



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-Sept 2006

Vol. 5, Issue 3

A NOTE FROM STEPH

Although it may be a hot Texas summer outside, the need for our blankets has not diminished. In fact, it has risen with the temperature!! As we approach the seventh anniversary of our first delivery (August 15, 1999 to the Texas Baptist Children's Home), I think about all of the thousands of children out there who may, this night, be holding a Linus blanket of their very own, and I smile. I hope you do too!

2006 Blanket Distribution

Total Blankets Year-To-Date 1,919
Blankets Distributed since 1999 18,788

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 15
- ★ August 19
- ★ September 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.

Second Annual Blanket Challenge

Coming Soon - Look for information at upcoming monthly meetings and on our website regarding the Second Annual Blanket Challenge!

Linus Work Day @ Honey Bee

Honey Bee Quilt Store will be hosting a Linus work day Sept. 23, from 9 to 12 Bring your sewing machine and a friend! Pre-cut kits will be provided. Call Honey Bee at 257-1269 or visit their website www.honeybeequiltstore.com for more information.

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.

July - Paper Piecing with Jennifer Ofenstein
Aug. - Easy 9-Patch Construction with Mary Follmer

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 are being mixed and matched to create kits.

Get Your Linus T-shirt or Coffee Mug!

Help us spread the word about The Linus Connection! Get your Linus t-shirts, coffee mugs, note cards and more at zazzle.com/thelinusconnection*

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.

Blanket Guidelines

Everyone needs a refresher every once in a while! 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 24x24 (preemie) up to twin sized for Teens.

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 and polls. The online calendar is now available strictly through the group and if you join, you'll automatically receive a reminder about the monthly meeting. 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 - To keep the size readable on a plastic crochet hook, use a fine tipped permanent marker to write the size right on the end. The mark won't wear off with use, and you won't have to squint to see what size it is.
- ★ YARN - If you have trouble remembering when to knit and when to switch to purl, especially when it is hard to see because of the new fluffy yarns, or which side is the right side, tie a different color yarn on one needle and use this to mark your "purl needle", or the needle the right side ends up on!
- ★ YARN - Wash crochet hooks with dish soap, rinse well, dry, then rub with crumpled wax paper to make them slide more smoothly as you crochet.
- ★ QUILTING: - Cut a small piece of fabric about one inch wide and two inches long and pass it under your needle when you are finished sewing. When you are doing lots of sewing or strip piecing it keeps you from having to cut the thread each time and saves thread.
- ★ QUILTING: If you have trouble seeing your sewing,

use 2 rubber wedge-shaped door stops behind your sewing machine to tilt it forward.

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.

