

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

## Charles County, MD Chapter

### NEWSLETTER - 2012

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

.....Mother Theresa

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#### OUR MISSION

- First, 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, provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

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WOW! What a busy year we had in 2012!! Just look at all the blankets we have donated...in Charles County and beyond!! Thanks to each and every volunteer for making this such an outstanding Project Linus chapter. Here are our 2012 stats:

Civista Hospital	469
Children's Aid	111
Tri-County Youth Services	160
Catherine Foundation	269
Children's National Med. Center	310
Charles Co. Infants and Toddler Program	74
The Arc of Southern Maryland	4
Individual Donations	25
Hurricane Sandy	57
King George Dept. of Social Services	36
King George Fire & Rescue	12
Charles Co. Mobile Intensive Care Unit	27
Charles Co. Emergency Med. Services	148
Charles Co. EMS - Ironsides RS	28
Angel Flight	16
Operation Military Child	12
The Promise Resource Center	24
Tragedy Assist. Prog. for Survivors (TAPS)	43
Fort Washington Medical Center ER	24
Prayer of Faith Ministries	<u>12</u>

TOTAL BLANKETS DONATED 2012 1861  
TOTAL BLANKETS DONATED SINCE 2002 18,917

## 10-Year Anniversary Celebration



On Friday, November 9, 2012, twenty seven faithful Project Linus blanketeers gathered at The Greene Turtle in La Plata, to celebrate the ten-year anniversary of Charles County Project Linus!! We had a delicious lunch, and the group presented me (Mary Hancock) with a beautiful quilt made by various blanketeers and friends of Project Linus, with a book of pictures and names of the quilters of each block!!! It is a true treasure and I will cherish it always!! Thank you to each and every one who had a hand (or needle!) into the creation and making of this masterpiece and the book to accompany it, to Dee for the great PL bag that it came in, and for all the love and support from every Blanketeer, each of whom is the reason this Chapter has enjoyed such success!! I have to say I was pretty much speechless and shed more than a few tears since then snuggling under it. Of course, a couple of tobacco sticks, an old piece of twine my father used to tie up newspapers years ago, and an old drawer knob, and now it's a fantastic wall hanging, keeping all of you in my thoughts as I recline next to it in my favorite chair! THANK YOU!!

ANYWAY, as I was saying, we gathered to celebrate ten years of Charles County Project Linus, and I was amazed to find that six of us who attended that first meeting on September 13, 2002, at The Sewing Room, in La Plata - Carol Eppley, Dee Watson, Sherri Arch, Kaye Webb, Katie Popp, and myself - are still active Blanketeers, and four of us were at the Greene Turtle to celebrate. What a fun, productive ten years - we have lovingly "hugged" almost 19,000 children in those ten years and made lasting bonds of friendship within our Chapter

and in the community as well. Thanks to everyone who has ever made a blanket or donated to our Chapter in any way. We can all be very proud!





**ANOTHER CELEBRATION!**

On December 14, following our regular 10 a.m. monthly meeting at the Clark Center, we had a delicious Pizza Party, enjoying pizza and salad donated by Pizza Hotline in La Plata and dessert donated by BJ's Warehouse.

We have gotten quite a few new Blanketeers in 1912. Welcome to all of you! A few have been from Prince Georges County...a few from Calvert County....even a few who now live in King George, Virginia! Thanks for your interest in and support of Charles County Project Linus. We do deliver blankets to Fort Washington Medical Center and make an occasional delivery to Southern Maryland Hospital in Prince George's County (although I see we haven't been there in the past year...I shall have to remedy that soon!). Also, we have been sending some bags of blankets across the river to King George, in light of our Blanketeers who are over there and since there is no Project Linus Chapter in that area. We have gotten a generous donation from the King George Walmart.....also, from the Walmart in Waldorf, MD! THANK YOU....THANK YOU.....THANK YOU!!



**IF I HAVE SNAIL-MAILED YOU THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE A WAY TO RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS THROUGH EMAIL. SAVES TIME, INK, PAPER, POSTAGE!! Thanks.**



**MAKE A BLANKET DAY 2013**

For those of you new to Project Linus, mark your calendar!!! Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 will be our annual Make A Blanket Day at the Richard R. Clark Senior Center in La Plata. For those of you who have joined us since last year, Make A Blanket Day (MABD) is sort of a one-day fun marathon blanket-making work day, at which we try to make, finish, label, tag, count, bag, list, count again, and then distribute as many blankets as possible. All blankets that come in after the January meeting through MABD will be counted. So, start making an extra blanket today!!! We usually give 144 to the Charles County Emergency Medical Services (one bag for each squad), to be used on ambulances throughout the County. We hope some of our recipient organizations will send representatives to

Speak with us briefly about how they use the blankets and that they will take some blankets as they leave.

