



Third Quarter 2018

Perspectives by Patty:

Summer has flown by and as usual things are very busy at the Project Linus national office. We had the roll out of Joann Fabric stores becoming drop off points and this is going well. They plan to do a big promotion next winter for us. Be sure to thank your Joann Fabric store for their support of Project Linus the next time you stop in.

I'm looking forward to the Mystery Quilt Challenge including the continued support from Missouri Star Quilt Company. More info is inside about this exciting CHALLENGE.

I'm celebrating my 2nd year as PL President/CEO and I simply love my job. I get to work with wonderful people who make a difference in the lives of children.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about Project Linus.

Patty Gregory

Blankets donated since 1995:

7,138,349

Local Chapter Highlights:

The Central Kentucky Chapter (Coordinator Lisa Kepl) celebrated their 16th Birthday. It was also a celebration of the retirement of coordinator MaryAnn Overturf, one of the chapter founders and chapter coordinator for 16 years!



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Coordinator Corner:

Penny Sweet is the coordinator for the New River Valley/Radford, VA Project Linus Chapter. Penny first heard about Project Linus in the Spring of 2000 from Sandy Wyatt, the PL coordinator for Rockingham County NC at the time, and Sandy's mother Ruth Cummins, who was the coordinator for the Chatham, VA chapter in 2000. Penny is in her 18th year as coordinator. The chapter includes the cities of Radford, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg and Floyd, Pulaski and Giles counties. In 18 years, the chapter has made and delivered over 38,500 blankets.



The chapter has three Make-a-Blanket Days every Spring, Summer and Fall. These are held at a local Methodist church where the church donates their facility which includes lots of free parking and a large kitchen to use. Volunteers provide food for the event and Penny brings drinks and paper products. Each event has over 100 attendees including students from Virginia Tech and Radford University. Many volunteers bring blankets to donate and they stay to sew on tags, make fleece blankets, work on knitted/crocheted blankets, and more. Each day usually results in 300-400 blanket donations.

Penny makes most of the blanket deliveries herself with help from her assistant Laura who works in Blacksburg. The chapter provides 150-200 blankets a month including to 2 large hospitals, 2 small hospitals and many other agencies including Hospice, schools, Head Start centers, social services and community services.

The chapter gets great support from the local JoAnn's which has been a drop off point for 18 years. Both universities have been supportive including sororities and fraternities who have held fundraisers, blanket drives and their own Make-a-Blanket days.

Penny attributes her chapter's success to the hundreds of volunteers that have helped over the years. One wonderful lady is Regina who makes most of the weighted blankets. There has been an increase in the need for these blankets for children with autism and other illnesses. Regina often customizes these using the child's favorite pattern and/or color. Last year she made over 80 weighted blankets.

Penny has lived in Radford, VA with her husband Tim since they were married in 1964. Penny is originally from Connecticut and went to school in Pittsburgh. She is a retired Registered Nurse and worked as a Psychiatric Nurse for 35 years. Penny and Tim have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren who live in northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Penny and Tim enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren and trips to Ocean Isle Beach in N.C.

Penny, like many of the Project Linus coordinators around the country, is what makes Project Linus a success by ensuring children receive hugs in the form of a handmade blanket while they are facing rough times and traumatic situations.



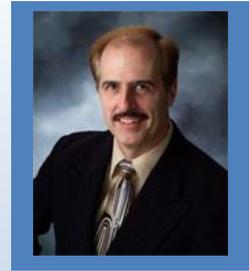
Registration is NOW OPEN for the 2018 Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge: "Sweet Violet's Bakery and Confectionery"!!! For those who would like to register, go to www.projectlinus.org

and click on the link at the top of the page. NOTE: Once registered, our webmaster, Chad, will email the login credentials within two days of registering. When participants receive their credentials they can go to the Mystery Quilt Clues Page (link is in their receipt) and view the Preparations Page. The first clue will be revealed on September 15th! Don't forget to put YOUR CHAPTER NAME AS IT APPEARS ON THE WEBSITE on the registration in order for the chapter to receive the entire \$15 donation. For updates, please go to our Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/848183768557929/>

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

Project Linus National Board Member Profile:

