



# 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.

January - March 2005

Vol. 4, Issue 1

*During the Holiday Season, we know how fast paced your lives can be. Shopping for presents, trying to get those last minute craft items finished for special people in your lives and cooking scrumptious meals all gobble up precious time. Now that things have calmed down a bit, please take a break; grab a cup of coffee, hot cocoa, or tea; and take a minute to read this Newsletter. This is your connection with The Linus Connection and since our last newsletter we have lots to share with you!*

## A Note From Steph

Happy New Year everyone! I bet you are surprised to receive this newsletter since it's been such a long time!! It is a New Year's resolution of ours to go back to sending quarterly newsletters. We will be sharing information about blanket needs, the facilities we provide to, donated materials and items available to you and hopefully other fun and interesting stuff. If you have any ideas for what you would like to see in the newsletter or have helpful tips and tricks about quilting, knitting or crocheting, please email them to our new newsletter editor Jennifer Ofenstein or give me a call. 2004 was a great year as you will read below, but 2005 will be even better. We've already had requests from 4 new facilities we've never donated to before. The need for our blankets will continue to grow every month as news of our work in Central Texas spreads. Let's go make blankets! - *Stephanie*

## Blanket Distribution in 2004

### January - December Deliveries

Crisis Centers & Shelters.....	737
Foster Care/Protective Services.....	284
Grief Support .....	300
Medical Facilities/Hospitals.....	1587
Victim Assistant.....	52
Total Blankets Delivered:.....	2,960

## 2 ½-Inch Strip Project

We have begun a project to cut the smaller lengths of fabric that have been donated to us into 2 ½ inch strips. These strips can be used for binding, rail fence quilts, or for the many quilts that use strips. Please feel free to stop by the cutting table at the monthly meeting to take some of the strips, help us cut the strips or help put the strips into kits. We'll also have copies of the Rail Fence pattern at the table.

## Quilt Challenge

We would like to have a quilt challenge this year, but

we need help. Some of the ideas that have been thrown around are quilts using bug fabric, quilts using 2½ in. strips, colorful quilts, ... If you would like to help organize or lead this project please let me know.

## Garage Sale in April

We are planning another garage sale this spring. So please hang onto any garage sale items you have for that cause. It would be best if you could hold onto the items until we begin collecting in March, but if that is not possible, please bring them to the monthly meeting and we'll store them for you. We made almost \$2,000 at last year's Garage Sale, which is enough to buy batting for the group for an entire year.

## Thank You Notes

Below is just a sampling of the many wonderful thank you notes the Linus Connection receives. Enjoy!

*The baby blanket we received from Brackenridge High Risk Clinic for our beautiful daughter was very much appreciated. We will cherish it and it will in the years to come be saved so as she grows she will know there are wonderful, caring, and giving people in the world.  
Sebrina & Kiersten  
THANK YOU!*

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for all you do for our children. They treasure the quilts and always ask if they are really theirs. Of course they are. You provide a little blanket security that helps them adjust to some "unknown" changes in their lives. You have a great ministry.*

*In Christ,*

*Marian M., Texas Baptist Children's Home*

## Blanket Specifications, A Reminder

If you're new to Linus, blanket specifications will help you decide how you can best share your talents. If you're a long time volunteer, it's a helpful reminder! As Linus has grown and

changed, so have our abilities to provide quality, child appropriate materials for our blankets. Check for quilting, crocheting and knitting supplies at the monthly meeting!

For some children, their Linus blanket is their only possession, and we want it to last! Here are some helpful guidelines to remember:

- ★ 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 themes that some might find inappropriate such as NASCAR, WWF, & Halloween.
- ★ 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 from the ribbon to quilts 5" in and 5" up from the bottom right corner. Please TIE paper labels to all crocheted or knitted blankets to prevent damage.
- ★ Size ranges from 24x24 (preemie) up to twin sized for Teens (see website for more size suggestions).

## 2005 Linus Connection Board

Introducing the 2005 Linus Connection Board:

- ★ **Linda Evans** 255-4942, l\_and\_s\_evans@mail.ev1.net
- ★ **Marge Lentricchia** 238-0109, marge.lentricchia@sbcglobal.net
- ★ **Jennifer Ofenstein** 350-5210, ofenjen@austin.rr.com
- ★ **Stephanie Sabatini** 266-9305, Stephanie@linusconnection.org
- ★ **Deb Weightman** 335-6416, kurumi@austin.rr.com
- ★ **Dee Yetter** 331-5847, ldyetter@aol.com

## 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** -Shepard's Bee-Contact: Marlene, 259-2617. Next meeting: Monday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, noon - 3pm.
- ★ **Georgetown**-Berry Creek Linus Circle - Contact: Sharon, 930-3412. Next meeting: Monday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 3pm.
- ★ **Liberty Hill** - LHUMW - Contact: Gloria, 515-5862 or Caroline 515-6106. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 9:30 am.
- ★ **Wimberley**-United Methodist Women - Contact: Dona, 847-7682. Next workshop: Wednesday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am - 2pm

## 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:

- ★ **February 19, 2005**
- ★ **March 19, 2005**
- ★ **April 16, 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 Work Days

Coming soon: Honey Bee Quilt store is moving! Visit their new location at Pond Springs & Anderson Mill for Linus Work Days from 9-12 on the following days this year: April 23, July 9 and Sept. 10. Bring your sewing machine & enthusiasm!

## Website & Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Jennifer at ofenjen@austin.rr.com. Find this newsletter and lots more at [www.linusconnection.org](http://www.linusconnection.org)!

