them fulfill volunteer hours by teaching them to make no sew fleece blankets). The chapter has received over 1,000 blankets from the Monroe Woodbury School District Transportation Department, with their last delivery being so large – 260 blankets, that they requested a mini-bus to make the delivery on a Saturday and the school district allowed them to use the bus. (pics below)



Future Doctors Make
Blankets



Girl Scouts Make Blankets

From Norene Baeth in Eastern North Dakota: The YWCA hosts an event called "Women of The Year". It is a big fundraiser and is attended by nearly 800 people. This is the 45th Anniversary of the first Women of The Year event. One of the organizations, Phi Eta Sigma chapter, at North Dakota State University interviewed me. (One of many organizations at NDSU that make blankets for Project Linus.) The YWCA accepted it and I became a Nominee for "Woman of the Year". I was astonished, overwhelmed and.... "what did they get me into feelings." There were 38 nominees for 12 categories. These interviews went to selected people to judge our interviews. The nominees do not know who is nominated, for which category nor who the judges are. On April 30, 2018, I was accompanied by friends and two students from Phi Eta Sigma. Each nominee was introduced and their bio read. When it was my turn, I brought my Linus (doll) dressed in his tux and walked onto the stage. No, I was not selected Women of the Year in my category, but Linus reminded all what Project Linus was all about!

Retirement Communities and Senior Centers

A Place for Giving, Creativity, and Laughter!

By Karen Huffman, Assistant Coordinator of Project Linus Charles County (PLCC)

The Richard E. Clark Senior Center (<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/cs/aging/senior-centers>) in La Plata, MD, hosts many social and creative activities for seniors including the “Happy Hookers” -- a crochet and knitting group; “Gail’s Gals” -- a quilt group that works on both personal projects and charity projects from donated material for Project Linus; and the Clark Center “Blanketeers” -- a group that makes “sandwich” quilts that are donated to our Project Linus of Charles County, MD (PLCC) chapter.

For families in transition due to downsizing or the loss of a loved one, Clark Center members often inquire about donating fabric and yarn. With so many blanket-making activities going on weekly that include PLCC members, it’s easy for us to accept most excess fabric and yarn. We let people know they can donate what they want, providing an in-kind gift receipt, and we’ll go through it to keep what is acceptable for making PLCC blankets and quilts.

Because of its convenient location and spacious rooms including a large multi-purpose room and sewing room with storage, cutting tables, and four sewing machines, our senior center has always been the perfect location for our annual “Make a Blanket Day” (MABD) marathon. Since January 2012, we’ve also held our PLCC’s monthly meetings at the Clark Center. During our monthly PLCC meetings, we sew silkies on donated blankets, string sandwich quilts, organize blankets for distribution to local charities, and laugh often at stories and anecdotes we share with each other. In addition, Mary Hancock, our chapter’s coordinator, often shares letters of appreciation that she’s received and catches us up on important dates to remember. PLCC offers a welcoming place to get involved with your local community and meet new friends!



Celcilia “Sis” Christianson has accomplished a milestone. She has been working for years to reach her goal of 1000 quilt tops made for charity – most to Project Linus. The chapter and her friends recently celebrated this milestone achievement and it was covered by the local news.

<https://www.inforum.com/community/people/4441419-we-cant-keep-octogenarian-sews-1000-quilts-charity>

Do You Know What a Jelly Roll Race is?????

The first Jelly Roll Race held at the Davis Senior Center on Tuesday, April 17th was a huge success! The race was sponsored by the Flying Needles Quilting Guild and Project Linus of Yolo County, CA. Ten teams of two people participated. Each team finished a quilt top from jelly rolls which will be made into a quilt for children in the non-profit groups that Project Linus of Yolo County supports. Thanks to the generous donation of Adena Schwerdtfeger, owner of Cloth Carousel in Winters, and to Louise Walthen and John Chase, a wonderful supply of door prizes was given out to all participants of the sewing event. Everyone had a great time!



