

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

March April 2019

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 special HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Alma Roberts. Alma is still busy making Project Linus blankets at the young age of 90!!!!

A BIG THANKS to Patti Stewart for once again fixing a large batch of blankets for us that needed some tender loving care before they were given to children in traumatic situations.

We had a great time at the Fiberology Lab Grand Opening on March 30th. It was fun to be a part of this event. A big thanks to Terry Doll for representing Project Linus with me that day at the event. We met lots of great people, saw some old friends, and had fun with the kids coloring squares for quilts! The Lab is also a drop off location for Project Linus blankets.

As many of you have heard, the Yarn Haven on N. Cedar Bluff has been closed due to flooding from the horrible rains we had in March. They will be open soon. Please keep Sandy and the team in your thoughts and prayers as they work to get this great shop and Project Linus drop off location reopened.

Be sure to check out the pictures on our Facebook and Webpage from recent events including the Girl Scout Troop 20616 Linus Blanket Workshop, the West Valley Middle School PL event making 100 blankets, the Quilt Tying Party: Friends at Fairfield Glade (hosted by Irene Hawker (my mom), and more.

I had the honor again of visiting the 3rd graders (Kendal Doogan's class) at St. Mary's school in Oak Ridge. They made and donated 22 blankets. These are a great group of kids.

I so appreciate all the extra things Karen and John Feltner and Judy Dowker do for Project Linus including preparing all of the "sandwiched" quilts so we can tie them at our events!

Hope to see you on April 27th at The Fiberology Lab for our Workshop.

Deb Miller

Mark Your Calendars:

April 27th: Project Linus Workshop Day at the Fiberology Lab in Oak Ridge (See inside for details)



Financial Donations:

Kroger Community Rewards \$113.38
Book sales thanks to Fairfield Glade Library and Irene Hawker
Donations to help with TAPS blanket mailing
Gail Sharp
Blount County Newcomer's Club

Donations:

Amy Sloan – yarn
Farragut Christian Church Sowers Sewing Ministry: 29 blankets
Kathy Henry/Farragut Christian Church: 1 blanket
First United Methodist Church Knoxville: 20 blankets
Sharon Carey: 67 blankets
Jennifer Brinner: 1 blanket (thru Annie's Caring Crochet Kit Club)
First Farragut United Methodist Church: 4 blankets
Sandy Rea: 10 blankets
Elizabeth Rea: 1 blanket
Fran Flynn: 6 blankets and caps
St. Mary's Oak Ridge/3rd Graders: 22 blankets
Restorative Justice: 17 blankets
Advent Presbyterian Church and the Cordova, TN Community: 24 blankets
Donna Alderman: 1 blanket
Concord United Methodist Church: 61 blankets & hats
Cathy Hurrell: 7 blankets
Ila Mae Morton: 6 blankets
Barbara Roberts: 40 blankets and hats
Wilma Caughron: 6 blankets
Barb Knight: 1 blanket
Joy Bivens: 5 blankets, 8 quilt tops
Kathi Van Houten: 5 blankets
Kathy Minter: 22 blankets
Flo Buffington: 4 blankets
Ellen Womersley: 17 blankets

- **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*

Project Linus Workshop Day
April 27th 10 AM to 3 PM
The Fiberology Lab
226 Jackson Square, Suite D
Oak Ridge

We hope to see you at this fun event. Come for 30 minutes, for the day or just stop by and say hi! The new Sit-n-Stitch area will be set up to sew labels on blankets and/or bring your crocheting or knitting. We will have machines for you to use or you can bring your machine and make blankets. Bring your own fabric or we will have some for you to use. We will have quilts set up to tie and more.

There are local restaurants within walking distance for lunch including The Soup Kitchen (open til 2) and Razzleberry's or you can walk/drive a short distance to the famous Big Ed's.

It's National Yarn Store Day so there will be lots of special displays set up and the Lab's new yarn room will be making its debut.

We hope to see you there!

