

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

January February 2019

**East Tennessee Chapter**

Attn: Deb Miller, 365 Dean Dr., Ten Mile, TN 37880  
Phone: 865 719-2862 Email: [Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org](mailto:Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectLinusEastTN/>  
Website: [www.projectlinuseasttn.org](http://www.projectlinuseasttn.org)

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

## Coordinator's Corner:

I'm sorry to have to share the news of the passing of long time volunteer Jean Altshuler. Jean loved to make blankets and caps for Project Linus. We appreciate the generous donation in her memory by her son John.

We've been very busy already this month as you can see from the donations. We've also gotten a lot of local and national interest thanks to the Martha Stewart feature on Project Linus.

Be sure to check out the newsletter for the details on our Sewing Gathering and Scrappy Quilt Workshop. This will be a day to MAKE blankets. There will also be yarn and fabric available for volunteers. If there is a good turnout, we will schedule more of these this year. We appreciate Roane State for providing us the space (no cost) – it is centrally located and a great space for sewing and more.

As I'm finishing this newsletter, we are waiting for details from the national office on a program to order t-shirts & sweatshirts. Check out the website ([www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) in the STORE) in the next few days for more info. You can place your orders from Jan. 21 through Feb. 4 (tentative dates) and will have an opportunity to do so 3 more times this year. We will let you know when these ordering cycles will take place. I will post more info in an email, on the website and on Facebook as available.

I'm also waiting for info about an exciting expansion of our partnership with JoAnn's. This information should be available in the next few days including events at their stores on February 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate National Blanket Day. I'll post this information on Facebook, on the website and in emails as it becomes available. Stay tuned.

*Deb Miller*

**Mark Your Calendars:** Feb 23rd or if the weather is bad March 2nd/9 AM – 3 PM:  
Sewing Gathering and Scrappy Quilt Workshop (see inside for details). This will NOT be a meeting,  
but we will have fabric and yarn to give away.



**Financial Donations:**

Pat Thomas  
Norris Lake Quilting Bee in memory of Pat Sutherland  
(see article inside)  
Mara and Tom Eckhardt  
Annharah and Joe Henderson  
McMaster Enterprise/Jill McMaster  
John Marshall in memory of his mother Jean Altshuler  
Book sales thanks to Fairfield Glade Library and Irene  
Hawker  
Kroger Community Rewards  
Gail Sharp

**Blanket and Other Donations:**

AnnHara Henderson and Bev Abele: 4 Hugs for Heroes  
Betty Morgan: 5 blankets  
LOTS of beautiful yarn from Lisa Lee at Loose Threads  
and their customers!  
Anonymous 15 blankets left at Loose Threads  
Diana Taylor and kids (Logan, Kami, Aubrey & Kali) 5  
blankets  
Dawna Gray: 3 blankets  
Lora Davis  
Anonymous: 36 blankets  
Gilliam Family: 1 blanket  
Chris Parker: 4 blankets  
Barbara Sage, Bessie Jowers, Stephanie Hanna: 15  
blankets  
Barbara Sage: Quilt Tops  
Mary Ann Brantley: 14 blankets  
Sharon Carey: 31 blankets  
Edna Davis: 3 blankets  
Ellen Wormesley: 9 blankets  
Anonymous: Yarn left at JoAnn's on N. Peters  
Maribeth McHone: 40 blankets  
John and Karen Feltner: 6 blankets including finishing  
2 of Helen Forbe's and 2 of quilt top donations

*continued*

- **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, Melinda Al-bawi, 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*

# Sewing Gathering and Scrappy Quilt Workshop

Ready to SEW? Come on down to the Roane State Knoxville Campus on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 AM – 3 PM. **Please note if the campus is closed due to weather, the date will be moved to March 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Stay tuned to local news channels, the Roane State website ([www.RoaneState.edu](http://www.RoaneState.edu)) and announcements will be made on our Facebook Page regarding weather. See below for directions/map. Please note LUNCH will NOT be provided so bring your own or plan on running out. Drinks will be provided.

