



Blanketing Central Texas

The Quarterly Newsletter
of The Linus Connection

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

April - June 2008

Vol. 7 Issue 2

2008 BLANKET STATISTICS

Foster Care / Protective Services	596
Individuals	13
Medical / Hospital	797
Other	230
Shelters	298
Victims Assistance	155

Total this Year **2,089**

Total Distributed to Date: **27,401**

3RD ANNUAL BLANKET CHALLENGE

Can you believe it's already time to start the next challenge? This year's Annual Blanket Challenge will begin at the June meeting. The Quilters will be given a packet of Charm Squares, and the Crocheters/Knitters will receive a single skein of beautiful baby yarn.

Challenge Packets will be available (free of charge) at all meetings between now and October or can be checked out from the Honey Bee Quilt Store.

The rules will be the same as in previous years – you must use 80% or more of the materials provided, you will need to add additional materials from your stash or from the Linus donation tables, and you will need to turn in a completely finished blanket for judging.

There will, of course, be fabulous prizes for the top blankets as voted on by the group. The judging will take place at the October Meeting when we celebrate Linus' Birthday. GOOD LUCK LADIES!!

HONEY BEE WORK DAY

July 5, 2008 is the next Honey Bee Work Day. Quilting will start at 9 a.m. There will be kits ready to be sewn together. Just bring your sewing machine and join the fun. They are located at 9308 Anderson Mill Rd., Suite 300. It's the corner of Anderson Mill Rd. & Pond Springs, next to the Dollar Store.

DONATIONS

April 2008

\$2,500 Wal-Mart, Mark Freerks, Manager

May 2008

\$250 in memoriam of Dolly Hammon (The Dirty Dozen Quilt Bee)

\$250 in memoriam of Doris Grylls (The Dirty Dozen Quilt Bee)

Last, but by no means least, thanks to Joe Brown for bringing donuts to the April Meeting. They were truly enjoyed by all in attendance.

We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful donations. This is what helps us to be able to continue giving quilts to so many children in crisis.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 2023

Girl Scout Troop 2023 donated three fleece blankets to The Linus Connection. You can see their pictures on the webpage under April 2008 Show and Tell. Thank you girls! Good job!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Suzanne Cooper has hit the 500 mark for quilts turned in. Here is her story.

For her 2005 birthday, she gave herself the gift of retirement from The University of Texas. Her post-UT goals were travel, improve her quilting skills and volunteer "work", in no particular order. Suzanne started meeting her goals with a celebration trip to Hawaii. Then she focused on her other two goals. While delivering Meals on Wheels and working at the food pantry of the Round Rock Serving Center are weekly activities for her, sewing for The Linus Connection combines two of her goals and is her favorite volunteer activity.

Suzanne's Linus Connection blankets are mostly in the infant category, usually being 35 inches square. She enjoys working with the baby prints and finds they always brighten her days. Her blanket of choice is cotton on one side and flannel on the back,

without a batting filler. They are quick and easy to make and seem very appropriate for our central Texas heat.

Her mother taught her not to be wasteful, so she make's flannel rag-edge quilts with the flannel scraps and give's the smaller pieces to one of the sewing circles after cutting them into a standard sized piece. The cotton scraps get cut into the standard Linus sizes and turned in at the meetings. Cotton scraps smaller than 3 1/2 inches square currently go into a scrap pile to make "crumb quilts", as demo'ed at one of our meetings.

The monthly demos provide her with new fun and easy patterns to keep her creativity flowing. But, she always return's to her simple baby blankets to meet her personal goal of 15 blankets per month. Three years after retirement, meeting her monthly goal has resulted in completing over 500 blankets, almost without her realizing it. Suzanne states that "time flies when you are having fun and helping someone else at the same time. What a great group the Linus Connection is."

Thanks for all you do, Suzanne!

SUMMER CAMP QUILT DISTRIBUTION

We were enlisted by two camps again this year to provide blankets to their campers.

The Royal Family Kids Camp is a camp for foster children. We have given this camp blankets since the first year of Linus Connection! This year we delivered 65 blankets for the camp It is run in the second month of June.

Camp Brave Heart, a camp for children who have lost a close family member, has one session of 100 campers this year. We will be collecting quilts for them for the next two (2) months for distribution on August 1st right before the camp begins.

UPCOMING BLANKET MEETINGS

All Monthly meetings will continue to be at St. Phillips Church in Round Rock from 9 a.m. –11:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. The next three dates are:

- * June 21
- * July 19
- * August 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.

DEMONSTRATIONS & SHOW AND TELL

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We will continue with our **Monthly Show and Tell** at 10a.m. After Show and Tell we will have a demonstration of blanket making techniques. Patterns will be provided after the demonstration. Anyone wishing to demonstrate a favorite pattern or technique please contact Ellen Dutkiewicz at 869-7616 or email her at redutkie@texas.net. So far we don't have anyone volunteering for the next 3 meetings.

BLANKET DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Georgetown – Margarite Holt, owner of the Hill Country Bookstore on the square in Georgetown, has graciously agreed to be the new collection site. The bookstore is open Monday-Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday, 1 – 5 pm. Their number is 512-869-4959 E-mail hcbookstore@suddenlinkmail.com.

Austin – Honey Bee Quilt Store - 9308 Anderson Mill Rd., Suite 300, 257-1269.

Round Rock – Margarita - 255-9241.

Cedar Park – Dee – 331-5847 OR Bluebonnet Yarn Shoppe, 259-4646.

BLANKET SPECIFICATIONS REMINDER

BLANKETS UP TO 2 YRS.

24 x 24 36 x 36

TODDLER 3 – 6 YRS

36 x 36 45 x 60

MIDDLE BLANKETS 7 – 12 YRS.

45 x 45 45 x 60

TEEN BLANKETS 13-18 YRS.

42 x 54 54 x 65

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. 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 on quilts 5" and 5" up from the back bottom corner of the quilt. Please TIE paper labels to all crocheted or knitted blankets to prevent damage.

www.LinusConnection.org

♥ 512-266-9305