



Blanketing Central Texas

The Mission of The Linus Connection is to provide a handmade security blanket to every child who is in crisis or at-risk situation in Central Texas.

July - September 2005

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A Note From Steph

Hi everyone. Linus is having a wonderful, wonderful summer and we hope you are too! Despite the hot weather, the blankets have continued to come in record numbers. This is great since the requests have also continued to grow! When I typed up the request sheet for this month I was astonished, and a bit nervous, to see that the requests added up to more than 350 blankets. But of course my fears were unfounded as the blankets piled up on Saturday morning meeting the needs for all of the precious children.

Spotlight on Blanketeers

We recently received a huge first donation from a local group. The Jubilee Knit Chicks made a total of 43 blankets for the Linus Connection. I am so proud of these ladies' combined efforts.

The blankets were made by 15 different women in just three months. Some were new to the needle-arts and learned to knit and crochet in the weekly Knit Chicks meetings at Jubilee Church. Three of the women shared their knowledge of knitting and crocheting so others could learn. There were several women who made 5 blankets each. Some made one; most women made three each. The mother of one Knit Chick, who lives in Dallas, heard about Linus and she knitted up a blanket and mailed it to the group!

Laura Teague, the inspiration behind the donation, heard of the Linus Connection several years ago in an Austin Sewing Guild meeting and has been contributing to Linus personally ever since. But she wanted to do more, so she asked the Knit Chicks if they wanted to be involved in this effort. And she had an amazing response, don't you think?

The Knit Chicks started in January 2005 out of a need to develop and foster friendships between women. After studying the book, "The Purpose Driven Life" as a group in February and March, they decided to take on this project as a way of serving the needs of others in our community. Not all the women in the group are church members. Some are co-workers; some attend different churches, some do not attend church at all. They meet weekly and have a great time together working on projects, furthering their skills, and enjoying being together.

To learn more about the Knit Chicks, check out their website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~knitchicks/>.

Upcoming Blanket Meetings

All Monthly meetings will continue to be at St. Phillips Church in Round Rock from 9am - Noon on the third Saturday of each month. The next three dates are:

- ★ July 16, 2005
- ★ August 20, 2005
- ★ September 17, 2005

Show and Tell at 10:00

Quilting Demonstrations at 11:00

If you would like to attend, but do not have transportation, please contact us and we will do our best to arrange a ride for you.

Honey Bee Work Day/Linus Sew-In July 9

Once again, Honey Bee Quilt Store will be hosting a morning sew-in to support Linus. Cut quilt kits will be available at the store. Bring your machine and join us 9-12 on July 9. The next date will be Sept. 3. Honey Bee is also a Linus blanket drop-off location. www.honeybeequiltstore.com.

Berry Creek Linus Circle Invites You!

The Berry Creek Linus Circle invites you to join in their monthly sew-in on Monday July 11 from 9-3. Bring your sewing machine and tools and join the group for coffee and coffee cake. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please bring a sack lunch. For more information, please contact Sharon Kyslowsky at 930-3412.

Garage Sale Successful Once Again!

You want rain?? Just have a Garage Sale! We had our 2nd Annual Garage Sale on April 30th. It rained again, but we persevered. We were again at the homes of Dee Yetter and Deb Weightman. The Ranch of Cypress Creek where Dee and Deb live was having their neighborhood garage sale, so we joined in! Despite the rainy morning, the afternoon cleared and we had a good turnout. We had everything from furniture to hair bows. Thanks to everyone for donating items for us to sell. We made approximately \$1900 this year, surpassing last year by about \$600. This will buy a lot of yarn and fabric for our blankets makers! Hats off to all that helped in sorting, pricing, moving, setting up, selling and cleaning up. GREAT JOB LADIES. A big thanks to Dee and Deb's husbands for helping and putting up with the mess!