Karen Feltner will be demonstrating how to make scrappy quilts. We will also have plenty of fleece and flannel for making quick easy blankets. Supplies Needed: Sewing machine-neutral thread (I use white or cream), scissors, pins if desired. If you are doing row quilts, you may want to have your walking foot on your machine. • Fabric scraps-smallest I use is about 1.5 inches square but bring whatever you have or like. If you don't have a lot of scraps, it's okay. There will be enough for this sewing session to share. Odd shaped scraps are fine also. Leftover blocks or squares from other quilts are also fine. • Small cutting mat and rotary cutter • Iron and ironing surface (if you want to iron by your sewing machine), There will be two ironing stations to share if you are not able to bring your own. We will have a few machines available and supplies so don't worry if you don't have everything to bring with you. We will also have some blankets that will need labels sewn on them and if there is an interest, we will set up some quilts to tie.

Location: Roane State Knox County Center for Health Sciences

Directions: 132 Hayfield Road, Knoxville, TN 37922

From East Knoxville, 1-40W, heading toward Nashville

1. Take I-40 to Cedar Bluff exit (Exit 378A). Get in the right lane.
2. Turn left toward Kingston Pike at the bottom of the exit ramp.
3. Go 4/10 mile to Kingston Pike. Turn right on Kingston Pike.
4. Go 8/10 mile on Kingston Pike past the Market Place shopping center (with Kroger and Home Depot) and past the Windsor Square shopping center (with McDonald's and Big Lots).
5. At the next light turn right at the Weigel's store onto Hayfield Road.
6. Proceed north on Hayfield Road.
7. Turn right immediately after the red Roane State Health Sciences Center sign.
8. Continue straight until you reach the Roane State Health Sciences Center.

From Nashville, I-40E, heading toward Knoxville

1. Take the Cedar Bluff Road exit (Exit 378).
2. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp. Go 4/10 mile to Kingston Pike.
3. Turn right on Kingston Pike.
4. Go 8/10 mile on Kingston Pike past the Market Place shopping center (with Kroger and Home Depot) and past the Windsor Square shopping center (with McDonald's and Big Lots).
5. At the next light turn right at the Weigel's store onto Hayfield Road.
6. Proceed north on Hayfield Road.
7. Turn right immediately after the red Roane State Health Sciences Center sign.
8. Continue straight until you reach the Roane State Health Sciences Center.

For those of you that know the area, Hayfield runs between Kingston Pike and Parkside Rd. At Kingston Pike is the Weigel's and Pinnacle Financial Partners. At Parkside, Hayfield dead ends into Parkside, directly across from Beaty Chevrolet. The Strike and Spare Bowling Alley is on the corner.

<http://www.roanestate.edu/?10205-RSCC-Knox-County-Maps-and-Directions>

**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: (Jan)
- ❖ East TN Children's Medical Center– Knoxville: (Jan) 50 blankets and caps
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville: (Feb) 50 blankets and caps
- ❖ Helen Ross McNabb: (Feb) 35 blankets
- ❖ 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): 30 blankets
- ❖ Mission of Hope:
- ❖ Clinch Valley Childrens Center (Anderson Cty):
- ❖ Blount Memorial Hospital:
- ❖ Roane Medical Ctr./Covenant:
- ❖ Avalon Center–Cumberland County:
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Ctr:
- ❖ CHILDHELP USA (East TN):
- ❖ Methodist Medical Center – Oak Ridge: 4 Hugs for Heroes Blankets
- ❖ Provision Care Proton Therapy, Knoxville: (Feb)
- ❖ Hope Resource Center:
- ❖ IVA's Place:
- ❖ Susannah's House – Knox County: 4 blankets
- ❖ Tenth Judicial District Childrens Advocacy Center - The H.O.P.E. Center:
- ❖ Baptist Children's Home (Oakdale): 5 blankets