Corporate Connections:

Project Linus, on both the national and local level, is blessed to be supported by many businesses and national corporations. If your business or organization is looking for ways to support a worthwhile children's charity, we encourage you to consider Project Linus and contact Patty Gregory at our national office (Patty@ProjectLinus.org or (309) 585-0686) or a local coordinator (<http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>). A few of these businesses include:

In the Puget Sound area of Washington State, **Pacific Fabrics and Crafts** has been supporting Project Linus for years. They sponsor 2 blanket days a year - providing advertising, classroom space, customer fabric donations and treats. In addition, the Bremerton location donates their classroom space to our chapter for a monthly Project Linus blanket day.



Fire Security Electronics & Communications in Phoenix, AZ provides two storage rooms and a meeting place to the Phoenix West Valley Chapter. In addition, they often help with the cost of shipping blankets.

The Howard County MD Chapter meets at the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia, MD and is very grateful to the center for their generosity. The Bain Center allows the chapter to use their facility free of charge as they feel it provides a service to both seniors and the community.

The Broome and Tioga County, NY, chapter is thankful for the support from local businesses including **Sew It Is** in Endicott (owner Cindy Dunlap) that always provides a good discount, a great selection of fabrics and a SMILE and **Patchwork Angels** in Endicott, NY where the owner Rose Oswald provides discounts, a drop off location for blankets, and her classroom for LINUS SEWS events. Also, Kay Snyder donates long arm quilting services as well as Project Linus blankets.

Missouri Sewing Machine in Kansas City, MO is a great supporter of Project Linus. They regularly donate sewing machines for both local and national events.

Quilted Memories www.quiltedmemoriesllc.com is a big supporter of Project Linus. They provide great deals to our blanketeers. Now through May 20th, they have excellent prices on 80/20 batting. It is 108" x 25 yards and is very stable allowing for quilting 5" apart.

Crowe Horwath is a national public accounting firm with offices in Knoxville, TN. www.crowehorwath.com They found a great way to reach out to the University of Tennessee Beta Alpha Psi (honor organization for accounting, finance and info mgmt.) students by sponsoring a Project Linus Blanket Making event. The Crowe Horwath employees and students worked together to make the blankets.



Project Linus Fairfax County, VA, was invited to participate in the April 26th Bring Your Child to Work Day at **Deloitte** in McLean, VA.



Corporate Connections: *continued*

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Community Partnership Day for the US had 6,800+ associates participating in community events. Captured below, over 100 employees helped create 400 blankets for Project Linus at their East Hanover, NJ site. This is the second year that Novartis has supported Project Linus. Blankets will be distributed to children in need in the greater New Jersey and Philadelphia area.

Event was led and organized by employee Carolyn Fromm.



Aurora Flight Sciences, Manassa, Virginia. They held a Make A Blanket event at their company and made monetary donation to the chapter.

KOHL'S, Sterling, Virginia store - Once a month, the Chapter has held Make-a-Blanket events at local libraries. These are

supported by Kohls employees and company matching donations have helped the chapter to earn \$500 so far. Jan and Adelaida at this store are the contacts for the chapter and make the project very successful!



Youth Serving Youth

Project Linus of Yolo County and the Davis Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) are donating 250 handmade blankets to Thriving Pink who will distribute them at Camp Kesem this summer. Thriving Pink is a local non-profit organization helping local breast cancer survivors thrive. The local nonprofit, Thriving Pink, is proud to partner with Camp Kesem, a national organization with over 100 chapters across the country. They serve women and their families, and support the same community. The UC Davis Chapter for Camp Kesem is managed entirely by volunteer college students who are dedicated to the mission of "helping a child through and beyond a parent's cancer." Every summer, there are two fun-filled and supportive summer camps for hundreds of children in the Davis area. For many of these young children, this will be their first time away from home. The blankets provided by Project Linus and NCL will be a wonderful surprise for these campers, many with families from Davis reports Mary Lui, Executive Director of Thriving Pink.

Stay tuned for the next Blanket Beacon in August 2018 where many more stories of youth serving youth through Project Linus will be featured.

Marshall County Thank You Notes and Emails:

Subject: Blanket

Message: Thank you guys so much for the blankets I'm a student at Marshall county high school and we received the blankets today thank you so so much. – Michael C.

