



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.

April - June 2005

Vol. 4, Issue 2

A Note From Steph

Is it just me or does everyone find themselves making blankets in "wildflower colors" this time of year? I had to laugh the other day when I looked around and saw a partially complete quilt in blue, peach and white, a baby afghan in soft yellow yarn and another in baby blue. Please take a moment from your busy blanket-making to read this newsletter about our group. There are a number of exciting items including our annual garage sale in April, an upcoming Honey Bee Work Day and lots of blanket info. Happy Spring Everyone and Happy Blanket Making!

Spotlight on Recipients: CAMP BRAVE HEART

Hospice Austin's Camp Brave Heart is a week long summer camp for children and teenagers age 6 through 17 who are grieving the death of a loved one. Through a variety of creative activities, campers are supported in their exploration of emotional, behavioral and physical adjustments to their loss. This summer, Camp Brave Heart will host two sessions of 75 children each. This is the fifth year Linus will be providing blankets to all of the campers.

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 16, 2005
- ★ May 21, 2005
- ★ June 18, 2005

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 Quilt Store Hosts Work Day/Linus Sew-In April 23

Honey Bee Quilt store has reopened! Visit their beautiful new location at the northeast corner of Anderson Mill Road and Pond Springs for a Linus Work Day/Sew-In from 9-12 on April 23. Upcoming dates July 9 and Sept. 10. Bring your sewing machine & enthusiasm! www.honeybeequiltstore.com

Garage Sale April 30

When: April 30, 2005 8am-12pm

Linus Member Preview Sale Friday Night 6-8pm

Where: 2203 & 2204 Flaming Tree Court, Cedar Park
driving directions at www.linusconnection.org

Get ready to raise money for Linus! We made almost \$2,000 at last year's garage sale, which is enough to buy batting for the group for an entire year. It's time to clean our your closets once more and donate to your favorite cause! If you have items to donate, please bring them to the April 16 meeting or contact a board member. Please price your items to make it

easier for the volunteers working the garage sale. We will be needing volunteers to work 1-2 hour shifts during the garage sale and volunteers to help set up on Friday. Please email or call Dee or Deb if you can make it! We hope to see you there!

Georgetown Theater Group Supports Linus

The Sun City Theater Club has generously offered to donate 10% of the proceeds from their June comedy performance to The Linus Connection. Look for production information coming soon -on our website and at our monthly meetings. For more information about the Sun City Theater group, contact Barbara Wood at 931-9998.

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 Camp Brave Heart, as seen in Spotlight On Recipients. 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 225 quilts at the March meeting. We will continue to collect quilts for summer camps in additions to our usual monthly deliveries.

Crocheted Baby Blankets

Recently, several of the facilities that we distribute baby blankets to have specifically requested crocheted & knitted blankets. They tell us the mothers love these! In light of this, we are now buying mostly baby appropriate yarn in sport weight and pastel colors. These facilities greatly appreciate the generous gifts of blankets from the Linus Connection and have let us know with numerous thank-yous, some of which will be featured in this newsletter and on our website. It's because of our many volunteers that we are able to meet the needs of our recipient facilities. THANK YOU for your help!

Bring-It-Back

We've all done it... picked up a couple of promising skeins of yarn or yards of fabric. It goes home with us and ends up sitting in our stash for months. Now is your chance to bring it back and start again! Next time you're headed to a Linus meeting, clean out your stash and bring back your unused Linus supplies with a clean conscience!

Bring a Buddy in 2005

In 2005, The Linus Connection challenges you to bring at least one friend to join us! As you know, our needs for blankets have increased. Our volunteers are amazing and go above and beyond, spending their spare moments making all the blankets they can for the children. We need more hands to help us reach our monthly goals for this year. Bring a friend to Linus this year, and help us reach our new goals!

Quilt Kits & Bundles Available

You can now find Quilt Kits and pre-bundled fabric 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. Pre-bundled fabric is uncut fabric selected by color values ready for you to take home and work your magic on. Consider taking two kits instead of pre-bundled fabric to help with the need for camp blankets.

New at Monthly Meetings

Show & Tell at 10:00 a.m.:

Quilting Demonstrations at 11:00 a.m.

Starting in April, we will take a brief break from the hustle and bust of our meeting and invite you to share your work with us at 10:00. In the kitchen at 11:00 we will host quilting demonstrations on everything from Binding to Paper Piecing. Bring your machine & learn a new technique or practice an old one! Feel free to email or call in your demonstration requests. In April, Sharon Weaver will demonstrate a string piecing technique.

Drop-Off Locations

We would like to encourage you to drop off all your Linus blankets at our monthly meeting. However, if you are not able to attend, any of these ladies will be happy to take your blanket for you. Please make sure your name is included with your donation and let us know if you need a receipt.

★ **Round Rock:** Margarita, 255-9241

★ **Cedar Park:** Dee, 331-5847

★ **G'town:** Margaret, Wesleyan Retirement, 863-2892

★ **NW Austin:** (Parmer/McNeil) Jennifer, 350-5210

★ **NW Austin:** (Parmer/MoPac) Linda, 255-4942

Linus Circles

There are a number of smaller groups around the area that meet to make Linus blankets regularly. The following is a list of these with the contact info. 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

★ **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:** Dona, 847-7682.

Blanket Distribution Numbers for 2005

March 2005	299
Year To Date - 2005	719
Since 1999	13,571

Website & Newsletter

If you would like to receive updates via email, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Stephanie at stephanie@linusconnection.org or 512-266-9305. Find this newsletter and lots more at www.linusconnection.org