

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Bakersfield, Fresno, Kern & Tulare Counties CA Chapter

April 2011

www.projectlinusbakersfield.org
www.projectlinusfresno.com

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Happy April!
It has been so fun to get together weekly and to see each of you. I almost went through a withdrawal this past Tuesday because it was the 5th Tuesday and we didn't have a Linus blanket day but luckily I have the retreat this weekend.

Our Fresno/Clovis area is really starting to get going and I am so excited! I want to welcome Quilters Paradise, Inc as a new drop off location for your Project Linus blankets that area. I spoke with Barbara and she was so excited to help us. She will be having sewing days in her shop for Project Linus so look for those days in the calendar. Cottage Quilts in Fresno will have a Project Linus blanket day in their store on April 20, 2011 from 10a-2p. D & J Sewing has set their calendar for the rest of the year and that is listed in the calendar section as well.

Mark your calendar for **September 3, 2011**. This will be the date for the **Fresno Community Make A Blanket Day**.

We have partnered with the United Way for their Day of Caring. This will be a great event for the whole community. Watch for more details to come.

The **Bakersfield Community Make A Blanket Day** will be held on September 10, 2011 from 9a.m. to 3p.m. with more information to follow.

I love the Spring. I like the renewing and the symbolism that it represents. I like the creation aspect, taking fabric and yarn and making a blanket. Planting seeds; watching them grow. I am so grateful for the service that each of you render, whether it be time, sewing, knitting, crocheting, following me & keeping me on track, or bringing the cookies. Whatever your part is that you play in our chapter ~ you are a very important part. Just in case I don't tell you enough. Thank you all for what you do. **WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH OUT YOU.**

Michele

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April 2011

Quilt Challenge Theme is
~Insects~

All quilters, knitters and crocheters are welcome to participate.

Your quilts should be at least 45x45.

A charm will be given to all who complete the blanket challenge. Crochet/Knitted challenge is **light blue**. Afghans should be at least **36x36**

A fabulous time was had by all that went on the Linus retreat. We learned how to make the Butterfly flip quilt and want to thank Atkinson Design for donating the patterns. And Millie provided us with fan quilts. Although she was not able to attend she was with us in spirit and was missed dearly. The fan quilts and the butterfly quilts turned out beautiful and the children will love them and the best part is that they are EASY!!!

I received the following email from Project Linus Headquarters and thought that I would pass it on to those of you that were interested in providing blankets to the children that have recently been displaced by the horrible events in Japan. This is voluntary and our obligation is to our local community first but I would like to send blankets if possible. Here is the email I received:

Dear Coordinators,

We finally have an action plan to get blankets to children in Japan, for anyone who is interested. This is a purely voluntary opportunity. Your local obligations are first priority.

In addition to children in Japan, approximately 30,000 US families will be evacuated to the US with essentially nothing and will be temporarily living on US bases. So some of the blankets will stay here on Military bases. Blankets will be shipped via the US Military and an organization called **Soldiers Angels**. They will be distributed by US Military personnel.

Here's the background story - Diane (our contact) is a Community Network Coordinator for Soldiers' Angels of Wisconsin. 6 days ago, they received 200 blankets from Kelly, our North Central Wisconsin chapter coordinator. That very evening were on their way to Japan. At that time they had already dispatched from their Soldiers' Angels warehouse in Texas 20,000 boxes to Japan. 10,000 on the USS Ronald Reagan, and 10,000 by air into Okinawa so our Marines can distribute to families in need. She said that they have a strong connection with our military forces and employ veterans to run the warehouse. This is why they are able to get packages to Japan very quickly when asked by our Military Personnel. Here is their website:

www.soldiersangels.org.

In addition, we received the following information from a wife of a just retired Air Force officer:

I wanted to let you all know what is going on here and how the US government is responding to those US citizens who wish to evacuate. I've now word that military families are being evacuated as well even if they are not in the radiation zone due to supply and electricity issues.

Right now people are already being housed in gyms etc in Japan to await flights out. They are being monitored for radiation and illness. The US is chartering planes and flying them to our local Air force base. Next they will be placed on buses and brought to our post. They will be taken to our theater and given a briefing. Next they will be taken to a small gym and go through a series of stations set up to again check them for radiation, illness, assess their needs and take their information. Pets are being taken to warehouses. Women and children will then be taken to one gym and men to another. These facilities have already been closed for other purposes.

