

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

July August 2018

**East Tennessee Chapter**

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

## Coordinator's Corner:

A big SHOUT OUT to Bev Abele and Carol Newsom for volunteering to do the blanket pick-ups at JOANN stores. More info inside about these new drop-off locations.

Be sure to read the info inside about Snowball Express. This is one of the national efforts we support to serve the children of military families that have lost a loved one in service to our country. Some of the specifications have changed a little this year. Blankets are due to drop off locations by November 10, 2018.

A big thanks to Kim McCoy and the East Tennessee Gleaners Coop for having us come speak to their group in mid June. You can search for them on Facebook or check out their website: <https://etgleanerscoop.wixsite.com/etgchome> .

Thanks so much to Irene Hawker/Deb's Mom and Anna DeTemple for hosting the Fairfield Glade Hunter's Cove Neighborhood PL Blanket Making Party. They made 8 beautiful fleece blankets. Check out our Facebook page for pictures.

I hope everyone is having a great summer. I look forward to seeing you at one of our fall events.

**Blessings,**  
*Deb Miller*

## Mark Your Calendars

**October 6: Atomic Fibers (Oak Ridge) Project Linus Blanket Work Day – Details, Directions, and more to follow in future newsletters, emails, Facebook and on the web page.**

**October 27: Project Linus Fall Meeting and Blanket Work Day – Roane State Campus in Knoxville, 9 AM to 3 PM. Details, Directions, and more to follow in future newsletters, emails, Facebook and on the web page.**

**November 10: Due date for Snowball Express Blankets. See inside for details.**



**Financial Donations:**

Gail Sharp  
First United Methodist Church Knoxville UMW

**Donations: (May/June)**

Jean Ryan-Fry: Quilting Supplies and Fabric in memory of her mother, Mary Ryan  
Janet Townsend: 2 blankets  
Marilyn Carter: 19 blankets  
Christina Parker: 3 blankets  
Judy Montgomery: 1 blanket  
Lynne Attaway: 11 blankets  
First United Methodist Church Knoxville: 20 blankets  
Sandy Rees: 13 blankets  
Dawna Gray: 2 blankets  
Dorcus Quilters: 7 blankets and pillowcases  
Flo Buffington: 5 blankets  
Kathy Minter: 23 blankets  
Joyce Jernigan: 8 blankets  
Sandra Rea: 7 blankets  
Teri Painter: 1 blanket  
Marianne Weston: 4 blankets  
Barb Knight/Farragut Christian Church: 8 blankets  
Ellen Womersley: 11 blankets  
Tracy Houser/First Farragut United Methodist: 3 blankets  
Jill McMaster: 5 blankets  
Atomic Fibers/Toni Carringer: yarn  
Helen Low: 7 blankets  
Nathan Manning: 1 blanket  
Patricia Talbert: 5 blankets  
Marilyn Lea: 10 blankets  
Terry Painter: 2 blankets  
Melissa Everett: 1 blanket  
Restorative Justice: 2 blankets  
Ava Frederick (granddaughter of Hilari Frederick): 1 blanket  
Anonymous: 6 blankets left at Yarn Patch  
Anonymous: 26 blankets  
Anonymous: 2 blankets received in mail  
Anonymous: 2 blankets left at Atomic Fibers

- **Tom Eckhardt for building and maintaining our website! And, Mara for all her guidance and help.**
- **Doris Cole** for donating postage and mailing the newsletter, and much much more.
- **Karen Eidson** for help sewing labels and all the special extras she does for our group.
- **Judy Dowker and Missy Dowker Green** for help fixing blankets, sewing labels and much more.
- **Denette Flynn, Debbie Petree, Tamsin Miller, and Jamie Stringer** for help with deliveries/pickups.
- **The staff at the TN Career Center in Lenoir City**
- **Patti Stewart** for help with deliveries, shopping, cutting fabric and much more!
- **Annhara Henderson** for help with mailing labels, PL correspondence and more.
- My mom **Irene Hawker** for delivery and pick-up of blankets in Cumberland County.
- **Bev Abele** for ongoing volunteer and fundraising efforts, serving as a drop-off site and dropping off many of our blankets to the Knoxville area.
- **Carol Newsom and Bev Abele for coordinating Joann's blanket pick-up efforts.**
- **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.
- **Teresa Chasteen and WIN** for paying for the PL storage unit each month

If I missed thanking you for a donation, please accept my apologies and let me know so I can recognize you next time! Sometimes we get behind in picking up and unpacking blankets – please don't be offended; just let me know and we will be sure to get your items logged in and passed on to recipient organizations.

- Deb

**Snowball Express** is an event of the Gary Sinise Foundation that provides a holiday vacation for the families of active military who have died since 9/11. This has been held in the Dallas area previously, but for 2018 the event will be at Walt Disney World near Orlando in early-December. You can get more information on their website [www.SnowballExpress.org](http://www.SnowballExpress.org).

How does Project Linus fit in? Each year Project Linus chapters nationwide work together to provide blankets for all the children attending this event. This year we expect to serve about 1200 children.