More Thank-You's:

Renee Byrd: 1 blanket
Kathy Hahn: 1 blanket
Margaret Woody: 1 blanket
Jill McMaster: 3 blankets and yarn
Susan Spicer: 4 blankets and yarn
Anonymous: 24 crochet blankets, 2 fleece blankets
Alma Roberts: 8 blankets
Susan Hammonds: 1 blanket
Freida Dale: 6 blankets
Terry Doll: 4 blankets and pillowcases
Lorraine McArdle – Nifty Knitters of Tellico Village: 2 blankets
Helen Low: 2 blankets
Deanna Berry: 10 blankets
7th Grade Language Arts Class (Kate Hoppenrath) West Valley Middle School - Knoxville: 100 blankets
Bessie Jowers, Stephanie Hannan & Barbara Sage: 6 blankets
Anonymous: 9 blankets (picked up at JoAnn's east)
Barbara Smith: 1 blanket
Barbara Brantley: 6 blankets
JoAnn's East: fleece
John and Karen Feltner: 2 quilt tops
Anonymous: 5 blankets, fabric and yarn
Lise Neiler: 3 blankets (including 1 Hugs for Heroes)

TAPS

We were honored to provide 50 blankets to the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPs). This program, endorsed by the U.S. Dept. of Defense, provides a Good Grief camp to children that have lost a loved one serving our country each year over Memorial Day Weekend in Washington DC.

Each child receives a blanket of their choosing. Many are patriotic including red, white and blue, as well as camouflage, ones with military designs while others are in other bright colors, animal patterns, super heroes, and more.

Chapters from across the United States provide blankets to meet the need for over 1,000 blankets for these children each year.

More info is available at www.snowballexpress.org which is a part of the Gary Sinese Foundation. We do this each year so you can start now on your blankets for next year. We also support Snowball Express (www.snowballexpress.org) which also serves children of our fallen military heroes.

TAPS blankets are due in early April and Snowball Express in early November.

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:

- ❖ East TN Children's Medical Center– Knoxville: (Mar) 57 blankets
- ❖ UT Medical Center–Knoxville: (April) 80 blankets
- ❖ Helen Ross McNabb:
- ❖ Ronald McDonald House:
- ❖ Children's Center of the Cumberlands (Scott):
- ❖ Community Health of East TN (Campbell):
- ❖ Campbell County Children's Center:
- ❖ Kids First Child Advocacy Center - 9th Judicial District (Loudon/Meigs/Morgan/Roane):
- ❖ **Mission of Hope: 42 blankets and 2 pillows**
- ❖ Clinch Valley Childrens Center (Anderson Cty):
- ❖ **Blount Memorial Hospital: 49 blankets**
- ❖ Roane Medical Ctr./Covenant:
- ❖ **Avalon Center–Cumberland County: 29 blankets**
- ❖ Cumberland Medical Ctr:
- ❖ **CHILDHELP USA (East TN): 31 blankets**
- ❖ **Methodist Medical Center – Oak Ridge: 32 blankets**
- ❖ **Provision Care Proton Therapy, Knoxville: (April) 20 blankets**
- ❖ Hope Resource Center:
- ❖ IVA's Place:
- ❖ **Susannah's House – Knox County: 50 blankets**
- ❖ Tenth Judicial District Childrens Advocacy Center - The H.O.P.E. Center:
- ❖ **Newborns in Need: 25 blankets**
- ❖ **TAPS Blankets: 50**
- ❖ **Special Request: 1 blanket-Thanks Judy Dowker for making this delivery.**

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=U8_qRlu5Aq0&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.

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. It is ONLY available by email. It has some great information. I encourage you to sign-up for it.

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=KX6f1laDpRw>

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/>

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 . 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 644 blankets in 2019 to children in traumatic situations in 2019. That's a lot of blanket HUGS for children that need them! That means, we've donated 33,130 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 7,375,351 blankets. WOW!

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

We are no longer listing store hours. They change too often. If you are unsure, please contact the store for their hours or check their website.

- **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. <http://www.theyarnhaven.com/> (Will be reopening soon after a closure due to flood damage.)
- **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: The Fiberology Lab**, 226 Jackson Square, Suite D, Closed Sunday and Monday
- **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, Closed Sunday and Monday

- **Clinton/Anderson County Area: Clinton Recreation/Community Center**/Front Desk 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 www.twistedsistersquiltshop.com

- **Roane County/Harriman: Loose Threads** at 1211 South Roane St. #5, Harriman, TN 37748 **865-882-5588** <http://www.loosethreadsquiltshop.com/> Take exit 347 off of I-40 and turn right towards Harriman.

- **Cumberland County: The Yarn Patch**, 1771 Peavine Rd #102, Crossville TN 38571, 931-707-1255, 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)

- **Madisonville: Madisonville Public Library**, 4023 Highway 411 N., Madisonville, TN 37354

- **Loudon County/Lenoir City-Tennessee Career Center** (part of the Roane State Campus) downtown at 100 West Broadway Suite 141. Drop blankets at the reception desk of the Career Center for Edith Cantrell.

- **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 or 865 719-2862.

Revised April 2019