Cots and blankets are being set up in the gyms. They will have access to showers and bathrooms however they will not be allowed to leave the gym once they are there do to security concerns. They will receive one to two hot meals a day (depending on supplies) and given MRE's for the other meal(s). They may have brought laptops and other devices but I'm not sure how they will be to recharge these things and apparently the Wi-Fi will be completely overwhelmed so may be shut off entirely. I've honestly no idea of Japanese cell phones will work here or if they will be setting up phone banks for these people to call out.

There have been calls for donations of diapers, baby food, and respite care givers to go in and help with the children. I will be doing these things as well as sewing as many small lovey blankets as possible to hand out. This could SO easily have been me and my children last November.

I'm aware of this as the wife of a just-retired Air Force officer. While I understand the security concerns, this is going to be a frightening and difficult time for the dependent, particularly the children. They'll be separated from their homes, members of their family, friends... and then having to eat MREs (Meals Ready to Eat--calling it a 'meal' is a stretch). It's likely that many "key and essential personnel", which my husband was, will be required to remain on base to handle things, which adds to the stresses. When I heard of this, I immediately thought of Project Linus, who I used to make blankets for when I lived in Hawaii. I think it would mean so much to these children to know people are thinking of them during a frightening situation.

*Thank you so much,
Amy*

The blankets can be any type and size. Preferably 1 1/2 - 2yds in length (medium to large in size) but all sizes are needed. I have to have them shipped to Texas no later than April 25 so **please have your blankets to me by our April 19th meeting**. I would like to be able to send 100 blankets to help. Please email me if you are will to support this cause. I need to commit to Project Linus Headquarters right away. If you would like to donate fleece or a monetary donation for someone else to make a blanket for you. That is acceptable as well.

For those in the Fresno area I will be in Fresno several times in the next several weeks and I can arrange to pick up your blanket donations.

Dear Coords,.....I have received many emails responding to the needs of TAPS for the Good Grief Camp scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend.

Many coords are not aware of the numbers of Fallen Heroes and the surviving children...my special super friend, Marlene, has passed on the numbers you all need to be aware of...

Afghanistan Fallen Heroes....1484 with 1160 children

Iraq.....Fallen Heroes 4443 with 3102 children

Yes, I am requesting patriotic blankets and quilts...because those are the ones that the TAPS children want...first and foremost. My Chapter of volunteers are like so many other Chapters that sew all year around making TAPS blankets...so I am very pleased when I get those emails confirming that TAPS will be covered again this year.

When I receive the "go ahead and ship" news from TAPS Headquarters, I will post it immediately.

All in all, thank you thank you thank you for caring.

Barb McLean, PL Coord, hostess for TAPS & Project Linus

2011 Calendar

Bakersfield

April 5 LDS Church 9-noon
April 12 Strawberry Patches 10-1
April 19 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
April 28 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
May 3 LDS Church 9-noon
May 10 Strawberry Patches 10-1
May 17 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
May 20-22 Heart of Valley Shop Hop
May 26 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
June 7 LDS Church 9-noon
June 14 Strawberry Patches 10-1
June 21 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
June 23 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
July 5 LDS Church 9-noon
July 12 Strawberry Patches 10-1
July 19 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
July 28 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
August 2 LDS Church 9-noon
August 9 Strawberry Patches 10-1
August 16 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
August 25 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
September 6 LDS Church 9-noon
September 10, 2011

Make A Blanket Day-LDS Church

September 13 Strawberry Patches 10-1
September 20 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
September 22 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
October 4 LDS Church 9-noon
October 11 Strawberry Patches 10-1
October 18 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
October 27 Bolts to Bindings 5:30-9
November 1 LDS Church 9-noon
November 8 Strawberry Patches 10-1
November 15 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)
December 6 LDS Church 9-noon
December 13 (LDS Church/Mercy Hosp)

**316 LDS Church A St 9a – noon
Mercy Hosp – Truxtun 6p-9p Clerou Rm**

Clovis

May 14, 2011
August 13, 2011
October 8, 2011

D & J Sewing Center
2700 N Clovis Ave
559-225-4927

Fresno April 20, 2011

Cottage Quilts
10a.m. -2p.m.

