

Project Linus of East TN

Fall 2024

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The best kind of sleep under heaven above, is under a blanket handmade with love.

Coordinator's Corner:

I hope this letter finds everyone well and ready to celebrate Thanksgiving and the holidays of your faith with family and friends.

For those of you that have email and/or do Facebook, it's important you check it regularly for Project Linus news. As stated before, in order to save cost and time, we will not be doing a newsletter as often as we have in the past. Most importantly, we expect to soon be announcing BIG NEWS in regard to our blanket goals. Stay tuned!

Be sure to read the info in this newsletter about upcoming Sewing Days in 2025, blanket needs, and more. ***Our annual Giving Tuesday Fundraising Campaign is also underway. Check out the info at the end of this newsletter.*** Lastly, we are busy trying to meet the needs of children impacted by Hurricane Helene. We are trying to get blankets to children once they are in a situation where they will be able to keep the blanket long term - thus, it's been a slow process. Nationally, over 3500 blankets have been provided to Hurricane Helene impact children in East TN, Georgia and North Carolina.

Deb



Mark Your Calendars for the following:

Faith Harvest Church Sewing Day, January 11th – see inside for details
Twisted Sisters Sewing Days, Feb 8th and April 12th – see inside for details
March 8th – HOLD the DATE!

News from our Sevier County Group:

Come join us to sew for Project Linus! Every first and third Tuesday from 9am till noon at the My People Senior Center in Sevierville. We bring kits, sew, tie quilts and just have a great time. Call Angie at 865-394-8852 for details! You can follow this group of Project Linus of East TN Sevier area volunteers at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sevierprojectlinusquilters>

The Sevier County group has been busy helping with Hurricane Helene relief efforts including delivering blankets that they made and ones shipped in from other PL chapters around the country. They are also working with Smoky Mountain Area Rescue Mission to help provide a beautiful Christmas quilt to each of the low income children they serve and much more.

Contact Angie and plan a day to drive over to join them – they are a great group of ladies and always have some kind of special project going on when they meet.

THANKS

A special THANKS to all our drop off locations!

A special THANKS to all that have purchased Quilt kits. We will have these at most PL events.

Ongoing THANKS to:

- **Karen and John Feltner** for help finishing and fixing blankets, assisting at meetings, hosting sewing days, delivering blankets and more.
- **Sandy Rees** for all her extra help.
- **Kim Mosier and Carolyn Lawson** for being our quilt binding queens!
- **Angie Carriere** for facilitating our Sevier County group of volunteers, events & donations.
- **Teresa Chasteen-Dunn and WIN** for paying for the PL storage unit each month
- My mom **Irene Hawker & Anna DeTemple** for delivery/pick-up of blankets in Cumberland County.
- **Barb Knight** quilting and all of her extra help!

- **Judy Zager** for being our webmaster and MORE!
- **Doris Cole** for donating postage and mailing the newsletter, and much much more.
- **Judy Dowker and Missy Dowker Green** for help fixing blankets, sewing labels and much more.
- **Mikki Prater** for longarm quilting and binding.
- **Denette Flynn, Debbie Petree, and others** for help with deliveries/pickups.
- **Tamsin Miller** for supplying labels, envelopes and help with deliveries/pickups.
- **Lynda Everman** for postage and help in many ways.
- **The lead folks and volunteers for each of the sewing groups at area churches and quilting groups.**
- **Annhara Henderson** for help with mailing labels, PL correspondence and more.
- **Bev Abele** for ongoing volunteer and fundraising efforts, serving as a drop-off site, dropping off many of our blankets to the Knoxville area, repairing blankets, Joann's blanket pick-up efforts and more.

And, Last but NOT Least, thanks to all of our volunteers that make blankets and support Project Linus in so many ways!

- Deb

Thanks to Pam Lau from Pellissippi State for helping to deliver a special Project Linus Super Heroes blanket to Chance. The pictures show Chance with his Dad (Note the St Jude t-shirt where Chance has received medical care) and then Pam reading to Chance. From Pam:
"Hi Deb, was able to visit with Chance this weekend! Here are some pictures with Captain Chance and the inspiring Superhero quilt from Project Linus. We talked about Charlie Brown and Linus, Project Linus and the wonderful people who donate and make blankets for special kids. Chance named ALL the characters on the quilt. When we were getting ready to read a bedtime story (or 2 😊) he asked for his new blanket!! ❤️"



Make plans now for the Jan 11th Sewing Day at Faith Harvest Church. There will be 3 yard quilt kits with fabric and pattern (for a \$10 donation), and more. If you have fleece scraps including the corners cut out from fleece blankets (if you have them bring crochet hooks G or H, and a skip stitch blade in rotary cutter – Emily will be demonstrating crocheting around smaller pieces of fleece and putting them together for a blanket, Karen will show how to make fleece hats and scarves with scraps from blankets and Deb will have samples of different kinds of finished fleece blankets. This will be a potluck lunch so please bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. We could use a few soups – if you'd like to bring one, let Deb know so we don't get too much! 9 AM – 3 PM Bring your machine and PL work.

