

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Charles County, MD Chapter

January 6, 2010

Hello, Blanketeers and Friends of Project Linus,

I sincerely hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It all went along in its usual chaotic way for me. However, there was nothing chaotic about Project Linus during the year 2009. It just sped along and we managed to have a very fun, active, productive year. Following are the yearly totals:

Blankets delivered in 2009:

29 to Angel Flight MidAtlantic
29 to Angel's Watch Hughesville
12 to Buffalo NY Plane Crash
233 to Catherine Foundation
15 to CC Board of Education
12 to Center for Children
245 to Charles County Children's Aide
60 to Children's National Medical Center
866 to Civista
57 to Fort Washington Medical Center
17 to Hospice Camp Sunshine
41 to Individual Children
222 to Infants & Toddlers Program (CC Health Dept.)
21 to Military families - Melbourne FL
12 to Victims of Oklahoma Flooding
56 to Red Cross
72 to Safe Nights/Lifestyles, Inc. (for Charles County's homeless)
22 to Snowball Express (see below)
61 to So. Md. Child Care Resource Center
57 to So. Md. Hospital Center
107 to TAPS - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (children of Military killed during past year)
201 to Tri-County Youth Services
288 to Charles County Emergency Medical Services (to be used on ambulances)

2735 TOTAL BLANKETS DELIVERED IN 2009!!!!

13,085 blankets - TOTAL BLANKETS DELIVERED BY CHARLES COUNTY PROJECT LINUS SINCE WE STARTED IN 2002

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The numbers above are yearly. As far as the last quarter of 2009, we distributed 535 blankets. Starting with 67 blankets from the previous quarter, we logged in 479 blankets, distributed 535, and only have 11 blankets on hand!!! This is the least I have had on hand for a long time, but the need has been great. Sadly, we have had quite a few donations to families with many children who have lost loved ones, so our supplies have dwindled faster than usual. Keep up the good work.

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Speaking of good work, please keep it up, because in addition to our usual deliveries, the Hospice Camp Sunshine will be coming up again, needing probably 20 to 25 blankets, and also keep in mind the TAPS program, where we send the patriotic blankets. I have NONE on hand right now, having sent the ones I had accumulated to the Snowball Express event, mentioned above.

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Our January meeting will be on Friday, January 8, at 1 p.m. at Material Girls, weather permitting.

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Thank you to Linda Clem and Dee Watson for generously donating quilts for the Children's Aid Society Auction on October 9, in the name of Project Linus. The items were beautiful, and much appreciated.

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In the list above, you might have noticed an item you might not be familiar with - Snowball Express. Snowball Express is a charity for the children of our fallen military heroes. It started in 2006 to provide hope and new memories to the children of our fallen military heroes who died while on active duty since September 11, 2001. I want to share with you part of an email received from the Project Linus Coordinator in Anaheim, CA, where this project takes place:

“For us, it's all over but the celebrating. For the moms and kids, today is their day at Disneyland. The sun is shining, after a day of heavy storms yesterday, and I know they will have the time of their lives. Our Linus group was at the hotel from 10:30 am until 8:30 pm. We went with 1,400 blankets and there were 14 left when my helpers packed up to leave. These were left at the registration desk for any late-comers. I can't begin to tell you what a joy (and sorrow) to meet these wonderful people,

many of whom are truly struggling to survive, both financially and emotionally, and are so grateful for this respite. The Snowball Express group were there to meet their planes (donated by airlines), help them register and get to their beautiful hotel rooms (also donated by the hotels) and orient them to the activities planned for them and to Southern California. Although we are rather cool for us this week, many had left below 0 temps and blizzards.

Time and again we heard high praise for the roles that Project Linus, TAPS and Gold Star Mothers have played in their lives. We can once again pat ourselves on our backs for a job well done--and continuing. Thanks again to all of you coordinators and blanketeters out there across this great country of ours for helping to make this donation possible. It was truly the highlight of our year, once again."

We should be proud of our small part in this huge endeavor.

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MAKE A BLANKET DAY

This year, Make A Blanket Day is scheduled for Friday, February 19, from 9 to 3 at the Clark Center in La Plata. Mark you calendar now!! We will have our usual marathon blanket-making "extravaganza", lunch DONATED by Apple Spice Junction - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, Loren and Eric - and lots of fun, laughter, and WORK. To all blanketeters, be there and enjoy the fun. To all recipient organizations, please stop by and meet us - we'd love to meet you and hear a story or two about how our blankets are used - and pick up some blankets while you are there.