1732 W Bullard Ave, 93711
559-447-0599

Blanket Drop Off Locations

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Please indicate that blankets are for Project Linus on the bags when you leave them at the drop off locations.

*****Bakersfield*****

Strawberry Patches
6439 Ming Ave, Ste C
Bakersfield, CA

Ellie Jayes
1608 19th St
Bakersfield, CA

ABC's of Creative Pursuits
1412 17th St, Ste E –
Haberfelde Gallery
Bakersfield, CA

To Quilt N Sew
3510 Allen Road
Bakersfield, CA

Bolts to Bindings
2437 Oak Street
Bakersfield, CA

****FRESNO****

Cottage Quilts
1732 W Bullard Ave
Fresno, CA 93711
559-447-0599

Hope Lutheran Church
364 E Barstow Ave
Fresno, CA 93710
559-439-4320

****CLOVIS****

D & J Sewing Center
2700 N Clovis Ave #103 Clovis, CA 93612
559-225-4927

*****NEW***Quilters Paradise, Inc***NEW*****

339 Pollasky Ave, Clovis, CA
559-297-7817

****Visalia****

Synchrony of Visalia
1041 N Demaree
Visalia, CA

May 2011

Quilt Challenge Theme is
~Patriotic~

All quilters, knitters and
crocheters are welcome to
participate.

Your quilts should be at least
45x45.

A charm will be given to all
who complete the blanket
challenge.

Crochet/Knitted challenge is
Red, White & Blue. Afghans
should be at least 36x36

PLEASE START
YOUR PATRIOTIC
BLANKET ASAP.
WE WILL BE
DONATING
THESE TO TAPS
FOR THE GOOD
GRIEF CAMP. I
WOULD NEED TO
HAVE THESE BY
THE **MAY 17TH**
MEETING.

Project Linus

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We're on the Web!

www.projectlinusbakersfield.org
www.projectlinusfresno.com

Happy Birthday

Linda Bliss
Nora Deane Freeman
Kathy Handy
Barbara Mammet

Sponsors

the following businesses are donating sponsorships monthly to our local Project Linus Chapter.

To Quilt N Sew - Constant Contact
Derrel's Mini Storage- Storage Unit
Cruz Thru Car Wash-Quarterly Fundraising

Strawberry Patches is moving!

Can you believe it! After 20 years they are moving to a new location in the same shopping center. See them up front right next to Orchard Supply Hardware. The old store will close Saturday April 2, at 5p and the store will open in the new location on April 7th at 10a.m. Go visit Suzanne. She is so excited. It's almost like having another grandbaby!

Beginning March 1st, take advantage of our special Project Linus Institute Best Friends offer. Simply invite 5 of your friends to attend Project Linus Institute with you, and you can attend for FREE!

How does it work?

- First, plan for a great week together at Project Linus Institute, July 20-23, in Peoria, Illinois.
- Second, invite your friends to register at: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=871835>
- Make sure that they add a note in the comments field indicating that they are attending with you as your FRIEND.
- Once you have 5 people sign up as your FRIEND, you may register for free by calling us at 309-585-0686.
- Already registered? You can still have your FRIENDS sign up with you as their FRIEND. Once 5 people have registered we will refund your Institute fee.
- Spread out the savings with your friends and save everyone money, or use the savings for yourself or someone else to attend for free.
- Everyone who registers 5 FRIENDS is entered into a drawing for a FREE INSTITUTE PACKAGE to Project Linus Institute 2011, which will include one registration fee, hotel accommodations for 5 nights and \$300.00 in travel expenses paid (one Institute package to be given away).

Ok, here's the small print. If you are a Project Linus Chapter Coordinator, you cannot invite other Chapter Coordinators to come as your FRIEND, (but you can invite 5 other friends) nor can you be on someone else's FRIEND list. Registration ends April 30, 2011. Don't delay

Many of you have expressed an interested in donating money to purchase an **Accu Go** for our Project Linus Chapter. If can make a cash or check donation. Please make checks payable to Michele Willis and specify Accu Go. We are looking at the 2 1/2" strip cutter and the rag quilt die for starters.