

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Charles County, MD Chapter

NEWSLETTER THIRD QUARTER 2011
October 2011

“Small things, done with great love, bring joy and peace.”
.....Mother Theresa

Happy Fall! Well, we have survived to the end of a tough winter, beautiful spring, and a strange summer, which included lots of rain, an earthquake, a hurricane, followed by some absolutely beautiful days, followed by heavy rains and downpours, and now back to some heavenly weather!! Though it all, Project Linus blanketeers have continued with your generous completion and donation of blankets for our sick, injured, traumatized children. Can't keep good blanketeers down!!

I will break down the numbers completely in the end of year newsletter, but just know that as of Sept. 30, 2011 we have donated 16,563 blankets to children who need them. Not bad for 9 years!!



Mary Balagna – Vice
President/Director
Project Linus National
Headquarters

Last newsletter, I introduced Karen Loucks (now Rinedollar), the original founder of Project Linus. This newsletter, I would like to introduce Mary Balagna, the Vice President/Director of Project Linus. Mary is also the Coordinator of the Central

Illinois Chapter. After watching an episode of Simply Quilts, Mary realized that there were not any chapters in her immediate area. She contacted the Project Linus National offices and was thrilled to open the Central Illinois Chapter. Her husband, Terry, an emergency room physician, agreed to hand out blankets to ill and traumatized children in the ER and from there the chapter grew tremendously in a very short time. As a totally dedicated Project Linus volunteer, Mary could not pass up another Project Linus opportunity that came her way. When Project Linus reorganized in October of 2000, Mary accepted the position of Vice President on the

National Board. In addition to her work with Project Linus, Mary has a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Iowa. Her husband, Terry, is a Board member and also an integral part of the National offices of Project Linus, gives very entertaining "talks" at the Conventions, and can be seen doing all sorts of behind the scenes help of any sort at the conventions, same with any of their four children.

For those of you with internet access, Mary also has a very entertaining blog dedicated to her work with Project Linus to which you might subscribe to at:
<http://projectlinuscentralil.blogspot.com/>. and a fitness blog at:
www.marython.net .

MOVING FORWARD MARY-THON 2012 Finishing = Winning

The above-mentioned Mary Balagna started a "Mary-thon" last year and is continuing and expanding it this year. In addition to encouraging us to get some daily exercise, we have an opportunity to donate \$15 (tax deductible) to our own chapter of Project Linus. For the \$35 registration fee (\$15 of

which is tax deductible and goes to our chapter), we'll get a T-shirt, bracelet, finishers medal, a downloadable tracking sheet, pledge, finisher's certificate, motivational support, and blog updates!! If you want to be a "Basic Mary-thoner", it's free, and you would get the tracking sheet, pledge, finisher's certificate, motivational support and blog updates sent to your email address. Print out the flyer/registration info at:



Moving Forward
Mary-thon & Half-Mar

If you're going to do it, don't forget to fill in CHARLES COUNTY PROJECT LINUS as your Chapter, so the \$15 will go into our Chapter funds. You can also register online at the above site. Those of you who get snail-mail newsletters, I'm enclosing a copy of the brochure. If you get this snail mail, but have internet access, PLEASE let me know so I can save the expense and time involved in getting out the snail-mail newsletters. ALSO, if she gets 200 registrations, everyone registered will be in a quilt drawing, probably at the end of the Mary-thon. Check out the PL Website and Mary's blog for further information.

Mission Statement

First, it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”

Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

+++++

NEW SHIRTS

There are new Project Linus shirts available.



No longer have to be ordered by the Coordinator. You can order directly from www.projectlinus.org. Click on Store at the top, then Clothing at the left, then “I Love PL” shirts. The other ones are also still available. Contact me if you are not internet-connected and wish to purchase a shirt.

+++++

OK LADIES!!!! Let’s get away!!! PL Conference is no longer just for COORDINATORS!!! Everyone can attend and this one’s MUCH closer than ILLINOIS!! Let’s get a group together and head to Valley Forge, Pa., June 27 to 30, 2012. Start saving your pennies. We can carpool and double up in the rooms to save \$\$\$ and have a fun three-day Project Linus weekend next June!! Go to www.ProjectLinus.org for the details.

+++++

We are sorry that two of our precious blanketeers, Carol Eppley and Jo Bond, also “Happy Hookers” crochet group members, have had recent surgeries and wish them a quick recovery.

We were sorry to hear of the death on July 10, 2011, of Marie Matheny one of our blanketeers who had moved to California. We send condolences to her family and friends for their loss.

Please let me know if you hear of a blanketeer who needs a card or an email. I don’t always hear until they are well!! Let me know if you are interested!!