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I have not yet been able to schedule our FUNDS FOR FRIENDS event at Greene Turtle because they are getting a new manager and are not scheduling dates yet until he gets there. In a PERFECT world, we could get April 6, have our luncheon there, go to Material Girls, and have our April meeting on Tuesday instead of Friday, but those details are FAR from worked out yet. We will be having the fund raiser sometime in the Spring, though, and I hope everyone will participate and encourage friends and family to go to Greene Turtle that day also.

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Don't forget, Material Girls in La Plata and Michelle's in Hughesville are now carrying the "official" Project Linus line of fabrics. Come in and check them out!!

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We have a new Drop-Off Bin location - Hancock Fabrics in Festival Shopping Center in Waldorf (next to Country Buffet and across from Michaels). You can hand blankets to any store employee and they will be happy to store them for us until we pick them up for the next meeting. Please frequent our friends - and we have a new friend - Hancock Fabrics. Thank you, Sherry, from Hancock, for joining our Project Linus family. When you shop Hancock, let Sherry know you are from Project Linus!!

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I am snail mailing copies of this to people who aren't internet connected. If you are receiving this by snail mail and you have an email address I could send it to instead, please email me at CharlesCounty.MD@ProjectLinus.org so I can add you to my email list, to save both time, printing, and postage costs. If you no longer wish to receive our emails, please let me know. If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please let me know. If you know of anyone who doesn't have email, please copy and share this with them, or if they would like me to snail mail a copy, please let me know!!

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To those of you on this list who RECEIVE our blankets, please feel free to communicate with me or any blanketeer about your blanket needs. If you don't tell us what you need or don't need, we don't know!!

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OK now, one day soon, we should get up early, and depending where we live, head on over to either MATERIAL GIRLS or MICHELLE'S QUILTS (or both!!), and do a little shopping for just the right fabric. APPLE SPICE JUNCTION should be open by then for a delicious lunch, followed by a visit to THE HAIR GALLERY in Bryans Road for a shampoo and set, then on to Waldorf to pick up some yarn at A.C. MOORE or JOANNES. Check out HANCOCK FABRIC for some of their famous half-off fleece - their Christmas items are 75% off - and find many good deals on fabric, yarn, and sewing needs. Call PIZZA HOTLINE on the way home - either La Plata or Charlotte Hall - and pick up dinner or have it delivered to the rest of your family, while you dine and relax at THE GREENE TURTLE and reflect on how you have had a great day supporting the great businesses that support your favorite organization, which is, of course, Charles County Project Linus.

Of course, we all shop at WAL-MART and BJ'S for all of our needs, and if you see any of those beautiful Christmas ornaments they make great gifts and also support the KIWANIS CLUB OF WALDORF. Soon you will be able to enjoy at the many delicious dinners at the newly renovated American Legion Post 82 building in La Plata. The Auxiliary there is our friend!!

Don't forget Greater Waldorf Jaycee's Foundation for your next big event. Have the invitations printed by Jeff at BEST IMPRESSIONS, and have SOUTHERN BLEND BARBERSHOP QUARTET perform.

I suppose purchasing a house in Westlake Village is a bit much, but I'm TRYING here!! Anyhoo, thanks to WESTLAKE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION for your generous donations!! We are glad (and at the same time sad) that we have been able to comfort many of your children.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Keep those blankets coming!!

Mary

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SCRAPS, MAKE QUILTS (Afghans are good too!!)

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Let's support those who support us:

MATERIAL GIRLS QUILT
BOUTIQUE
The Hensley Family
6750 B Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 392-9575
www.materialgirlsqUILT.com

APPLE SPICE JUNCTION
Loren Wash
6750 Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-0034
www.applespice.com

THE GREATER WALDORF
JAYCEE'S FOUNDATION, INC.
3090 Crain Highway
Waldorf, MD 20601

BEST IMPRESSIONS
Jeff Griffith, President
400 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 518-1375

SOUTHERN BLEND
BARBERSHOP QUARTET
call Fred Parsons for
booking info
(301) 910-8385

THE HAIR GALLERY
Stephanie Walton
Bryans Road Shopping Center
P.O. Box 26
Bryans Road, MD 20616
(301) 283-6222

MICHELLE'S QUILTS
Michelle
8132 Old Leonardtown Road
Hughesville, MD 20637
(301) 274-1919
<http://www.michellesquilts.com>

HANCOCK FABRICS
Sherry Shapiro
2920 Festival Way
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PIZZA HOTLINE c
Chris Heinze
203 Charles Street
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BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB, INC
Rosemarie Pearson
1000 St. Nicholas Drive
Waldorf, MD 20603

THE GREENE TURTLE
6 St. Mary's Avenue
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WAL-MART OF LA PLATA
La Plata, MD 20601

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