Terry has been practicing emergency medicine since 1987 and has served as the Director of Emergency Medicine, Medical Staff President at Decatur Memorial Hospital and Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services at St. Mary's Hospital in Illinois. He is president and co-founder of Decatur Emergency Medical Services, active in the Macon County Medical Society, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Association of Physician Specialists, American Academy of Family Physicians, and is a Six Sigma and Pacific Institute facilitator. He has been awarded Fellow status in the American College of Emergency Physicians, serves on the state Practice Management Committee of the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians. Community activities include service in the Forsyth Library Board, Community Park Board, Lincoln Trails Boy Scout Committee, AP Young Men program, Forsyth Youth League, and Maroa-Forsyth Schools. Terry lives in Forsyth, Illinois with his wife Mary. They are the parents of four children and have 13 grandchildren.



In addition to serving on the National Board, Terry is an active 'behind the scene' supporter and participant in PL's Central Illinois Chapter. Working as an emergency physician, he has been able to participate with the nursing staff in distributing Project Linus blankets to children being treated in the emergency department. He has witnessed first-hand the joy and comfort that a specially chosen handcrafted blanket can bring to a child and parent in what can be a very uncertain and traumatic time.

We are thrilled to announce registration is now open for the 2018 Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge

Sweet Violet's Bakery and Confectionery

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

What is the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge? The Mystery Quilt Challenge is a yearly fundraiser for Project Linus. Nine clues are revealed over nine weeks which will give participants very detailed, written and video instructions to complete a beautiful child-sized quilt. All levels of quilting expertise are welcome from novice to experienced!

How much does it cost?

Cost of participating in the Challenge is a \$15.00 tax-deductible donation to Project Linus.

How do I participate?

There will be a weekly "Clue" available online and activated each week on Saturday. Our Mystery Clues page is password protected and only those who have officially registered for the 2018 Challenge will be able to enter.

How do I locate my password and login credentials once I've registered?

Once you register you will receive an email from our webmaster within 48 hours with your personal login credentials (password). Then, you can click on the "Clues Page" link and access the Preparation page which will give you some suggestions for fabrics and items needed for this year's challenge.

Can my local chapter receive my \$15 donation?

Yes! If you would like to specify your local Project Linus chapter as the recipient of your donation, please enter the complete chapter name when you register.

When is the first clue revealed?

The first clue will be revealed on Saturday, September 15, 2018 with Clue #9 - THE BIG REVEAL on Saturday, November 10, 2018.



Local Chapter News continued:

The Lee County & Southeastern Alabama chapter (coordinator Deborah Fillmer) is now equipping the Alabama State Trooper vehicles with blankets. This is huge, since they are frequently first on the scene and in contact with children in need.



The Yolo County, CA chapter (Coordinator Diane McGee), participated in the state fair. They set up a welcoming booth in the Arts and Crafts building to encourage interest in Project Linus. Children drew/colored pictures on muslin squares that were made into a Project Linus blanket. The chapter also recently celebrated their 10 year anniversary since the chapter was started in Sacramento. The chapter now covers Davis, Woodland, Winters, West Sacramento and other small areas. >>>>>>



The Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap & Mason counties – WA Chapter (Coordinator Claudia Post) just celebrated delivering 6,000 blankets.

On July 24, the Central Texas Chapter delivered their 30,000th blanket since the chapter began in 2004. It was delivered to Dell Children's Hospital in Austin. The chapter covers 4 counties Williamson, Travis, Hays and Bastrop in Texas. The picture shows Josie Day, Dell Children's Child Life Specialist and Brenda Kilburn, Chapter Coordinator of Central Texas Chapter. >>>>>>>>>>>>



Many chapters around the country support Camp Corral including the Central Illinois Chapter (coordinator Mary Balagna). The mission of Camp Corral is to transform the lives of children of wounded, injured, ill, and fallen military heroes by providing a unique summer camp experience. As can be seen below, this mission was fulfilled including the donation of Project Linus blankets. Be sure to check out more pictures at https://www.facebook.com/pg/ProjectLinusCentrall/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1813627518725694 and information at: <https://campcorral.org/>.



Youth Helping Youth

Fairfax County, VA, Chapter (Coordinator Annabelle Hammer): Third graders made blankets with "seniors". After making blankets, they enjoyed pizza together.



