

## March 16, 2020

As we all are dealing with the COVID-19 virus challenges, I hope you are all staying well and taking care. With extra time at home now, my blanket making has provided me with a relaxing activity which I appreciate. I hope yours does too. Here are a few updates for you since our great Make a Blanket Day on March 7 (thank you to all who were able to participate);

### Highlights:

1. **March Bagging Day is cancelled**
2. **Keep your finished blankets at home in the month of March**
3. February Chapter stats
4. Thank you's
5. New Quilt-A-Long starting March 21 (from national Project Linus)
6. Knit and Crochet Along – in process, join in
7. New pattern: Granny squares without holes
8. Quilt kits and fleece kits available at Barb's and Sharon's

### Details:

1. Due to the risks involved with the COVID-19 virus and gatherings, we are **cancelling our bagging day this month.**

2. We ask that you **keep your finished blankets at home with you in the month of March and DO NOT drop any off at our drop-off locations until April.** (We will send another update late/March/early April as to when we will start picking up blankets at those locations again. It will also be posted on our website. Thank you for your support of this temporary change.)

3. On a happier note, we received 544 blanket donations in February and distributed 660 blankets to the following organizations: Georgia Travis House, Good Samaritan Hospital NICU, JW House, KAFPA, Kaiser Hospital Pediatrics, Lucille Packard El Camino Hospital Pediatrics, O'Connor Hospital Pediatrics, Project Sanctuary, Public Health, Regional Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House, San Jose Family Shelter, San Jose Social Services (King Road and Julian Street), School Health Clinics and Valley Medical Center. Our chapter total is now 98,280 blankets donated!

4. We received the following thank-you's this month - Enjoy!

\* Dear Project Linus and "Someone Who Cares," My name is Nicola B-A and my daughter, Charlize, was admitted to the Pediatric ICU at Santa Clara Kaiser on Wednesday, March 11. After a very long and stressful transfer from Daly City Kaiser, we

arrived at our room to find what could not have been the most unexpected and welcoming surprise - a blanket which could have been hand picked for Charlie! She was feeling quite awful, and as soon as she walked in she said, "I love this blanket! It's my favorite everything!" The nurse very happily let her know it was hers to take and it was made especially for her. This is more than a gift and your blanket made with care and love has helped her heal. She snuggled into it and felt instantly comfortable and at home. I cannot express my gratitude as a parent, and I have made a small donation online, which is nothing compared to what you have given us. Thank you for healing others with your kindness.

I would also like to ask if you accept donations of fabric and quilting materials? My mom loved to quilt and upon her passing I inherited a large amount of fabrics and quilting materials. She was a nurse at UCSF Medical Center and I know she would want to continue to help patients through organizations such as Project Linus.

Here is a picture (photo omitted in newsletter) of Charlie right after settling in and sleeping soundly under her blanket from "Someone Who Cares." My deepest gratitude, Nicola B-A

\* Dear Project Linus, Thank you! For helping us make a difference in the lives of the patients and families we serve. Thank you for your generous donation to our hospital. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Santa Clara Valley Medical Centre & O'Connor Hospital Volunteer services

5. Mary Balagna, Project Linus national vice-president and creator of the Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge has set up a new 'virtual quilt-a-long' (in response to all the Make a Blanket Days that are being cancelled due to the virus concerns). Feel free to join in – your \$10 donation will get you the directions and access to Facebook live help sessions (as usual, include our chapter name – South Bay / San Jose, CA chapter – when you make your donation, and our chapter will receive your funds. See details below. Have fun! We'll look forward to seeing the quilts at our next meeting (date TBC) or on our Facebook page.

6. Remember - For knitters and crocheters, the Knit and Crochet Along is also in progress. Join the fun, making this year's pattern and following it with optional Facebook live sessions. 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/>

7. Many of our crocheters like to make granny squares - it's a great way to use up yarn bits and it makes a colorful, cheery 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 with no holes that we offer for your use. I can't wait to see one of these. Enjoy! [link https://diyeverywhere.com/2016/08/22/how-to-crochet-gorgeous-granny-squares-3-ways-video-tutorials-diagrams-/?src=glp\\_55105&t=syn&fbclid=IwAR0rGTW97Fi904fZX2hWgTMQHH42QQJLZz-iOU0ZPuWtMeOrPr8ul48co8g](https://diyeverywhere.com/2016/08/22/how-to-crochet-gorgeous-granny-squares-3-ways-video-tutorials-diagrams-/?src=glp_55105&t=syn&fbclid=IwAR0rGTW97Fi904fZX2hWgTMQHH42QQJLZz-iOU0ZPuWtMeOrPr8ul48co8g)

8. Both Barb and I can make available quilt and skip-stitch fleece kits, if you need supplies while we're not meeting. Barb has both quilt and skip-stitch kits in her box on

the left side of her house, and Sharon has a 2<sup>nd</sup> box on her porch, just for skip-stitch kits. Stop by anytime and pick one up. (If you want more than 1, email or call us and let us know so we can bag up your request and leave them for you.)

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

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