

February 2020 Newsletter

As we get ready for our spring Make a Blanket Day on Saturday March 7, we have lots of good things happening with our chapter. Read on to find out more and I hope you'll find something you'd like to join in on. We welcome your help and your generous support of Project Linus to help us support and comfort local children in crisis.

Highlights:

1. Mine Budiman - 2nd prize in the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge
2. February bagging this Sat. Feb. 29 - need completed blankets by Friday (@ Mary's or Sharon's)
3. HELP NEEDED: New blanket deliverer/liasion(s) for Valley Medical Ctr & Good Samaritan Hosp
4. Annual Spring Make a Blanket Day March 7 9am-3pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church Cupertino
5. HELP NEEDED: Set up for MABD on Friday March 6 at 1pm; also for clean-up on Sat. March 7
6. January Chapter stats
7. Thank you's
8. New donation boxes at (most) JoAnn's that are drop off locations
9. New drop off location: JoAnn Fabrics in Fremont
10. New/2nd liaison for JoAnn Fabrics - Almaden Expressway - San Jose
11. Project Linus: Knit and Crochet Along - open now
12. HELP NEEDED: Calling all yarn!
13. New pattern: Granny squares without holes
14. HELP NEEDED: NEEDLE WITH THREAD FOUND IN QUILT at recipient location!!!
15. Approaching a HUGE milestone for the chapter

Details:

1. Thanks to everyone who supported all our chapter entries (Mine Budiman, Sylvie Le Claire and Gerri Smoluk) in the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge. Mine Budiman came in 2nd and won a new Janome sewing machine! Congratulations Mine!

2. Our monthly bagging day is this Saturday. If you have any completed blankets, please get them to Mary Kelly's house (1366 Milton Way San Jose) or Sharon Lee's house (11061 S Stelling Rd Cupertino) by Friday night so they can be included in this month's distribution. (Don't hold all your blankets until Make a Blanket Day - save the few you'd like to include in Show'n'Tell, and bring the others to us by Friday Feb 28 so we have as many blankets for February as possible. Thank you!)

3. HELP NEEDED: Linda Taylor, one of our long time blanketeers and liaison for blanket deliveries to Valley Medical Center and Good Samaritan Hospital is moving out of state and we need folks to deliver to those 2 locations (could be 2 folks taking one each or 1 person doing both). Please contact Barbara Ross (sjlinus@gmail.com or 408-295-2287) if you can help us with this once a month.

4. Our spring Make a Blanket Day will be held Saturday March 7 9am-3pm at St. Jude's Episcopal Church 20920 McClelland Rd Cupertino). Come join us for a couple hours or the whole day. Quilters bring your sewing machines, we'll have kits for you to work on. Knit/crocheters we'll have some yarn for you to choose from. Tied fleece blanketeters, we'll have fleece for sale and skip-stitch blanketeters, we'll have kits. There will also be non-blanket projects (eg brochure folding, tag stringing) for those who'd like to help in other ways. The "Monthly meeting" will start at 11am and the Potluck lunch around Noon (please bring something to share). It's always a fun day - we hope you can make it!

5. HELP NEEDED: We'll be setting up for the Make a Blanket Day Friday March 6 at 1pm. Please come by and help us - if we have a good-sized group, it only takes about an hour. (Please consider staying for 1/2 hour after the event and help us clean up - again, the more helpers, the faster it goes!) Thanks.

6. In January we received donations of 658 blankets and we distributed 655 blankets to the following organizations: CASA, El Camino Hospital-NICU, Good Samaritan Hospital-NICU, Kaiser Hospital-NICU and Pediatrics, Lucille Packard/El Camino Hospital Pediatrics, O'Connor Hospital-NICU and Pediatrics, Parents Helping Parents, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sacred Heart Layette Program, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services - King Road and Julian Street, School Health Clinics and Valley Medical Center. Our chapter total to date is 97,736 blankets donated.

7. Our wonderful web master Isabelle Wimmers puts the thank-you's we receive on our web site www.sjlinus.org under Recipients (Testimonials) so we can all see what an impact our blanket gifts make to those receiving them. Take a look - every thank you we get is meant for all of our wonderful blanket makers. Here's one of the latest thank-you's we received:
" My daughter Charlee was transferred to Kaiser Santa Clara's PICU last night after 5 days in Kaiser Modesto with RSV. She loves the blanket your organization provided and as a parent it touched my heart more than you can know. So I wanted to write and say thank you! Your act of kindness spoke volumes! Thank you, thank you, thank you! God bless you and your organization! Sincerely and with a grateful heart, Nathan D."

8. Most of the JoAnn's stores now have large cardboard Project Linus drop off boxes near the front door) so we will be getting more visibility and it will be easier for our blanketeters to drop off their blankets (if you have a large donation, you still should ask for help from a store employee, so they can take them to the main collection area in the back of their stores).

9. We're excited to have a new drop off location in the "north county" (though technically it's in Alameda county...). JoAnn Fabrics in Fremont (43435 Boscell Rd 94538) is now a drop-off location for our chapter! Elizabeth Tang-Kong is the liaison for this new location. The employees were anxious to have their store as a drop-off location for their own donations!

10. Our busiest drop off location is JoAnn Fabrics on Almaden Expressway in San Jose. JoAnn Lathrop has been our sole liaison there for many years. We have recently added a 2nd liaison to help her with the large volume of donations we receive at that location regularly. JoAnn Brooks will now be assisting JoAnn Lathrop with coverage of the JA-Almaden Expressway store. Thank you both for your support here. Thank you too to all our drop-off location liaisons for filling this critical role in our process: in addition to Elizabeth, JoAnn L. and JoAnn B. - Gerri Smoluk, Pati Palmer, Helen Farnham, Michelle Zeiler, Sharon Lee, Erma Linn, Linda Skipper, Jan Ewers and Mary Kelly. If you'd like to help with this role, contact Sharon (details below).

11. For quilters, Project Linus offers the annual mystery quilt challenge. For knitters and crocheters, they offer the Knit and Crochet Along. This annual event has recently begun and you can join the fun, making this year's pattern and following it on the Facebook page. As with the quilt challenge, there is a donation/fee for the pattern (your donation will be given to our chapter if you specify "South Bay / San Jose CA chapter" when you register). Click here for more info: <https://www.projectlinus.org/knitcrochet/>

12. HELP NEEDED: Calling all yarn! We are collecting all types of yarn this spring. Check your craft rooms, closets, ask your friends and relatives - especially those doing spring cleaning. We will keep the acrylic yarn which we will make available to our knitters and crocheters for making our blankets. Any other yarns will be sorted and sold as a fundraiser. We will be collecting yarn through March. Please bag your yarn and leave it at any of our drop off locations and please mark the bag "Project Linus - Yarn". Thank you!

13. Many of our crocheters like to make granny squares - it's a great way to use up yarn bits and it makes a colorful, cheerful blanket but there are often holes that little fingers could get caught up in. Here's a pattern link for a 'finger safe' granny square that we offer for your use. Enjoy! [Link here](#)

14. HELP NEEDED: Check your finished blankets carefully! We recently heard from one of our recipient organizations that a needle with thread was found in a quilt they received from us. This was very scary. PLEASE check AND recheck your blankets for pins and needles before turning them in. Thank you.

15. We are getting close to a HUGE milestone for the chapter - our 100,000th blanket! We're starting to plan an event around this and we'd like your input as to what might be a fun way to celebrate this momentous occasion. Please send your ideas to Sharon at sjlinus@comcast.net by March 31st.

Thanks for being a part of our chapter and for helping us make a difference in our community.

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