Project Linus of East Tennessee (Coordinator Deb Miller) - Concord United Methodist Church (CUMC):

The Project Linus group at Concord has been very busy as can be seen from the donations. A Blessing of the Blankets was held at all four services at CUMC. An array of styles were displayed, including quilts, self-binding baby blankets, fleece throws, and flannel swaddlers. Several of the teen-sized blankets were made during an April workshop with 20 CUMC Tweenagers as a mission project for 4th-6th graders. It was a lovely way to celebrate the work of Project Linus in our community and dedicate the blankets in their mission to comfort children in need.



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:

Missouri Sewing Machine Company has been a great supporter of the **Greater Kansas City Area, MO, chapter**. They are giving away 4 Janome Sewing machines Labor Day weekend in our Summer Labor of Love Challenge that they help organize.

The Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap & Mason counties – WA chapter (Coordinator Claudia Post) would like to give a shout out to **Annie's Quilt Shoppe** in Shelton, WA. Annie's not only graciously accepts blanket donations for us, they also generously donate classroom space for once a month Linus Sew Days. Thank you, Annie's Quilt Shoppe!

Central Texas Chapter (Coordinator Brenda Kilburn) - A BIG thank you to **Fat Quarter Shop** in Buda, Texas. They have graciously donated over 40 large boxes of high quality fabric to the Central Texas Chapter. Since we do not have storage space for such a large donation, we instituted an Adopt-A-Box program, where blanketeers take home a box or 2 to store and use to make more Project Linus blankets.

The Fairfax County, VA, Chapter (Annabelle Hammer) has developed a great partnership with **Ashby Ponds**. Their Living Values Team and the Diversity & Inclusion Committee teamed up for a Community Outreach Day. Nearly 50 residents and employees made blankets to support Project Linus. >>>>>>>>



Moving Forward Mary-thon – Mark Your Calendars!

We will be having the Step Into Fall Fitness Challenge beginning the first day of Fall, September 22, 2018. You have 30 days to log 26 miles of exercise (your choice) to earn a beautiful finishers medal. You can designate your local Project Linus chapter to receive a \$5 donation from your \$20 registration fee. Email mary@mary-thon.net if you would like to be notified when registration opens. This is a great way to support Project Linus, have fun, and get some exercise.



Youth Helping Youth continued

San Diego North County Coastal Chapter (Coordinator Rose Waring): In late January the chapter received a telephone call from Ezra Casalegno, a fourteen year old with Life Rank as a Boy Scout. He wanted to choose Project Linus as the recipient of his final project to complete requirements to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Scouting Program. On February 3rd we met and discussed his Project. He had already completed a great deal of research and acquired a large group of volunteers to assist him with donations for fabric and hours of labor to produce blankets. He set his goal at fifty blankets and began the activities needed to meet and exceed his goal. He collected and sold cans and bottles, solicited donations from friends and family and added money from his own savings to purchase the necessary supplies. At our suggestion, he created a prototype for his volunteers to follow. He created an assembly line in the gymnasium of his church and in two sessions, a total of 52 beautiful and well-crafted fleece blankets were produced. The bounty was delivered on March 25th by Ezra and his dad. They reported that Ezra had enjoyed the entire process and was pleased to know that 52 children and their families would be comforted by his efforts.



Waco, TX Chapter (Coordinator Sandra Rowell): The chapter participated in the Harker Heights Library Youth Fair.



Central Texas Chapter (Coordinator Brenda Kilburn) – Thanks to the Westlake High School Chapter of Young Men's Service League for coming to our meetings and helping us bag and work on blankets for the past several months. This is a group of Moms and sons who do community service projects together. Project Linus is so popular that there is a waiting list for moms and sons to participate at the meetings.