Subject: Blanket delivery

Message: Thank you so much for the blankets brought to Marshall County High School today. I had two kids that actually came home smiling today. Thank you for putting light in our day. We will never forget what you have done for us. Thank you so much. Love, Taylor, Tate, & Alysia

Subject: Thank you Project Linus

Message: I just wanted to say thank you for providing over 1,400 blankets/quilts to my daughter's school. She attends Marshall County High School in Benton, KY and was very proud of the quilt she received today through Project Linus. This is a wonderful idea, and I know our high school students were very appreciative of your kind gesture. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Amy & Tory

Subject: Blankets for MCHS

Message: Thank you all so much for the blankets you brought the kids at Marshall County High School in Benton KY!! They loved them, and see the positive in this message!! My daughter was in the commons that morning, she is physically ok but emotional she was hurt. These kids are getting better and stronger each day! With this out pouring, heartfelt, act of kindness will help them heal even quicker! Thank you again from MCHS!!!    Tammy

Subject: Blankets

Message: I'm a student from Marshall County's High School in Kentucky. I just want to say thank you so much for handing out blankets today, we all really enjoyed receiving one.

Subject: Marshall County HS

Message: My son was at MCHS during the shooting way too close for comfort. I just wanted to thank your organization for the blanket! What a thoughtful thing for your group to do. We will never forget your kindness!

Subject: Marshall County High School

Message: My daughter received a blanket from your organization today at her high school. It made her day, thank you very much!

Subject: Marshall County High School

Message: Thank you so much for the blankets. What a blessing to our kids. My prayer is that our kids will learn from people like you to be givers in other's time of need. You were God's hands, feet, and heart yesterday. Tamara

Subject: MCHS

Message: I am a student at Marshall County high school, and I just wanted to say thank you for visiting our school and thank you for what you do.

From a parent of a Marshall County KY High School: Our daughter brought home the blanket all wrapped up in it right off the bus, carried it to the doctor with her and slept with it. It hasn't left her side yet. Thank you for all your support. I know Abby really appreciates all the comfort everyone has given  

Project Linus' Response to the Marshall County, KY School Shootings:

Kelly Price (Coordinator of the Trigg, Calloway, & Christian Counties Project Linus Chapter) didn't know how she would be called upon following the events of the January 2018 school shootings at Marshall County High School. Little did she know the impact the blankets would have on the students, parents, the community and her personally.

The school responded with counseling services, therapy dogs and more to help the teens through the traumatic experience. Many said, the delivery of over 1,400 blankets, one for each high school student, is what made a huge difference. Students wrapped themselves in the blankets, slept at night with their blankets, and used them to hang on to as they talked about that awful day.

The blankets helped them heal. The blankets gave the students something to hold in their hands as a sign of support and comfort from their community.

Over 40 Project Linus chapters from around the country helped Kelly's chapter meet the need for blankets for the Marshall County High School students.

The Trigg, Calloway, & Christian Counties Project Linus Chapter, chapters around the country and the national office have been overwhelmed with the thank you notes they've received from students and parents demonstrating the powerful impact of a blanket. (See left for some of the thank you notes.)

Linus Love Notes:

Linus Love Notes can be found on YouTube. These are thank-you notes that are in a short video. These notes are updated regularly and you can “subscribe” so you will receive an alert when they are updated. Through these notes, it’s easy to see the real impact a Project Linus blanket has on a child and the family.

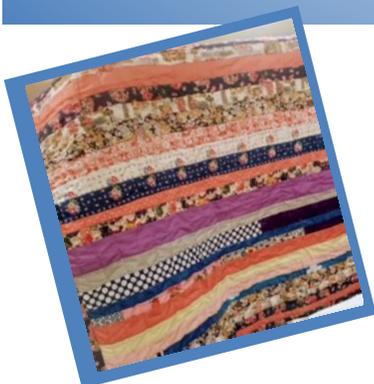
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-ywG-rtBUA> In addition the national office and local chapters receive “Thank You Notes” on a regular basis. While none of us expect to be “thanked” for the opportunity to ensure children in traumatic situations receive a warm Linus blanket hug. However, the notes do demonstrate the value of the blankets and the impact they have on recipients and their families.