When: Friday, Feb. 15, 9 am to 3 pm - feel free to stay for the day or for an hour - whatever fits into your schedule.

Where: - Clark Center - 1210 Charles Street, La Plata, 20646

What to bring: small sewing kit so you can use your own scissors, thread, etc. You can bring a project if you are working on something, or you can work on whatever we have going. Hopefully, there will be plenty to do!! We are having some "fleece fun" this year. There will be fleece available to make fleece blankets, or bring your own and make a group project and use up that fleece you have been collecting!

Lunch is being donated and catered by Apple Spice Junction - will need to get fairly accurate head count, so please remember to **RSVP no later than Tue., Feb. 12**, if you are planning to attend. Those who don't receive email, please contact me to order lunch for you. I do have the sign-up sheet started at the January meeting, so if you signed that, I already have you on the list. Please pass the word. Lunch is free....we will pass a basket for tips .



SPECIAL BLANKET "COLLECTIONS"

As we go through blankets at each meeting, we do sort according to the needs of the organizations. We also sort out blankets for three special needs.

(1) We collect blankets that are patriotic in color and/or design. Most of these are donated to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), ([www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)) which is a program *which organizes a "Good Grief" camp each Memorial Day to help children who are grieving the loss of a loved one in the military during the past year. Each child receives a Project Linus blanket as part of their experience at the camp.*

Some of these patriotic blankets also go to Operation: Military Kid...and occasionally to a special individual child where it is appropriate.

(2) We sort out blankets with fire engine/ambulance/rescue themes to go to Charles County Emergency Medical Services, and

(3) We sort out airplane/helicopter themed blankets to be sent to the Angel Flight organization.

Important dates:

- Feb. 8, 2013:** NO REGULAR MEETING  
**Feb. 12, 2013:** DEADLINE TO RESERVE LUNCH FOR MABD  
**Feb. 15 2013:** MAKE A BLANKET DAY!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Clark Center 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Mar. 8, 2013:** March Project Linus Meeting  
Clark Center 10 a.m.  
**Apr. 12, 2013:** April Project Linus Meeting  
Clark Center 10 a.m.  
**May 10, 2013:** May Project Linus Meeting  
Clark Center 10 a.m. (Please bring TAPS blankets.)  
**May 17, 2013:** Deadline to have TAPS blankets to a Drop-Off Bin

Many of you have asked what size to make blankets. Below is a very variable guideline. THESE ARE SUGGESTED SIZES ONLY.....KIDS COME IN ALL SIZES!! Please do not feel compelled to cut blankets or knit or crochet to these exact sizes. Use what you have and make a blanket you think your child or grandchild would love.

Infant 25" x 35"  
Toddler 35" x 45"  
Child 40" x 60"  
Teen 40" x 72"

PLEASE **DO**:

- ⇒ Use NEW machine washable/dryable fabrics
- ⇒ Leave us your contact information with your blankets if you drop off at one of the bins.
- ⇒ Launder blankets that have been exposed to pets to remove pet hair and/or dander.

PLEASE **DO NOT**:

- ⇒ EXPOSE THE BLANKETS TO CIGARETTE SMOKE
- ⇒ Attach bells, bows, buttons, snaps, ribbons or anything that could come off and harm a child. Ribbons woven in around the edges of blankets look beautiful, but are a hazard and will have to be removed.
- ⇒ Use wool, polyester double knits, upholstery or vinyl in the blankets.

## MY CAUSE WATER

If you purchase My Cause water and follow the directions below, Project Linus Charles County will receive 5 cents per bottle. We also could win a monthly lottery, where all unassigned "nickels" could go to our organization.

"Our Purpose is to help you change the world! MyCause™ Water donates 5¢ to a cause of your choice for each bottle sold."



1. Buy the water.
2. Click to our web site here at [www.MyCauseWater.com](http://www.MyCauseWater.com) and select Project Linus Charles County Chapter (or any other

cause you choose)

3. Enjoy sipping MyCause water, knowing that you've become a catalyst for change in the world.
4. Repeat Steps 1 through 3!