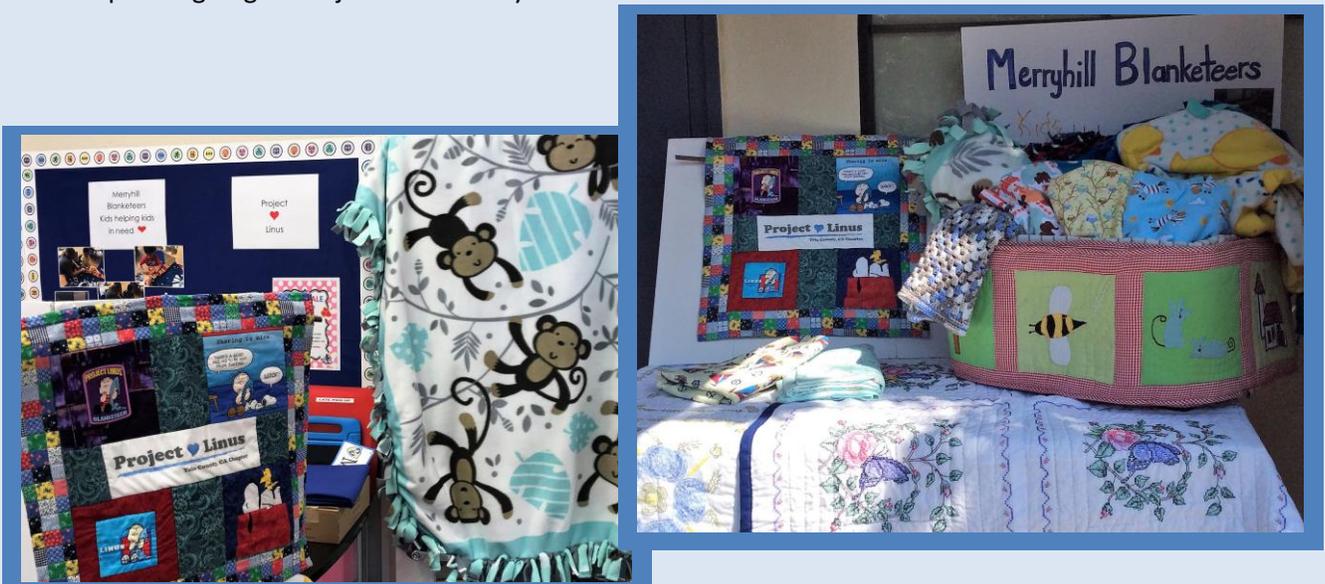


Youth Helping Youth continued

NRV-Radford, Virginia Chapter (coordinator Penny Sweet): The chapter recently worked with 16 young people at the Hokie Horse Camp on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. The 4-H Horse Program invited the chapter to join them in making blankets as a service project for those attending the Horse Camp.



Yolo County, CA Chapter (Coordinator Diane McGee): The chapter participated in the Merryhill Preschool Kids Helping Kids Campaign. The preschoolers, with help from parents and PL volunteers, held a bake sale with the profits going to Project Linus. They also donated fabric and made 10 blankets.



Thank You Notes and Emails:

Dear Project Linus,

As I sit in my daughter's room, packing and helping her sort through her things, that she wishes to bring with her to college, out comes the quilt. My daughter received her Project Linus quilt from UMASS memorial hospital's NICU 18 years ago.

She was born 7 weeks early and was so small. The quilt she received was so big compared to her and I couldn't help but giggle a bit when I placed the corner of it on her.

She has loved this quilt and kept it in her room throughout these 18 years. She has never said 'oh put that in my baby box' or 'I don't need it anymore'.

And now today, she says to me mom should I bring my quilt? I'm afraid of it getting ruined and it would kill me. I always measured myself with my quilt and knew that I was getting bigger and then I got bigger than my quilt. I told her that it could stay in her room as we both sat here crying together. Thank you for not only keeping my little girl warm but also for giving me a break from the reality I was facing in the NICU those little giggles were needed. For keeping my daughter's confidence growing, helping her with math and most importantly letting us break down and cry a bit at the next stage of her life!

With love, laughter and some tears,

Dear Project Linus,

I want to thank you soooo much for helping and comforting me throughout my baby stages. I got a blanket when I was a baby and I still have it 11 years later. I just want you to know you are helping people a lot more than you know it. I want you to continue on what you are doing and I hope you help many more people like me.

Dear Project Linus,

I want to take a moment to thank you all for the beautifully crocheted blanket my daughter was blessed to receive. We did not plan on a NICU stay or surgery at 4 days old. But we are here now, surgery is done, and she's on the road to recovery. It's sweet to know there are strangers out there taking their time to make babies like mine a bit more comfortable during their hospital stay.