+++++

+++++

MY CAUSE WATER



Michael Fitzgerald II of St Mary’s County, MD., has founded the Panacea Beverage Company. They donate five cents of each bottle sold to charity, and Charles County Project Linus is one of their charities! Look for the square bottle when you shop at many local businesses, follow the 3 easy steps on the back of the bottle, and a percentage will be donated to CC Project Linus!! We have already received \$12.85 in the past 2 months!! Any funds not designated are donated to a randomly selected charity. When you go to the website, ask that your donation go to “Project Linus Charles County Chapter”.

+++++

PLEASE continue to be vigilant - no smoke, no moldy or mildew smells, no heavy perfume or detergent smells, no buttons, snaps, sequins, bells, bows, or anything that might come loose - in other words NOTHING that could possibly cause a problem for a child. Please check CAREFULLY for pins. If you are dropping off blankets, please do not PIN on your name/address. Please use tape or sticky paper. The pins can come loose and end up in a blanket and eventually to the child.

+++++

IMPORTANT DATES

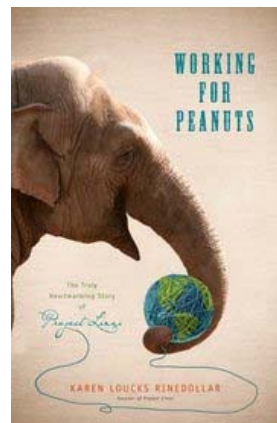
Regular Project Linus meetings –
Second Friday of each month –
Material Girls, La Plata

Clark Center Blanketeers meet every
Friday 9 -12 at Clark Center, La
Plata

Happy Hookers Crochet Group meet
Tuesdays 10 to Noon at Health
Partners in Waldorf.

+++++

Our Founder, Karen Loucks
Rinedollar, has written a book about
her Project Linus experience.



You can purchase a copy at
www.amazon.com

+++++

To you organizations that receive our
blankets, please feel free to
communicate with me or any
blanketeer about your blanket needs
– more blankets, less blankets,
bigger blankets, smaller blankets,
more girl/boy blankets. If you don’t
tell us what you need or don’t need,
we don’t know!!

+++++

I am setting aside special blankets – patriotic blankets for TAPS and other military requests as they come in, blankets with airplanes and helicopters for Angel Flight, and blankets with fire trucks and ambulances for the rescue squads. If you donate blankets with these themes, they may be held for a while until I get a dozen or more to donate at the same time. The patriotic ones are held until Memorial Day unless special requests come in in the meantime.

+++++

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!!

+++++

Blankets must be machine washable and dryable – no wool, polyester double knits, upholstery, or vinyl.

+++++

The Warm Company



The Warm Company has been a supporter of Project Linus for many years. They send out free batting to 10 Project Linus chapters each month. Charles County has had a couple of nice surprise deliveries from The Warm Company, and we are very grateful to them for their continued support.

In addition to the free batting, Project Linus chapter coordinators can order wholesale batting from The Warm Company any time. If you are interested, contact me and I'll send you a price list. I am not sure how their prices compare with what you can purchase yourself locally.

+++++

If you are making fleece blankets, PLEASE CUT OFF THE SELVAGE SIDES! The selvage sides are the curly edges; sometimes they have little holes in them.

+++++

Remember to label your bag/s when dropping off blankets. Include your home & contact information, and indicate that they are for Project Linus.

+++++

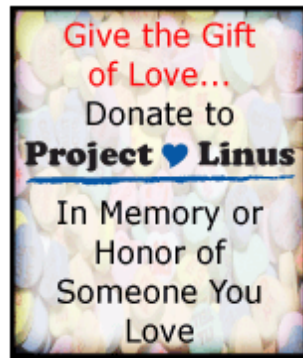
++++
And finally, a poem by Blanketeer Palma Mayo of New Jersey

Whenever I'm lonely or have nothing to do,
Or even, perhaps feeling just a bit blue,
I sit and crochet in my little recliner,
And believe it or not I start feeling finer.

Then all of my troubles go flying away,
As I ponder on what I would want to crochet.
Ideas come to mind and a flare of bright colors,
That wipes out my yen for cake, candy or crullers.

So tell me this therapy's not good for me.
And I'll tell you you're wrong, just as wrong as can be.

++++



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

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:

DROP-OFF BIN LOCATIONS

MATERIAL GIRLS QUILT
BOUTIQUE – Also, meeting held here 2nd
Friday of every month, 1 pm.

the Henley Family
6750 B Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 392-9575
www.materialgirlsquilt.com

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

HANCOCK FABRICS
Sherry Shapiro
2920 Festival Way
Waldorf, MD 20601
(301) 645-4146

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

BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB, INC
1000 St. Nicholas Drive
Waldorf, MD 20603

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

WAL-MART OF LA PLATA
La Plata, MD 20601

WESTLAKE VILLAGE
ASSOCIATION
3352 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, MD 20602

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
POST 82 - Anna Mae Sackie
Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646

PIZZA HOTLINE
Chris Heinze
203 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646
(301) 934-4670

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