From the Patient Relations Department, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital, Charles County MD: Each blanket is made with such love and is so appreciated. The kids/parents in the Emergency Department love them, the NICU mom's see them as such a gift for their fragile babies and the teen moms always tell me they will treasure the blanket as their baby's first gift. Each blanket your ladies send us touches a heart. I am forever grateful for the gift of your organization's blankets. God Bless each of you for your love and compassion.

From Jennifer Shavey Knoxville, TN: Our son came home with one of these blankets today. I can't tell you enough, how very sweet this was and how thankful and excited he was to receive it. I hope you know that what you are doing truly matters and is more than appreciated. God bless the hands that made these blankets for our kids! ♡

From Samantha Caulfield in Eastern North Dakota: My 5 day old son was recently hospitalized, because his temperature was so low and he couldn't maintain it. One of your blankets was gifted to him, and, as strange as it may sound... The blanket warmer, heating packs, layers of clothes and other blankets, increasing the room temperature, etc... NOTHING would work. After being wrapped with your blanket, his temperature increased and now his temperature is maintaining a normal temperature with just regular clothes on. It will always be a special blanket to me. It's made with talent and clearly blessed with love and healing, and, for that.... I am truly grateful. We are all home now, and, I really appreciate this program. Thank you - You made a difference to us.

From Melissa Larson: I wanted to send the biggest heart-felt thank you to the chapter that serves Renown Regional Medical Center! My 3 year old son and I were transported to Renown via ambulance after he was in a terrible skiing accident while we were in Tahoe (on vacation). After emergency surgery, we were moved to my sons' room in the pediatric Intensive Care Unit. My son was given a soft, cuddly blanket with his FAVORITE show characters- PAW PATROL:). We spent 5 days in the PICU, the blanket provided so much comfort during a very scary and stressful time. THANK YOU to you and all of those you work with who make and donate these blankets- they are treasured and appreciated SO much!



Update: Our volunteers and supporters asked for it and It's Coming! February 2019 there will be a Knit and Crochet Along immediately following National Make-a-Blanket Day. Stay tuned!



New Chapter Coordinators and New Chapters:

You can find contact info for these and all Project Linus chapters at:

<http://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/>

Stefanie Basalik, Greencastle, PA - new

Laurie Watson, King County, WA - transfer

DJ Pittenger, San Luis Obispo County, CA - new

Kelley Hardie, Greene County, PA - new

Pat Thomas, Delaware and Franklin Counties, OH - transfer

Ellen Mallett, Middlesex County, CT - new

Nancy Corral, Humboldt County, CA - new

JOANN's Partnership

Starting June 15th select stores will be drop off points for Project Linus blanket donations. Check with your local chapters to see if your Joann's is a drop off point.

Joann Plus is a great way to save money when buying materials for Project Linus blankets and it is for everyone who makes blankets for Project Linus. You must order in bulk to get the great prices. Be sure to check them out at: www.joannplus.com.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Project Linus every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The easiest way to shop at AMAZON SMILE and make sure that your purchase benefits Project Linus is to click through the link on our [home page at projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org). Or, you can simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

It's Time for the Step Into Summer Challenge:

What is the challenge?

You commit to completing at least 2600 Steps
OR 1 mile of moving per day (your choice!) for 26 days.

If you choose the steps, you must run or walk at least 2600 steps per day.

If you choose to complete 1 mile each day, you can walk, bike, run, swim, skate, use the elliptical, etc! Anything that gets you moving for a mile.

You do not have to do the same thing every day - you may switch it up and do 2600 steps one day, 1 mile swim the next, followed by 1 mile elliptical.

When does it start? The starting day is **Monday, May 21, 2018**. You have until the first day of summer (June 21, 2018) to complete your 26 day challenge. This gives you an extra 6 days so you have some wiggle room to help you finish!

Who can participate? Anyone - any age!

What do you get for completing? Besides the satisfaction of completing, you ALSO will receive a beautiful finishers medal and a pin! Once you register, you will receive a tracking sheet to help encourage you along the way!