**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.

## Project Linus of East Tennessee: Drop-off Spots for Blankets

- West Knoxville/Farragut: First Farragut United Methodist Church, 12733 Kingston Pk, Farragut @ Dixie Lee Jct. (8AM-5 PM) in Church Office
- Knoxville: The Yarn Haven 464 N. Cedar Bluff Rd. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 AM – 6 PM; Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM; Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM.  
<http://www.theyarnhaven.com/>
- Knoxville: JoAnn's 154 N. Peters Rd. Knoxville, TN and 4627 Greenway Dr., Knoxville, TN (give blankets to employee or customer service desk)
- Oak Ridge: Bev Abele 107 Dansworth Ln. Please call first. 481-3674 home
- Oak Ridge: Methodist Medical Center Volunteer Office (down the hall to the left as you enter the main entrance)
- Oak Ridge: Atomic Fibers, 103 W. Tennessee, T, W, F 10 AM to 5 PM, Th 10 AM to 7 PM, Sat. 9 AM to 4 PM
- Clinton/Anderson County Area: Clinton Recreation Center/Patti Stewart at 101 S. Hicks St., Clinton, TN (behind the old Union Planters Bank Building)
- Blount County: Twisted Sisters at 240 Gill St., Alcoa, TN 37701 Ph: (865) 980-0950 Hours: Monday - 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM Tuesday - Saturday - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
[www.twistedersistersquiltshop.com](http://www.twistedersistersquiltshop.com) [Twistedersistersquiltshop@gmail.com](mailto:Twistedersistersquiltshop@gmail.com)
- Roane County/Harriman: Loose Threads at 1211 South Roane St. #5, Harriman, TN 37748 [865-882-5588](tel:865-882-5588) <http://www.loosethreadsquiltshop.com/> Hours: Saturday & Monday 9am - 3pm  
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm (Take exit 347 off of I-40 and turn right towards Harriman).
- Cumberland County: The Yarn Patch, 1771 Peavine Rd #102, Crossville TN 38571, Store hours: M-F: 10-5 and Sat: 10-4. Closed Sundays. 931-707-1255, [sheri@yarnpatch.com](mailto:sheri@yarnpatch.com), [www.yarnpatch.com](http://www.yarnpatch.com)
- Sevier County/Sevierville/Pigeon Forge: JoAnn's 208 Collier Dr. Sevierville, TN (Governor's Crossing) (give blankets to employee or customer service desk)
- Blankets can be mailed directly to Project Linus Coordinator Deb Miller at 365 Dean Dr., Ten Mile, TN 37880.

Please be sure to put blankets in a tied plastic bag with a note IN the bag with the number of blankets and name of the person/organization donating the blankets. Please be sure to check blankets carefully and ensure all PINS are removed. Contact Deb Miller with questions or to make special arrangements for blanket drop-off/pick-up. [Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org](mailto:Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org) or 865 719-2862.

Revised Dec 2018

### **Sharps Chapel Quilters** (Info provided by Shannon Carey and Rebecca Miller)

The Norris Lake Quilting Bee meet at Irwin's Chapel United Methodist Church. An unfinished quilt came to the group by way of Rebecca Miller. Rebecca, a quilter, retired to Sunset Bay from Cincinnati two years ago. In Cincinnati, Rebecca's friend Pat Sutherland had passed away 10 years ago leaving an unfinished quilt. Pat's husband asked Rebecca's help in getting it finished. Rebecca asked her fellow quilters at the Norris Lake Quilting Bee to help finish the quilt. Rebecca hosted an old-fashioned quilting bee to accomplish this. Pat's husband Jeff was overwhelmed with the finished quilt and made a donation to the group. The group has decided to share the funds with the local humane society (Pat was a dog lover and her dogs waited for her 3 months after her death), Irwin's Chapel and Project Linus of East TN.

We are so appreciative of this donation and glad that our work in providing blankets to children in traumatic situations can continue to honor Pat Sutherland's legacy.

### **PROJECT LINUS.....DID YOU KNOW? (2019)**

Here are some interesting facts and figures about Project Linus:

- \* Karen Loucks started Project Linus on December 24, 1995. The Chapter began in .
- \* Project Linus nationally has been alive for 8,409 days as of January 1, 2019.
- \* Project Linus National has had nonprofit status since May 12, 1997.
  
- \* The East TN Chapter of Project Linus donated 2,318 blankets in 2018. Since we started, we have delivered 32,486 blankets!
  
- \* Project Linus nationally has officially collected over 7,302,762 blankets as of January 1, 2019. If 70% of them are fabric (30% fleece), assuming each one is 3 yards, that translates into over 15,335,799 yards of fabric. If 30% are afghans, based on 6 skeins per blanket, that is over 13,144,968 skeins of yarn.
  