Michele Mingoia, the Coordinator for the Orlando/Central Florida Chapter, will be the liaison for this event and will partner with neighboring county chapters to receive the blankets, sort, deliver, and ultimately be at the event to help each child pick out their perfect blanket! Project Linus of East TN will once again be providing blankets for this event.

#### Specifications

- The blankets should be new and can be quilts, fleece, knitted or crochet.
- All blankets must be 45 X 60 or larger. The children who attend must be at least 5 years old.
- If they are fleece tied blankets, please make sure that they do not have selvages, are ONE layer only, and that they lie flat.

#### Themes – DO's!

- Service-specific blankets are our greatest request (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard- in that order). We do not need Marine blankets as we have plenty.
- Next favorite are Star Wars, Superheroes, Minions, Disney, and camouflage. Bright colors and patterns work, too.
- These kids also like popular themes so we'll need plenty of sports, cartoon characters, cheer, gymnastics, puppies, kittens, horses, lady bugs, any animal, etc.
- We do want blankets from major league teams (NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA)!
- The kids loved the blankets that were entirely crocheted. They also loved the chunky chenille crocheted blankets.

#### Themes- DON'Ts!

- DO NOT send any blankets that resemble the US flag. Flags are draped over caskets at military funerals and may remind a child of that terrible day.
- Very few of these kids select patriotic themed blankets (red, white & blue). (We send many of these to TAPS.)
- No College teams/logos.
- No Christmas or specific holiday-themed blankets. We want the kids to love and use their blankets year-round.

Blankets are due to drop off locations by **Nov. 10, 2018**.

### Exciting News from JOANN's

**Many Joann stores around the country are now Project Linus blanket drop off locations.**

Just take your items into the customer service counter at the store. They will take them and put them in a bin in the back area. We will pick up regularly from all 3 Joann stores in the area (N. Peters/Knoxville; near Knoxville Center in East Knoxville; and in Sevierville in Governor's Crossing). This is a new program and store managers are educating their staff. If you have a problem, ask for a manager.

**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](http://www.joannplus.com). More info on how to sign up is available at: <http://projectlinuseasttn.org/resources/partnership-joann-fabrics/>

JoAnn's has discontinued their 10% VIP discount program for non-profit program at the end of May.

I've also been receiving information (not through Project Linus) about their new Rewards program which is a good way to save money. I don't have all the details about how this works, but I encourage you to check it out for Project Linus and other JoAnn's purchases.

In addition, I sign up for JoAnn's coupons in every way I can - that way you get multiple coupons such as the ones that only give you X% off one item. You can use one you receive via mail, another via email, another via text, etc. I sign up with two different emails to get even more. Also, there are times you can get a good JoAnn's coupon via Groupon for those of you that use it.

If you have trouble signing up for the coupons, I encourage you to check with the customer service desk at the store. I've found them very helpful.

**Your Donations of Blankets and Other Items Truly Make A Difference in the Lives of Area Children.**

**PLET has recently or will soon be delivering donated items to the following recipient organizations:**

- ❖ **Ronald McDonald House: (May) 48 blankets**
- ❖ **East TN Children's Medical Center– Knoxville: (May) 105 blankets**
- ❖ **UT Medical Center–Knoxville: (June) 84 blankets, caps & surgery caps**
- ❖ **Helen Ross McNabb: (May) 41 blankets**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center:
- ❖ Children's Center of the Cumberland (Scott):
- ❖ Community Health of East TN (Campbell):
- ❖ Campbell County Children's Center:
- ❖ Kids First Child Advocacy Center - 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Loudon/ Meigs/Morgan/Roane):
- ❖ **Mission of Hope: 102 blankets**
- ❖ Clinch Valley Childrens Center (Anderson Cty):
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Children's Home – Sevierville:
- ❖ Smoky Mountain Family Matters – Sevierville:
- ❖ Roane Medical Ctr./Covenant:
- ❖ Avalon Center–Cumberland County:
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Ctr:
- ❖ CHILDHELP USA (East TN):
- ❖ **Methodist Medical Center – Oak Ridge: 27 blankets (including 7 Hugs for Heros) and surgery caps**
- ❖ Blount Memorial - Maryville:
- ❖ IVA's Place:
- ❖ **Susannah's House – Knox County: 22 blankets**
- ❖ Tenth Judicial District Childrens Advocacy Center - The H.O.P.E. Center:

**Double-Layered Fleece Blankets:** We have a VERY limited need for these blankets. Please do not make these without checking with Deb first. Fleece is expensive and you can make twice the number of blankets making single layered fleece blankets. There are some great ideas and patterns on the website and by searching the internet including: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8qRlu5Aq0&feature=youtu.be>

**Pictures of Blankets:** Are you looking for blanket ideas or just want to see what others are doing? Be sure to check out the website and Facebook page for pictures of recently donated blankets and blanket patterns.

**Thinking of You**

To those of you that have lost loved ones recently,  
our sympathies are with you.