Tanya Mitchell



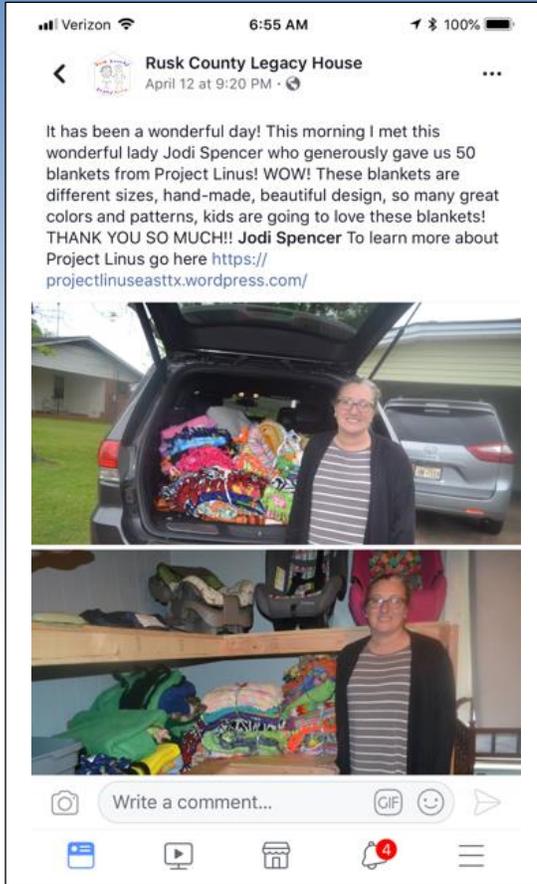
Dear Project Linus,
My daughter is going through radiation for brain cancer at the Texas Center for Proton Therapy in Irving. Yesterday they gave her a beautiful blanket from your organization. The quilted side is a mixture of safari animals and zebra stripe prints. The fleece side is a tiger print. It truly is a piece of art.

Your organization was unknown to me until yesterday. What your volunteers are doing has to be from a place of love. I wanted to thank you and let you know how appreciative we are of this kind gesture; on behalf of myself and many others whom have received a blanket but for whatever reason have not been able to reply.

Linus is very proud of you all I'm sure!

With a hopeful heart and the belief that our God is still in the miracle business.

More Thank You Notes:



19 years ago I gave birth to a 24 week, 1 pound 4.4 ounce, 11.5 inch baby girl at the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. To say I was scared would be an understatement. Scared, depressed, wondering if my daughter was going to make it or not. The one thing that gave me great comfort was a gift. I received a pink blanket from Project Linus for my daughter. To know that someone cared enough to give the gift of their time and skill was a true blessing. Today, my daughter is 19 years old, just graduated high school and, starts Walters State Community College in Spring 2019. Below you will find a picture of her at birth and, a picture of her at graduation. Her name is Taylor Hope Rogers. Thank you and God Bless you all!
Sincerely, Cindy M. Rogers



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=KX6f1IaDpRw>

The Project Linus Theme Song is

Covered in Love: You can hear it on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUAw2bSjSvg>

Project Linus Website:

www.ProjectLinus.org

Project Linus Facebook – We'd love to have you "join us":

<https://www.facebook.com/projectlinus/>

New Chapter Coordinators and New Chapters:

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

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

New Chapters:

Kelly Hardie, Waynesburg, Greene County PA
DJ Pittenger, San Luis Obispo County CA
Lisa Brown, McKean County PA, Cattaraugus NY
Mary Hillyer, NH Seacoast

Transfers/New Coordinators:

Lisa Kimble, Fredrick MD for Dotty Reliegh
Sarah Swanson, Hamilton Co. IN for Lyneen Burrows
Karen Huffman, Charles Co. MD for Mary Hancock
Jill Milbach, Howard Co. MD for Mary Hoelzer
Jana Dirksen, Rock Co. WI for Jana Dirksen

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.

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.

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*.

JOANN’s Partnership

Select stores are 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

Project Linus is thrilled to be growing our relationship with Joann’s



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.

Blanket Beacon editor: Deb Miller, Project Linus of East TN Chapter Coordinator
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