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND GIVE CAMP

In October 2012 I saw an article in the Maryland Independent about the Southern Maryland Give Camp (SMGC) , ([www.somdgc.org](http://www.somdgc.org)) an organization founded to assist local non-profits create web sites and do other technical computer things they may not be able to do or afford to accomplish. GiveCamp is a weekend-long event where software developers, designers, and database administrators donate their time to create custom software for non-profit organizations FOR FREE! I applied and Charles County Project Linus has been accepted as one of 9 non-profits selected this year to attend THE CAMP. I am very excited about this....and sometime mid-April I hope to be able to launch our WEBSITE



Project Linus blanketeers are eligible for 10% discount at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores when making Project Linus blankets! You must have a Project Linus ID Card, which I can give you...just let me know if you need one and for instructions on getting your VIP discount card for Jo-Ann.

## BOOK NEWS`

National President, Carol Babbitt, and our National Vice President, Mary Balagna, have written a book, [Quilt It With Love: the Project Linus Story](#). Adorable children's quilt patterns and heart-warming stories pertaining to Project Linus.



Quilt It With Love:  
The Project Linus Story [Learn More](#)

Our Founder, Karen Loucks Rinedollar, has written a book, [Working for Peanuts, the Project Linus Story](#). It is a very moving story about how she started this organization, how it evolved....mostly it is a story about how one simple idea can blossom into a national phenomenon...it is inspiring and uplifting.....available on Amazon or for autographed copies at [www.WorkingforPeanuts.org](http://www.WorkingforPeanuts.org)

Also, Jennifer Chiaverini has written many entertaining books about quilting and life. Some of her Elm Creek series of books even mention Project Linus! Enjoy! [www.elmcreek.net](http://www.elmcreek.net)

Project Linus Conference 2013 will be held in Normal, Illinois, this year, and is open to all Blanketeers Click below for further information.



[Learn More](#)

for OUR chapter!



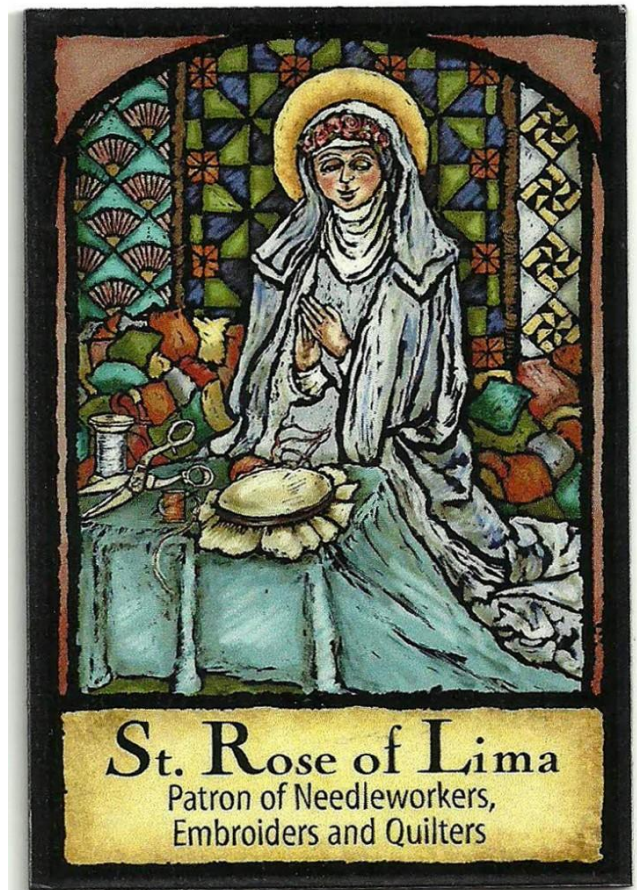
Click below to receive the National newsletter, The Blanket Beacon.



[Register to receive frequent newsletters from headquarters.](#)

~ Want to get fit and donate to Project Linus in the process? Check out Moving Forward Marython below. If you decide to participate, please remember to mention you are from CHARLES COUNTY PROJECT LINUS!! Your \$10 will be designated

Look!!!!!! We have a Patron Saint!!! Thanks, Annette Good, for bringing her to our attention!!! She is adorable! I pray she'll watch over our chapter, all of it's Blanketeers, friends, and supporters, and most especially all of the children who receive our special "hand made hugs".



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WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU SCRAPS, MAKE QUILTS  
(Afghans are good too!)  
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## Let's support those who support us:

### DROP-OFF BIN LOCATIONS

#### MATERIAL GIRLS QUILT.

The Henley Family  
6750 B Crain Highway  
La Plata, MD 20646  
(301) 392-9575

[www.materialgirlsqilt.com](http://www.materialgirlsqilt.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>

#### APPLE SPICE JUNCTION

Loren Wash  
6750 Crain Highway  
La Plata, MD 20646  
(301) 934-0034  
[www.applespice.com](http://www.applespice.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