To those of you that are ill,  
we hope you are feeling better soon.

**Website, Facebook and Newsletter**

You can now access lots of information on the website – links to patterns, drop off locations, newsletters, pictures, and more. Check it out at [www.projectlinuseasttn.org](http://www.projectlinuseasttn.org) .

It is very easy to go to the website to get your newsletter each month. Just go to the site, click on the newsletter link (banner across the top and bottom left corner) and read/download the newsletter.

For those of you that are getting the newsletter via the U.S. Mail, if you can access the newsletter via the website and no longer need to have the newsletter mailed to you via the postal service, just let me know. It will save us printing costs and postage.

Don't forget to also sign-up on Facebook for more information. You can search for it under *Project Linus of East Tennessee* or access it at the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Project-Linus-of-East-Tennessee/159217337546849>

**Blanket Beacon:** This is the national Project Linus quarterly newsletter. If you have not signed up to receive it, please go to [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org). It is ONLY available by email. It has some great information. I encourage you to sign-up for it.

**Crowe Horwath is a national public accounting firm with offices in Knoxville, TN. [www.crowehorwath.com](http://www.crowehorwath.com) They found a great way to reach out to 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.**



### **Provision Cares Proton Therapy Center**

Project Linus of East TN is honored to start providing blankets in Provision in the near future. They serve adults as well as children. We hope our blankets will help wrap these children in blankets of love and hugs as they go through their cancer treatments. More is available about Provision at:

[www.ProvisionProton.com](http://www.ProvisionProton.com)

Provision CARES Proton Therapy Center is the first cancer treatment center of its kind in Tennessee and only the second in the Southeast. We provide the perfect combination of personalized, comprehensive patient care and leading-edge technology, offering one of the most advanced non-invasive cancer treatments in the world.

### **Blanket Stats/Donations to Children**

Nationally since  
December 1995  
7,020,362 blankets have  
been delivered.

Project Linus of East TN  
has delivered  
30,927 blankets since  
our inception in April  
2003 and  
759 blankets this year.

### **More Info About Project Linus:**

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.

**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](http://www.ProjectLinus.org)

## Wish List

- Stamps and Gas Cards
- Yarn (bright child friendly colors – washable)
- Fleece (1 ½ to 2 yard pieces) – All children’s patterns, bright colors, camouflage, military patterns, etc. are needed.
- We NEED \$\$\$: We always welcome financial donations to help with PL expenses including publishing the newsletter, brochures, buying labels for the blankets, mailing blankets such as those for the TAPS program. If you want to make a donation, please send it to Deb. We’d prefer a gift card (Staples, Target, Walmart, K-Mart, etc.), or check made out to Project Linus or cash.
- Project Linus of East TN now has a Go Fund Me page. This is an easy way to donate to help us with our mission. Please share this page/link with your friends and family and consider donating. Thanks. <https://www.gofundme.com/project-linus-of-east-tennessee>
- Online Donations can be made at the national website: [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) Be sure to scroll down to the comment box and designate the Project Linus of East TN chapter as the recipient for your donation.
- Remember Project Linus is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. Be sure to check with your tax advisor regarding applicable tax deductions.
- Amazon Users: 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 [smile.amazon.com](http://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. The easiest way to shop at AMAZON SMILE and make sure that your purchase benefits Project Linus is to click through the link at the bottom on our [home page at projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org) Or, you can simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://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.
- If your employer provides matching funds for contributions or contributions for your volunteer hours, Project Linus of East TN would appreciate you thinking of us.

## What are Blanket Cards?

A blanket card is a small business size card that you can attach to blankets that you make with a message to the child receiving the blanket. You can simply put your first name or group name on the card or, if you want, you can flip it over and add a message. Please do NOT put your last name. This is to protect you.

These cards are designed to help the children we serve understand there is a human being on the other end of the blanket that made it for them. If a thank you note is sent that identifies who made the blanket, we will include that information when we put the thank you note in the newsletter and on the website.

If you want to include blanket cards with your blankets (not required), just send me an email or leave a message. Include the # of cards you want (approximately enough for a year). Then when you make a blanket, complete the card and attach it before donating it to Project Linus. Cards can be attached by punching a hole in them or making a hole with a darning needle then pass a piece of yarn through the card and the blanket and tie it to the blanket. You can also safety pin them on to a blanket. Then, fold the blanket with the card to the inside. PLEASE NO STRAIGHT PINS.

Remember to put your blankets inside a bag (more than one blanket in a bag is fine), put your name in the bag and drop your blankets at a drop off location. If you have questions, just let Deb know.

## Help Project Linus of East TN by shopping at Kroger.

**For more information and to sign-up go to:**

<http://www.projectlinuseasttn.org/home/kroger>

This does NOT cost you anything, you still get your Kroger Rewards Points AND you get to help PL of East TN, too! If you THINK you’ve signed up, please check the bottom of your Kroger receipt. If it doesn’t say Project Linus of East TN, please sign up again or ask for assistance at the Kroger Customer Service desk.