Donated Fabric

We have received THREE large donations of fabric in the past two months. The first was from Judy Crum, a Hoffman fabric representative in Central Texas. She has donated some wonderful fabric over the past year and just recently brought us a new load. This fabric can be found in the kits, which are available at the monthly meetings and the Honey Bee sew-in days. The second donation was from Dan River in Dallas. One of the ladies up there, Donna, was instructed to "get rid of" some fabric that was in a conference room. Instead of just tossing it, she searched the Internet and found us! We are currently organizing and washing the fabric and it too will be available at the monthly meetings. The last donation came from Wal-Mart in Cedar Park. Jan at the fabric cutting area saw a flyer of ours and called to tell me they had a number of bolts that hadn't sold and the distributor didn't want back. We went and picked them up the next day! If you are in the Wal-Mart at the corner of 183 and 1431 any time, please stop by and tell Jan how much we appreciate her!

Tips & Tricks

- ★ For Crocheters: if the chain row of your blankets tends to be tight, consider using a hook one size bigger than the pattern calls for to do the chain.
- ★ For Crocheters: if you are not planning on adding a border, think about doing a row of single crochet stitches on the chain before starting the pattern. This will stabilize the bottom of the blanket.
- ★ For Quilters: To keep pins & needles sharp and to help them glide through fabric easier, use a bar of soap for a pincushion. Plain old Ivory soap will keep them clean and sharp with no sign of rust no matter how long they sit there!
- ★ For Quilters: Place a mouse pad under your sewing machine's foot pedal to keep it in place.

Quilt Kits & Bundles Available

You can now find Quilt Kits available at all Linus meetings. The kits include basic pattern directions and have been "first cut" for your convenience. These are for beginners and advanced quilters alike. Grab a kit, make a quilt & bring it back to the next meeting. No time to finish? Bring the finished top with the rest of the kit and we'll see it gets done! We'd like to ask that you please return the baggies and patterns with the quilts for future re-use. Consider taking two kits instead of fabric to help with the need for camp blankets.

Drop-Off Locations

- ★ Honey Bee Quilt Store 257-1269
- ★ Bluebonnet Yarn Shoppe 259-4646
- ★ Round Rock: Margarita, 255-9241
- ★ Cedar Park: Dee, 331-5847
- ★ G'town: Margaret, Wesleyan Retirement, 863-2892
- ★ NW Austin: (Parmer/McNeil) Jennifer, 294-2793
- ★ NW Austin: (Parmer/MoPac) Linda, 255-4942

Linus Circles

Below is a listing of smaller groups around the area that regularly meet to make Linus blankets. Please feel free to call the contact person if you are interested in attending. They welcome new members and blanket makers of all kinds at any time.

- ★ Cedar Park -Shepherd's Bee-Contact: Marlene, 259-2617, next meeting July 9, 9-12
- ★ Georgetown-Berry Creek Linus Circle - Contact: Sharon, 930-3412
- ★ Liberty Hill - LHUMW - Contact: Gloria, 515-5862 or Caroline 515-6106. Meets 3rd Friday, 9:30 am.
- ★ Wimberley-United Methodist Women - Contact: Donna 847-7642 or Zula 847-1694

Blanket Distribution April - June

Foster Care/Protective Service	394
Grief Support	100
Medical/Hospital	332
Shelters	108
Victims Assistance	85
Year To Date - 2005	1,738
Since 1999	14,582

Personal Note

I wanted to let everyone know that the Sabatini family is growing again!! Greg, Ryan and I will soon be welcoming a baby girl, Kristina Elizabeth, into our family. Kristina was born a year ago on June 23rd, and is currently living in an orphanage in Russia, the same one where Ryan was. Greg and I will be traveling to meet her on July 1st, but according to the new adoption rules in Russia, will have to return home for at least a couple of weeks before being granted a Court date. We hope to have her home before the end of July. We appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult waiting period!!

-Steph, Greg & Ryan

To receive updates via email or be removed from our mailing list, please contact Stephanie: stephanie@linusconnection.org or 512-266-9305.

For newsletter ideas, please email Jennifer at ofenjen@austin.rr.com.

Newsletter Edited by Jennifer Ofenstein

Contributors: Stephanie Sabatini & Dee Yetter