- \* If each blanket is an average of 60" long, and we laid them end to end, they would stretch 36,513,810 feet or 6,915 miles. That is as tall as 1,258 Mt. Everest's, or 20,560 One World Trade Centers or 29,211 Empire State Buildings or as long as 92,680 football fields!
  
- \* Assuming each delivered blanket so far had a label, the cost for labels would be \$262,899.
  
- \* As of January 1, 2019, Project Linus has about 294 chapters in the United States. We have 298 wonderful, compassionate coordinators.
  
- \* If each of our 298 wonderful compassionate coordinators donates an average of 20 hours per week to their chapter, that would mean about 1,040 hours per year each. And that's just coordinators!
  
- \* Think you're not making a financial contribution to Project Linus? How much money is your time worth? Even at minimum wage (\$8/hr), 20 hours per week is a salary of \$8,320 in donated time per year, per coordinator. If you are talking about 295 wonderful, compassionate coordinators, it is a value of \$2,454,400 per year. Our volunteers contribute even more time!!!!

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

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

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

#### **Project Linus Instagram:**

projectlinushq

## **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.

## **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.

## **That's A LOT of Blankets!**

Thanks to all of your hard work, we've donated 2,318 blankets to children in traumatic situations in 2018. That's a lot of blanket HUGS for children that need them! That means, we've donated 32,486 blankets since our chapter started in April 2003.

Our GOAL for 2019 is 2,514 blankets which will bring us to 35,000 blankets donated.

Nationally, Project Linus has donated 7,138,349 blankets. WOW!

## What's a Quilt Tying Party?

We have LOTS of quilt tops that need quilted and made into blankets for children in traumatic situations. Lots of these can be "tied" like we've done at some of our get-togethers.

This can be done by children (supervised as young as 7 or 8), teens, at work (a great lunch time community service activity), church and other groups, adults and seniors. Ideally 2 people can work on one quilt, but up to 4 could work on a quilt. We suggest you lay the quilt flat on a table and smooth it out. If you don't have a table large enough for the quilt, that's fine. You can use a kitchen table, folding table, etc. and lay the quilt across it and move it as needed to get the area on which you are working on the flat surface of the table.

We can provide the quilts already prepared with the top, batting and backing. These will be basted together with spray basting and/or pins. We will also provide the yarn to use to tie the quilt with. See videos below for ideas on quilting and how easy it is. The "ties" you make in the quilts should be at no more than 6" a part. You can put ties in the middle of a square, on the corners, etc. If there is a border or strip of fabric through the quilt, you can quilt on that, too, - anywhere on the top of the quilt. You need to provide needles (embroidery needles work best/larger eyes sharp points) and scissors.

If you don't have anyone that can finish the edge of the quilt after it's tied, that's fine – just send it back to us through a Project Linus of East TN drop off location (be sure to put your name and/or group name in the bag with the quilt) and we will get it finished. Most quilts will include the fabric to finish the edges – if you don't use it/finish the quilt edge/binding, please return it with the quilt. Just contact Deb for more information and details. [Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org](mailto:Deb@ProjectLinusEastTN.org) 865 719-2862

Videos for Tying Quilts:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Tying+a+Quilt#id=2&vid=92b379d4d6abd5681229b25eb1813424&action=view>

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Tying+a+Quilt#id=5&vid=c0fe44939e69f1eae67c4fc4d1f9c70f&action=view>

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=Tying+a+Quilt#id=6&vid=536b375d3cdfa380662c6deecc56a3d0&action=view> (you don't have to pin baste your quilt since we've already used spray basting on it)

### More Thank You's for your wonderful donations:

Betty Anderson: 17 blankets

Susan Spicer: 5 blankets

Janet Evans: 2 blankets

Lisa Byrd: 1 blanket

First United Methodist Church: 21 blankets

Anonymous: 27 blankets

Hand Made in the Smoky Mountains, TN: 8 large crochet afghans

Kathy Minter: 16 blankets

Debbie Gibson: 4 blankets

Kathy Hahn: 2 blankets

Marj Gossett: 1 blanket/caps

Jill McMaster: 5 blankets

Flo Buffington: 4 blankets

Denise Northern: 2 blankets

and caps

Irene Hawker: 2 blankets

Barbara Wheat: 8 blankets