



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.

A NOTE FROM STEPH:

I admit it, I love spring. The colors, the trees, the flowers, not the mosquitoes... But, yes I love spring. I know we don't have much of a winter here, comparatively... but still, there's just something about Spring. One of my favorite things is to drive the car with the window down and what better to do than stop by a fabric or craft store and pick up some Linus materials! Or even better, come to the monthly gathering and meet your fellow Linus volunteers. So enjoy the weather everyone and hope to see you at the next meeting! --Steph

2006 Blanket Distribution

Crisis Centers & Shelters	145
Foster Care/Protective Services	69
Grief Support	25
Medical Facilities/Hospitals	486
Victim Assistant	32
Total Blankets Year-To-Date	757
Blankets Distributed since 1999	17,674

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:

- ★ April 15
- ★ May 20
- ★ June 17

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

Linus Work Day @ Honey Bee

Honey Bee Quilt Store will be hosting a Linus work day on Saturday, April 29 at 9 a.m. Kits will be available. Bring your sewing machine and supplies or come to tie a quilt. Please call Honey Bee at 257-1269 or visit them at www.honeybeequiltstore.com for more information.

Camp Blankets Are Back!

Each year, The Linus Connection collects blankets for contribution to area camps. Included in distribution are The Royal Family Summer Camp for abused children in foster care and Hospice Austin's Camp Brave Heart for grieving children. Because of the nature of the camps, these facilities have requested quilts only. The children carry their blankets with them during camp and crocheted blankets are more likely to collect leaves, twigs and potentially be damaged while being loved on by their new owners. Quilts should be for ages 7-17. We collected 50 of the needed 300 quilts at the March meeting. We will continue to collect quilts for summer camps in additions to our usual monthly deliveries.

The Linus Banner Project

For the past two months, Linus has been working on a special project, creating a banner to showcase our name and what we do for use at our monthly meetings and local events. The banner top is now pieced with plans to be quilted and ready to display by the April 15th meeting. Heading the project was Board member Jennifer Ofenstein. The individual letters were made by many talented volunteers. Honey Bee Quilt Store has graciously agreed to provide the quilting for the banner. If you participated, be sure to sign the label that will be on the sign-in table at the April meeting. Thanks to everyone that has made this very special project possible.

Scrappy Squares

In March, we announced a new idea for using the fabric scraps that we accumulate. We'd like to encourage you to cut your Linus scraps into 3½", 6½" and 9½" squares. These will be mixed and matched to create kits. Please start bringing your squares in April.

Monthly Demonstrations

Join during our meeting us each month after Show and Tell at 10 a.m. for a demonstration of blanket making techniques. Patterns will be provided for item demonstrated. Anyone wishing to present a favorite pattern or technique, please contact Ellen Dutkiewicz at 869-7616 or email at redutkie@texas.net.

Door Greeters Needed

Linus welcomes all new members and visitors each month to our meetings. We've extended that welcome by having a volunteer at each meeting act as Door Greeter. This person gives a short tour and explains what we do during our meetings. If you'd like to participate, please contact Marge Swearingen at cswear@earthlink.net or 931-0938.



Spotlight On Recipients

Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC) of Central Texas is part of the nation's leading network of faith-based camps for abused and neglected children. RFKC of Central Texas coordinates with the Department of Family and Protective Services to invite children in foster care ages 7-11 from Travis and the surrounding counties. These camps provide a welcoming, one-week residential camp specially designed to meet the unique needs of these children. The Linus Connection provides about 75 blankets to the campers of RFKC each summer. Visit <http://www.austin.rfkc.org/index.cfm> for more information.

Yahoo! Group

Beginning in January, Linus formed a Yahoo! Group where you can discuss Linus, ask questions and where we will occasionally post special requests. The online calendar is now available strictly through the group. Members can post their own photos, links and more. Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/linusconnection or email linusconnection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join our fast growing online community!

Tips & Tricks

- ★ YARN - Try securing the end of your yarn with a bobby pin to keep it from getting lost or tangled when not in use.
- ★ YARN - If your yarn isn't sliding through your fingers the way you'd like, try rubbing your hands with baby powder.
- ★ YARN - When working with multiple colors, try keeping each color yarn in a zip top bag so they won't become tangled while you work.
- ★ QUILTING: To eliminate the use of pins when hand sewing binding, try using hair clips instead.
- ★ QUILTING: Place a strip of hook & loop (the scratchy side) to the bottom of your presser foot to keep it from sliding around on the carpet.

Submit Tips & Tricks to ofenjen@austin.rr.com

Randall's Good Neighbor

Support Linus when you shop at Randall's! You can link your favorite charity to your Remarkable Card by completing a Remarkable Application Form at any Randall's Courtesy Booth. Fill in the top portion and the "Good Neighbor Program" section, indicating account number 11267.

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 list of smaller groups around the area that regularly meet to make Linus blankets. Please call the contact person if you are interested in attending. They welcome new members and blanket makers of all kinds at any time. For meeting times, please see the calendar at www.linusconnection.org.

- ★ Round Rock/Scrappily Ever After: Sharon Weaver 218-4750 or jaydub@sbcglobal.net
- ★ Cedar Park/Shepard's Bee: Contact Marlene, 259-2617
- ★ Georgetown/ Berry Creek Linus Circle: Contact Sharon, 930-3412 Liberty Hill, United Methodist Church: Contact Gloria, 515-5862 or Caroline 515-6106
- ★ Wimberley/United Methodist Women: Contact Dona, 847-7682

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.
Still need more? Visit our website: www.linusconnection.org or join our Yahoo! Group by emailing linusconnection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

That Was Then...

By Sharon Kyslowsky, Coordinator of the Berry Creek Linus Circle

♥ February 2006 was the second anniversary of the Berry Creek Linus Circle. When the group began there were four or five of us and it has now grown to 32 members. The first year we donated 104 blankets, the second year 176 and our goal for 2006 is 250-300 blankets. Also as a member of a large group of Ladies who play Mah Jongg, we donated \$200.00 to the Linus Connection last year and will be doing the same this year.---As each year begins the membership is growing and continuing to do so.---I started the Berry Creek Group because I believed this was a great cause and have made new friends and also learned to quilt which I had never done before. Thanks to all of you for giving me and us a purpose.