Due to the increased #s of people attending our sewing days (GOOD NEWS), we will start requiring RSVPs to ensure a spot for volunteers that bring their machines. Please RSVP to Deb to Email (Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org or Text (865 719 2862).

The church is located at 4850 Kingston Hwy, Lenoir City. This is in Roane County right on the Loudon and County line near Wampler's Sausage Farm. It's easily accessible from I-40 Exit 356 in Roane County and the Lenoir City I-75 Exit.

PINS: The incidents of PINs found in blankets has been growing across the US. One PIN is TOO MANY. Thankfully, we've not had any reports in our chapter in quite a few years, but we need to always be on guard to make sure we don't. Suggestions:

- Use clips instead of pins (I'll post a pic in the comments)
- If you MUST USE PINS, count out a certain number and put them in a pin cushion. Only use those in making the blanket. When you are done with the blanket, make sure all pins have been returned to your pin cushion.

In addition to the above, when we sew on labels at sewing days, please double check all blankets for pins. Squish them up in your hands vertically and then do the same horizontally.

I am going to try some metal detectors, but haven't had much luck in the past. They tend to pick up the metal from the table legs, walls in the storage unit, etc.

Please be vigilant. We don't want to be sued by a parent and we don't want a child and/or their medical devices to get stuck by a pin.

Thanks as always for your support of Project Linus!
Linus Hugs!



A thank you email from Stacy at It's My Very Own - Appalachia. They provide blankets through the TN Dept. of Children's Services in Campbell County to children that need to be removed from their home, put in foster care and other situations. Our blankets are a part of the "bag" they receive of items to help ease their transition during a very difficult time.

Thanks again for all the blankets. I know it is the whole group of you that help this to happen. It's appreciated!

God bless you all. 🙏
In His Service
Stacy
It's my very own-Appalachia



Snowball Express is the only national organization we are currently providing blankets to. (We will consider others in the case of a disaster, school shooting, etc.) We sent 112 blankets for this event! This event, through the Gary Sinise Foundation, is held annually in December for Gold Star kids (children who have lost active military parents) and in a second week kids of fallen first responders. You can learn more about the event at <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express>

See You at Twisted Sisters on February 8th and April 12th from 10 AM to 3 PM. They are located at 424 Marilyn Ln. in Alcoa. Stay tuned to email and Facebook for more details about these events or contact Deb. **Twisted Sisters Quilt Shop - if you plan on bringing a machine to Twisted Sisters, call or stop by the shop to sign-up for a spot for your machine.** 865 980-0950-there will be plenty of room to sit and hand stitch, crochet/knit, hand sew labels, etc. McCalister's Deli (walking distance) and other restaurants are nearby for lunch.

First Church Knox: Deb had the pleasure of speaking with some of the women at First Church Knox today. They have been long time supporters of Project Linus of East TN. We shared ideas abt making fleece blankets and caught up of what's going on in the chapter.

<https://www.firstchurchknox.org/>



Thinking of You:

A number of our volunteers have recently lost loved ones and others have been very sick. You are amazing volunteers and continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

We had so much fun at Pellissippi State's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Community Service Day on October 25th. I spoke about Project Linus and then we got busy tying quilts. PSCC assembled a great group of young ladies and staff to participate. We really appreciate their support. Thanks to Pam Lau and PSCC for hosting us. And, as always, THANKS to our Project Linus Blanketeers!



Your Donations of Blankets and Other Items Truly Make A Difference in the Lives of Area Children. In 2024, PLET has donated items to the following recipient organizations through September 2024:

