

April 2019 Newsletter

Hi blanketeers,

Happy Spring time! Here's a little update on some of our chapter's current and upcoming activities.

* **April meeting and bagging dates:** Our **April meeting** will be this **Tuesday April 23 at 7pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church** 20920 McClellan Rd Cupertino – where our last Make a Blanket Day was held).

Bagging day will be Saturday April 27 so please turn in finished blankets before that date to be included in this month's distribution.

NOTE: **For this month only**, since we usually receive lots of blankets at our meetings and this month's meeting is NOT at Mary's house where all blankets need to end up for bagging, we're asking for your help to **please bring ONLY your "show 'n tell" (and TAPS) blankets to Tuesday's meeting and drop off any other finished blankets you have this month at Mary's house if possible** (or Barb's or Sharon's). (See www.sjlinus.org for Drop off location details)

We can always use **more helpers on bagging days** (we have 2 teams which alternate months – last Thursday or last Saturday of the month). They start at 9am and it usually takes a couple hours. You get to see all the beautiful blankets that have been donated throughout the month – it's amazing. If you are interested in helping, contact Sharon (sjlinus@comcast.net, 408-252-1858) and we'll get you connected. Try it once and see if like it. You can sign up for one of the teams or as an alternate.

* **TAPS:** We've already shipped half of our TAPS blankets and the rest will be shipped next Wednesday April 24. With those already shipped and those committed, we'll be sending over 100 blankets to the Good Grief Camp in Arlington VA this year. **If you have any TAPS blankets yet to turn in, they must be dropped off at Tuesday night's meeting or at Sharon's, Mary's or Barb's no later than Noon Wednesday.** Thanks to those who have already donated toward the cost of shipping, already covering ¼ of the anticipated cost. This cost keeps rising each year. **If you can help with this expense, please send your check made out to Project Linus (with "TAPS SHIPPING" noted in the memo line)** to me (Sharon Lee 11061 S Stelling Rd Cupertino CA 95014). Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

* **Blanket Stats:** We've had a great start to the year. In the first quarter we received donations of 1833 blankets and we distributed 1717 blankets through CASA, El Camino Hospital-NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital-NICU, Honduras refugees, JW House, KAFPA, Kaiser Hospital-NICU and Pediatrics, Lucille Packard-El Camino Hospital, O'Connor Hospital-NICU, Project Sanctuary, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sacred Heart Layette Program, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Service, School Health Clinics, Valley Medical Center and Bill Wilson Center. Our chapter total is now 90,354 blankets donated. THANK YOU!

* **Quilters Come Shopping for Fabric! – Friday April 26 – Saturday April 27:** Fat quarter frenzy, batiks and general **shopping at Barb's house** (1240 Hanchett Ave San Jose). Bring your patterns. **Friday April 26 from 10am-Noon and 1:30-3:30pm and Saturday April 27 from 9:30-11:30am.** (Remember – Barb will be away most of the summer, so come and shop now for enough supplies to keep you going 'til fall!) Please contact Barb ahead of time if you plan to stop by (sjlinus@gmail.com or 408-295-2287).

* **Need help with blanket tags:** Want a simple way to help (while watching TV maybe ☺)? We need the strings added to our blanket tags. We have LOTS of “10 packs” counted out and they need to have the strings added to the tags. If you can help, pick up a ‘kit’ at this week’s meeting or contact Sharon to make arrangements to get some. Thanks!

* We are still **collecting scrap for Sew for Love projects** (as well as the plastic zipper bags that sheets and pillows come in). Feel free to drop those off at the meetings or at Sharon’s and Mary’s.

* Remember to **sign into Amazon through our website link** at www.sjlinus.org when ordering on line. It’s earns our chapter 4%-6% based on all your purchases. Share this with everyone you know who shops at Amazon PLEASE! It’s easy and it pays! THANKS!!

* **Gentle Reminders: Quilters** - there were pins found in some quilts for TAPS as well as MANY that had not had threads trimmed or loose threads cleaned off them. PLEASE double check your quilts before turning them in. THANK YOU!

Skip-stitchers - please remember to do at least 2 (preferably 3) rows of crochet around your fleece pieces. It makes a nicer finished edge with multiples rows and varied colors adds a lot too.

Also, remember to put extra stitches in the corners so the blankets lay flat when finished. Many of the TAPS blankets had issues with laying flat (from both old and new skip-stitchers...). Please pay attention to this detail. THANK YOU!

All blanketeers - **Tie your paper tags on with a KNOT in the string/yarn**, not just a bow. The bows come untied and the tags are getting lost in all the handling that blankets get before they end up with the recipients.

* Please remember to **bring in your empty ink cartridges** (less than 10” in size) so we can turn them in for credit at Staples. We get our bagging bags, printing and ink, scissors, tapes, paper, bag stickers and much more for the chapter through this recycling program. (If you send them along with your blankets at the drop-off locations, please remember to double bag them so there’s no leakage.) THANK YOU!

* Looking ahead, our **May meeting** will be **Tuesday May 21 at 1pm (daytime meeting)** and **bagging** will be **Thursday May 23rd**.

Happy blanketeering and thank you so much for supporting Project Linus and the children we serve together.