



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.

Oct - Dec 2006

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A NOTE FROM STEPH

I've never been much of a milestone person. I don't remember the exact date of my first date with my husband (please don't tell him); I've never felt it necessary to celebrate the dogs' birthdays; and I never did write down when Ryan and Kristina sat, walked, or talked for the first time ... but the milestone The Linus Connection is having this month is definitely something to take note of! In October, our 6th anniversary month, we are hitting a milestone that we all need to stand up and notice. During October we will reach the 20,000 blanket mark. It is hard to believe that what start as one small delivery of blankets to the Texas Baptist Children's Home made by 5 individuals, myself, Marilyn Crawford, Petra McKay and 2 ladies at the Wesleyan Retirement Home has turned into the incredible organization that we have today. That's right millions of stitches, miles of yarn, and acres of fabric and thousands of hours later we have created not just 20,000 blankets, but thousands of smiles, thousands of hugs and hopefully made life a little brighter for thousands of children in our community.

Second Annual Blanket Challenge

The Linus Connection Second Annual Blanket Challenge will take place at the December 16, 2006 meeting. Volunteers, participants and Guest Facilities will help judge "Viewer's Choice" in both Quilt & Yarn categories. Gift Certificates will be awarded from Honey Bee Quilt Store & Bluebonnet Yarn Shoppe for each respective category. If you would like to participate, visit our website, contact Stephanie at 266-9305 or stephanie@linusconnection.org.

Linus' Sixth Birthday

Join us at the October 21 meeting for our Birthday Celebration! In addition to our usual meeting, we will have cake and other treats to celebrate our Sixth Birthday.

July - September 2006 Blanket Distribution

Foster Care / CPS	330
Grief Support	70
Medical / Hospital	598
Shelters	99
Total July-Sept	1,097
Total Blankets Year-To-Date	3,016
Blankets Distributed since 1999	19,885

Board Changes

Beginning in October, The Linus Board of Directors will be undergoing a couple of changes. We welcome Debbie Keller as our newest Board member. Jennifer Ofenstein has stepped down from the Board and the Blanketing Central Texas

Newsletter Editor. She will, however, remain as the Linus Webmaster and a volunteer.

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:

- ★ October 21
- ★ November 18
- ★ December 16

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

Monthly Demonstrations

Join us during our Monthly Meet 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.

- October Easy 9-Patch Construction with Mary Follmer (rescheduled from Aug)
- November Quilt Interrupted with Becky Rodier
- December No Demo (Challenge)



Blanket Guidelines

Blankets should be durable and made in child-friendly colors/patterns.

- ★ Suggested materials are cotton quilting fabric and cotton batting for quilts, and acrylic yarn for crocheted or knitted blankets.
- ★ For quilters turning in TOPS ONLY - Please- press tops well so seams are flat, clean stray threads from the top, check for any seams not sewn and square the top. Borders help to finish tops and also add visually to your finished quilt.
- ★ Please avoid seasonal materials, we want the children's blankets to be special all year long!
- ★ Blanket supplies are available at our monthly meetings.
- ★ French binding is preferred, as it is more durable and will last longer than "quick turn" and other binding methods.
- ★ Quilts should be machine quilted or hand tied.
- ★ Please check for pins before turning your blanket in!
- ★ When labeling your Linus blanket, the sew-on tag should be attached on the back side near one of the bottom corners. These can be hand-whipped or machine sewn.
- ★ Paper labels should be pinned to quilts 5" in and 5" up from the bottom right corner on the front. Please TIE paper labels to all crocheted or knitted blankets to prevent damage.
- ★ Size ranges from 30x30 to 45x60.

Yahoo! Group

Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/linusconnection or email linusconnection-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join our fast growing online community!

Tips & Tricks

- ★ YARN - When gauge is important, mark inches on the side of the pattern for easy reference.
- ★ YARN - When working from a book, photocopy your pattern for easy reference and to prevent damage to the book.
- ★ QUILTING - Use an eyebrow shaper as a seam ripper. It's fast and won't cut the fabric.
- ★ QUILTING - Put cones of thread in a mug and it will sit still for use on your regular machine.

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/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

A Note From Jennifer

Thank you to everyone that has contacted me regarding my resignation from the Linus board. I learned a lot as a Board member and I look forward to many more years as a Linus volunteer. Thank you to Dee Yetter who will be taking over the newsletter in January. A big thanks to everyone that has been supportive during my term. I really enjoyed editing the newsletter and I will continue to maintain the website and add Show & Tell photos. See you at the next meeting! ~Jennifer

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 Dee at ldyetter@aol.com.

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

