

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Charles County, MD Chapter

April 12, 2010

Hello all Blanketeers and Friends of Project Linus,

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather while it lasts! It is so refreshing, and hopefully is giving everyone a renewed desire to uplift the children who are too sick or injured to feel the joy we can feel. Great feeling knowing our talent and effort can add some sunshine to their lives.

During the first quarter of 2010, our numbers are as follows:

- 76 Catherine Foundation
- 42 Charles County Children's Aid
- 144 CC Emergency Medical Serv.
- 149 Civista
- 24 Infants and Toddlers Program
- 55 Safenights
- 18 So. Md. Child Care Resource
- 54 Tri County Youth

562 blankets total - First Quarter of 2010

10,597 - total blankets donated by Charles County Project Linus to date!!

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For those of you who couldn't attend, we had a very fun, busy, successful Make a Blanket Day on Friday, February 19, finishing with a total of 510 blankets. We were blessed with a delicious lunch generously provided by **APPLE SPICE JUNCTION**. There was an excellent article in the Maryland Independent about MABD entitled "Sew Nice" on Feb. 26, 2010. If you missed it, you can see it at: http://www.somdnews.com/stories/02262010/indycov142137_32178.shtml

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On Saturday, February 26, Peggy Lyon, Jane Grove, my husband, Doug, and myself met at the American Legion in La Plata and counted, vacuum packed, and boxed 70 blankets that were donated to go to Haiti. They were mailed to Christian Aid Ministries in Ephrata, PA. en route to Haiti.

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A while ago I mentioned that there may be a regional Project Linus convention for those of us on the East Coast, but that has been cancelled. However, there IS going to be a "Midwest Mini Institute" on Sept. 10 and 11 in Raymore, MO (Kansas City suburb). Friday, Sept. 10, will be for Coordinators, Assistants and spouses only. Saturday will be for everyone. Ellen Ropogle, author of "11 Laps from Fats" and several other books and patterns will be doing a trunk show and speaking to the group. Carol, Mary and Jane will be there from Headquarters, and Patty Gregory will be doing "Scrap Extravaganza, Cutting with a plan". There will be a boxed lunch. Cost of the event is \$20. Registration deadline is June 16, 2010. If you think you might be in that area and would like to attend, email me and I'll send more information.

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TAPS



For the benefit anyone new to this list since last year, TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) is a program held each Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, D.C. for the children who are the survivors of the fallen heroes in the war.

The children are enrolled in five days of classes and exercises to learn to cope with their loss...thus "remembering the love, celebrating the life, and sharing the journey". To help them through this time, Linus is there for them, giving a blanket to each child to hold and cherish in memory of the loved one they have lost. This year, 1500 blankets will be needed. We donated 107 blankets from our Chapter last year. Let's get those patriotic blankets underway so that we can match or beat last year's number. There will be children of all ages. Blankets are requested to be patriotic theme and/or colors.

LET'S GET TOGETHER AS MANY PATRIOTIC BLANKETS AS POSSIBLE~~~I plan on delivering them to DC on Wed. May 19. We will be tagging and bagging them and getting them ready for delivery at the May 14 meeting, so please either bring them to or have them at Material Girls prior to the May 14 meeting. I will be sure the bins at Hair Gallery, Hancock, and Michelle's are checked before that meeting if you want to drop off at those bins. I always appreciate it if you let me know when you drop off blankets so we can get them as soon as possible.



[Get yours at Webfetti.com](http://Webfetti.com)

NO SMOKING AROUND OUR BLANKETS!!



We have had a problem lately that I finally just have to address. We have been receiving some blankets that have a strong smoky odor. I have occasionally taken them home to wash, but the odor doesn't always come completely out, and, upon checking my Chapter Coordinator Handbook to help figure how how to address this situation, I have discovered the following:

"If you receive blankets that are smoky, mildewed/moldy or otherwise unclean, feel free to launder them. However, recent studies show that laundering these blanket does not remove contamination, and in some cases can even make it worse. If they cannot be adequately cleaned, the blanket should be discarded. Again, if unusually strong smells due to chemicals used in detergent, fabric softeners and dryer sheets, mold and mildew or smoking products are apparent, most hospitals will discard the blanket rather than jeopardize the health of a patient".

When I have to take them home to clean, it involves untying the hang tags, washing, drying, re-tying the tags, and finally re-bagging. And then I'm still not sure if they may still contain a chemical or other substance that could cause an

allergic reaction in a sick child. THEREFORE, any blankets we receive that smell of smoke or other strong odors will not be used as Project Linus blankets and may be discarded or end up in a thrift store or other location after the Project Linus information has been removed.

I know that even after a person has quit smoking, the odors and chemicals may linger in the home, carpets, walls, curtains, vehicles, etc. If your home and/or vehicle has smoke residue, you might consider doing your sewing and blanket prep at the Clark Center on Friday mornings with the rest of the Clark Center Blanketeer crew. You can sew and socialize at the same time. There are sewing machines available to use, or you can bring your own. Bags, tags, labels - everything is there, and your blankets can be delivered to Material Girls along with the other Clark Center ones. You can bring your own fabric - just make sure it hasn't been exposed to the chemicals mentioned above.

Even if you are not smoking yourself or have recently quit, PLEASE help keep our little blanket recipients safe by not having blankets you intend to donate be left someplace where they can pick up odors or chemicals from cigarettes or other substances.

Pet odors, hair, and dander can also be a problem. Please launder any blanket before donating it to Project Linus if it has been in contact with your pets..

Bottom line: **OUR BLANKETS NEED TO COME FROM SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS!!!!!!**

NO SMOKING AROUND OUR BLANKETS!!



Will the person who gave me \$20.00 toward mailing blankets to Haiti please contact me. Thanks!

We have had two sad things happen recently. Both Peggy Lyon and Jill Malcolm lost their fathers during the past couple of weeks. Jill was Coordinator of the then Southern Maryland Project Linus, where this Chapter got its beginning. Jill's father passed away under a blanket made especially for him by one of her "ole" blanketeers. Their addresses follow, in case you want to send a card:

Peggy Lyon
4680 Strauss Avenue
Indian Head, MD 20640

Jill Malcolm
7147 NW 122nd Ave.
Parkland, FL 33076

HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING, and get working on those **PATRIOTIC** blankets.

Mary Hancock, Coordinator
Project Linus - Charles County, MD
12010 Maryland Point Road
Nanjemoy, MD 20662
(301) 743-2114 home
(301) 653-4893 cell
CharlesCounty.MD@ProjectLinus.org

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

BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB, INC
Rosemarie Pearson
1000 St. Nicholas Drive
Waldorf, MD 20603
rpearson@bjs.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

Waldorf, MD 20601

(301) 645-4146

PIZZA HOTLINE c

Chris Heinze

203 Charles Street

La Plata, MD 20646

(301) 934-4670

THE GREENE TURTLE

6 St. Mary's Avenue

La Plata MD 20646

www.greeneturtle.com

WAL-MART OF LA PLATA

La Plata, MD 20601

WESTLAKE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

3352 Old Washington Road

Waldorf, MD 20602

A.C. MOORE, Waldorf, MD

3035 Waldorf Market Place

Waldorf, MD 20603

(301) 632-5125

KIWANIS CLUB OF WALDORF

P.O. Box 723

Waldorf, MD 20604

milliek@radix.net

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST 82

Anna Mae Sackie

Crain Highway

La Plata, MD 20646