Anything else??? As a matter of fact there is! If you register with a friend and both finish the challenge you will each receive an additional gift.

Just register and you're good to go. Here's the link to register: <http://www.mary-thon.net/challenges>



The BEST thing: Once you finish, \$5 of your \$19.50 registration fee will go to Project Linus! Even better-- you can direct your donation to your local chapter if you would like! There will be an area for you to enter your local chapter on the registration form.

National Make-A-Blanket Day

Project Linus celebrates this day each year. Many chapters celebrate on the 3rd Saturday in February but celebrations are held on other dates as need. This is a great way to focus a community on making blanket and to learn more about Project Linus.

The East Contra Costa County CA Chapter (Coordinator Lynda Myers) held their **Make a Blanket Day** at Delta Community Presbyterian Church in Discovery Bay. They had a raffle table, a “boutique table” with handcrafted and other gift items for sale, and a table filled with fabric and yarn for “blanketeers” to take home and turn into blankets. Volunteers checked PL blankets, sewed PL labels, made blankets, and more. After a good Potluck Lunch, a “show-n-tell” was held where everyone showed off their beautiful blanket creations.

Project Linus volunteers from the Dearborn/Wayne County, MI chapter surround Brandy from Sandy's Make It Sew in Livonia MI as she draws the winner of a sewing machine they donated for MABD. They also host monthly blanket days in their classroom complete with sewing machines. We have been meeting there since about 2004.



Project Linus of Charles County, MD Chapter had a full day of blanketing on Friday, February 16! Our annual **Make a Blanket Day** was held at the Clark Senior Center in La Plata, MD and was well-attended by 40 Blanketeers. We also received recognition by “drop-in” visitors including County Commission President Peter Murphy, Amy Davis from Social Services, Andrea Russell from The Promise Resource Center, Shelle Stine from University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, Natalie Rowe from Center for Children, Julie Muster Bryson from Charles County Government, and Sara Newman from our local newspaper, *The Maryland Independent!* This year we partnered with our sheriff’s department and collected essential items needed for the Blue Ribbon Project’s **“Backpacks of Love”** (BlueRibbonProject.org), whose goal is to supply a backpack containing some essentials items for children entering foster care at a moment’s notice. We finished with a grand total of **430 finished blankets** -- most already listed, bagged and on their way to their destinations to comfort children -- and **four containers of items for “Backpacks of Love”** plus 14 blankets!



Blankets bagged and ready for distribution!



Mary Hancock, Project Linus of Charles Co, MD Coordinator, (right) and Gail Cavella, Fabric Wrangler, (left) receiving a certificate of appreciation from Amy Davis, Charles County Social Services.

Donations: To support Project Linus (nationally or a local chapter) with a donation, simply go to our website (<http://www.projectlinus.org/donations/>). You can designate a local chapter if you want your funds to be directed locally. At the bottom of the home page, you will see opportunities to support Project Linus through the use of Amazon Smile and other organizations.

National Blanket Day continued...



SERVICE ABOVE SELF: On National Blanket Day, two high school juniors put aside their other commitments, and got out their rotary cutters, rulers, self-healing mats and bolts of fleece and got to work making more than 30 blankets for Project Linus. Marissa and Julia (pictured above with two of their blankets) are members of the National Honor Society. The blankets were presented to the Union/Middlesex (NJ) Chapter of Project Linus.

Make-a-Blanket Day in Fairfax County, VA:

The local chapter had a very successful day with 35 volunteers that braved snow to make 110 fleece blankets. Many thanks to the Baha’I Community of Reston who came out in force, United Christian Parish members, current Project Linus blanketeer, assistant chapter Coordinator Ginny, Sheri – a University of Chicago alumna and her mother Dora, high school students, Kohl’s employees and of course, coordinator Annabelle Hammer’s husband John for doing the heavy work of lugging blankets!



If you have not signed up to receive the *Blanket Beacon*, please go to www.projectlinus.org . Scroll to the lower left corner of the home page for information on how to sign up for the *Blanket Beacon*.

Blanket Beacon editor: Deb Miller, Project Linus of East TN Chapter Coordinator
Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org