



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.

October - December 2005

Vol. 4, Issue 4

Linus's Birthday Bash

The Linus Connection is turning five!!

Come join the fun at our monthly gathering on October 15th from 9am to noon! Cake and goodies will be provided. We have invited representatives from all of our Recipient Organizations to join us and share stories of handing out our blankets. It is also the conclusion of our First Annual Quilt and Yarn Challenge. All guests and Linus volunteers will be welcomed to vote for their favorite blankets. Voting ends at 11 a.m. One Viewer's Choice In Fabric and one Viewer's Choice In Yarn will be announced at 11:30. Gift certificates from our sponsors, Honey Bee Quilt Store and Bluebonnet Yarn Shoppe, will be awarded!

If you would like to bring a plate of goodies or help, please call Linda Evans at 255-4942 or send her an email at l_and_s_evans@mail.ev1.net. Please plan to come and bring your family and friends!!

A Note from Steph

Hello everyone. It's been a very very busy month here at the Linus Connection. Thank you so much to everyone who answered the call for extra blankets to give to the victims of the recent hurricanes who came to Austin, some in the middle of the night with nothing but their children in their arms. We delivered almost 250 blankets to these families. This brought our monthly total to over 500 blankets. In August we also topped 15,000 blankets delivered since we started this little adventure. We will be celebrating both of these achievements and many more at our annual "Birthday Bash" on October 15th at St. Philip's Methodist church in Round Rock. Please plan to come and bring a friend. See you there! -- Steph

Shop at Randall's

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.

A Reminder for Challenge Participants

All challenge blankets must be turned in no later than 9:30 on October 15. The Challenge guidelines incorrectly stated numbers be affixed to the BACK of the blanket. Please affix your number to the front and your Linus paper label to the back. If you finish early, we encourage you to drop your blanket off ASAP to help with set-up. Early blankets can be left at Honey Bee Quilt Store, Bluebonnet Yarn Shoppe or you can call 266-9305 for pickup.

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 15, 2005
- ★ November 19, 2005
- ★ December 17, 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.

Monthly Demonstrations

At each monthly meeting, immediately following Show and Tell at 10 a.m., there will be a demonstration of blanket making techniques. This can include how to put together a particular quilt pattern, a technique such as applying binding, machine appliqué, color coordination, etc. Those "Yarn Art" artists willing to share knowledge and techniques with the knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join in as demonstrators. Patterns will be provided for item demonstrated. Anyone wishing to present a favorite pattern or technique, please contact Ellen Dutkiewicz at 512-869-7616 or email at redutkie@texas.net.

October: Raggy Quilt by Dee Yetter
November: Blocky Cats by Ellen Dutkiewicz

Thank You Scrapbook

We now have a wonderful scrapbook containing our Thank You notes from 2005. Have a look when you sign in at the next meeting. A Big "Thanks" to Linda Evans on a wonderful job assembling this very special book.

Printable Calendar Online

Our printable calendar is now online! If you haven't seen it yet, check it out at www.linusconnection.org. If you have a Linus-related group (Linus Circle, bee, etc.) and would like to have your meeting times added to the calendar, please email ofenjen@austin.rr.com, or call Jennifer at 294-2793.



Scrap Batting & Leftover Fabric

Time to use up that scrap batting! We are encouraging all of our volunteers to cut their scrap batting into 6" - 10" squares or into 6" strips. These are perfect for Raggy Quilts and Six Hour Quilts. If you don't want to use the squares and strips yourself, feel free to bring them to the next Linus meeting to share with other volunteers. Now is also a great time to bring in Linus fabric you have left over or haven't found a use for.

Tips & Tricks

- ★ For Crocheters: If your granny squares begin to tilt after a few rows, turn after each row - it eliminates the tilt with the added bonus of making both sides the "right" side.
- ★ For Crocheters: Use an old eyeglass or pencil case to store hooks in.
- ★ For Knitters: For a smooth edge, slip the last stitch as if to purl on every row. When you turn and knit that stitch it becomes "wrapped".
- ★ For Knitters: When you are knitting with dark yarn, i.e. black or navy, place a white towel on your lap. The contrast between the white of the towel and the yarn will make it easier for you to see your stitches.
- ★ For Quilters: Put a drop of sewing machine oil in the center of your rotary cutter to keep it rolling smoothly.
- ★ For Quilters: Use paper towel rolls for storing leftover pieces of bindings. It keeps them nice and flat - no need to re-iron.

Quilt Kits & Bundles Available

Quilt Kits are now 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.

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 listing of smaller groups around the area that regularly meet to make Linus blankets. 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. 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/ LHUMW: Contact Gloria, 515-5862 or Caroline 515-6106
- ★ Wimberley/United Methodist Women: Contact Dona, 847-7682

Blanket Distribution July-September

Foster Care/Protective Service	357
Grief Support	55
Medical/Hospital	380
Shelters	163
Victims Assistance	208
3 rd Quarter Total	1,163
2005 Total	2,901
Since 1999	15,745

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.

Spotlight on Recipients

Children's Hospital of Austin - Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (CHOA - PICU)

One of our long-standing recipients of Linus Connection Blankets is the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Children's Hospital of Austin. This 20-bed unit delivers highly-specialized care to children with a host of illnesses and injuries, many of them life threatening. Experienced teams provide care for patients recovering from severe trauma and motor vehicle crashes, as well as postoperative patients. Non-surgical patients may include children with acute and chronic illnesses, multi-system failure and respiratory distress.

Our contact at the PICU (and at most of the hospital departments we provide blankets to) is a Child Life Specialist. The Child Life Department at Children's Hospital of Austin is a vital component of the children's healthcare team. The Child Life teams help children and their families cope with the emotional and psychological stress of hospitalization, illness, surgery and medical treatment. Trained to work with children in the hospital setting, the specialists act as advocates for patients and their families. Encouraging children to communicate feelings of fear, frustration and anger in a non-threatening environment, Child Life Specialists brighten the lives of the young patients each day through entertainment, laughter and joy by allowing them to remain children. One of the ways that the Child Life Specialists at the CHOA-PICU helps the children is by making sure that they all have a Linus blanket to hold and cuddle when they are in pain, scared or missing home.

The Linus Connection has provided over 2,200 blankets to the Children's Hospital and almost half of those have gone to children in the PICU.