- ❖ East TN Children’s Medical Center– Knoxville: 413 blankets, pillowcases, and hats
- ❖ Mission of Hope: 344 blankets, hats & pillowcases
- ❖ ChildHelp: 114 blankets, pillowcases, hats
- ❖ Blount Memorial Hospital: 40 blankets
- ❖ Avalon Center–Cumberland County: 47 blankets
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Ctr: 49 blankets
- ❖ Methodist Medical Center–Oak Ridge: 139 blankets, pillowcases and hats
- ❖ Children’s Center of Campbell County: 50 blankets & pillowcases
- ❖ Community Center of Campbell County: 50 blankets & pillowcases
- ❖ Family Promise of Roane County: 55 blankets, pillowcases, books
- ❖ Isaiah House 117 (Sevier): 41 blankets
- ❖ LeConte Medical Center: 220 blankets
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Area Rescue: 219 blankets
- ❖ Harriman Community Baby Shower (TN Health Dept.): 150 blankets, and hats
- ❖ Smokey Mountain Children’s Home: 40 blankets
- ❖ My Very Own Bags – Appalachia: 30 blankets
- ❖ University of TN – NICU: 171 blankets
- ❖ UT Hospice: 62 blankets
- ❖ Sleep in Heavenly Peace: 273 blankets, pillowcases
- ❖ Snowball Express: 112
- ❖ Susannah’s House: 18 blankets
- ❖ Serenity House/KARM: 111 blankets
- ❖ Ridgeview Behavioral – Roane Co: 31 blankets
- ❖ Provision Cares/Proton Therapy: 132 blankets
- ❖ Family Justice of Anderson County: 69 blankets
- ❖ Special Requests: 17 blankets, pillowcases
- ❖ Hurricane Helene: 74* (with more in process)
- ❖ And many others in the East TN area

*We are only counting the blankets our chapter donates and sends. Additionally, we are sending blankets donated through us from other chapters.

A full listing of the agencies and organizations we serve is available at:

https://projectlinuseasttn.org/blanket_recipients/

More information and frequently asked questions are available at:

https://projectlinuseasttn.org/wp-content/uploads/PLET_FAQ.pdf

Blanket Requests: We continue to need blankets for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Unfortunately, there are a lot of children out there sleeping on the floor or in other less than ideal conditions. <https://shpbeds.org/> A new bed with a new mattress for a child is great, but it’s even better when topped off with a child friendly quilt or blanket and coordinating pillowcase. Twin size blankets are ideal including blankets that are made from 2 or 2.5 yards of fleece.

Hugs for Heroes

<https://projectlinuseasttn.org/military/hugs-for-heros/>

University of TN and TN Titans blankets for preteens and teens-these are always in demand.

UT Hospital is serving more and more babies in their neonatal ICU – around 50/month. The blankets should be approximately 58 x 41”. They lay them over the unit to calm the babies when they want to reduce stimulation so the babies can rest. Then they can also be used as a normal blanket and sent home with the baby when they leave.

Mission of Hope: Deb received this note from Emmette Thompson at Mission of Hope. A note from Emmette always seems to pick up spirits. He "gets it". He knows you are all "SEWING HEROES". Thanks to each of you for all you do to wrap children in traumatic situations in warm blanket hugs.

Greetings Dear Friend Deb.

Thank You And All Of Your Sewing Team Heroes For Your True Servant Hearts And Spirits And Your Hard Work And Compassionate Generosity To So Many People Over So Many Years.

Very Grateful For Your Special Friendship.

Stay Strong In Your FAITH.

Stay Filled With True HOPE.

Emmette Thompson (ET)

Mission of Hope Executive Director Emeritus

Their Hearts are in YOUR Hands

Every day, another child in our area experiences some kind of trauma and could really use a snuggly, comforting blanket.

While our blankets are made and donated by volunteers, it takes funds to run the chapter and keep the distribution going. Thanks to the generous support from some of our donors, you now have the unique opportunity to DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS to Project Linus of East TN this Giving Tuesday.

THAT MEANS YOUR DONATION OF:

\$25 = \$50

\$50 = \$100

\$100 = \$200

\$500 = \$1000

Together, we can serve more children in traumatic situations by reaching our goal of \$2,500 in donations between now and Giving Tuesday (Dec 3rd).

*If you've already recently donated, THANK YOU!
Your donation is already making an impact!*



Your donation will be used to:

- Buy blanket making supplies for volunteers on limited incomes and for special blanket making days*
- Mail blankets for special requests within our large East TN service area*
- Mail/Deliver blankets nationally to serve children impacted by large natural disasters including Hurricane Helene and school shootings*
- Mail newsletters and info to those who don't use email*
- Purchase small volunteer appreciation items to show our volunteers how much we value their contribution!*
- Print marketing materials to help spread the word about Project Linus*

Most importantly, your support means we can continue to wrap children in traumatic situations in a warm blanket hug.

Donations can be made by check made out to Project Linus of East TN and mailed to Deb Miller, 365 Dean Dr., Ten Mile, TN 37880 or online, but be sure to designate the East TN chapter:

<https://www.projectlinus.org/donate.php>

Whether you are "crafty" or not, you can make your IMPACT on serving children in traumatic situations with a warm LINUS BLANKET HUG by donating NOW and doubling the impact of your donation.

Deb

ps. For a child in need, their heart is in your hands. Please give for Giving Tuesday (December 3rd) and have your donation DOUBLED! <https://www.projectlinus.org/donate.php> (designate East TN)