



Newsletter

May 2018

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Thank you notes!

We receive thank-you notes from blanket recipients (or their families), and truly appreciate knowing that our efforts have made a child’s tough day a little better.

“... my two children were recent recipients of blankets from Project Linus. I wanted to thank you and your team of wonderful volunteers for the amazing work you do

My husband is currently deployed and while both kids miss dad, my son is having an especially hard time. Sheila Coles was kind enough to think of them and think that these beautiful blankets might be a good comfort to them. She was beyond right and I hope you can share my heartfelt thank you with everyone!

These blankets have been used and loved everyday since we received them and both kids can't stop talking about how beautiful and soft they are! They were so excited to show their dad and it just makes my own heart so full- you do amazing, important work that reaches so many people in need. Thank you.”

“This organization meant the world to me when my 20 month old was hospitalized for 4 days. We rushed him to the ER not thinking to grab anything on our way out the door. Once at the hospital I remember thinking I don't have any of the things that will comfort him when he wakes up. Luckily the nurses immediately put one of these blankets on him and it made me feel like he had something to comfort him through an awful time. Thank you so much for this wonderful cause it means the world to parents everywhere.”

Special thank you/discount from Missouri Star

“Thank you from the bottom of our hearts here at Missouri Star Quilt Company for your partnership with us to deliver not only blankets, quilts and pillowcases to those affected by the 2017 hurricanes, but also love, hope and comfort. Together we were able to donate over 9,000 quilts and blankets and 4,000 pillowcases to those in need. Words cannot even begin to describe the effect this had on not only the recipients of these gifts, but all those involved. We're working on a video showcasing these efforts that we'll be sharing with you soon!

As a token of our appreciation for you all, we'd like to offer you 15% off all orders of \$25+ at MissouriQuiltCo.com now through **May 31, 2018** so that you may continue quilting and spreading the love. Simply use code "Linus15" as checkout to receive this discount.

With love, Missouri Star Quilt Co.”



Kennewick location for Battelle work parties is working well

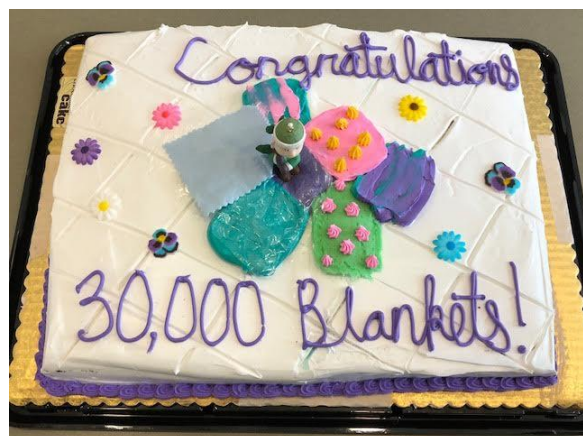
Team Battelle work parties are now happening at Quinault Baptist Church in Kennewick, still the first Saturday of the month, 10:00-4:00.

This new location has an excellent kitchen facility for our potluck lunches, lots of room to spread out, and easy access to get to, and to get into. With their fully-equipped kitchen, we are hoping to switch to real dishes and reduce our paper plates/plastic utensils consumption. We would be very interested in any comments or feedback on this option.

Recap: Spring 2018 MABD

The Spring 2018 Make a Blanket Day was held April 21 at the Richland Public Library. We had a great turnout to help us celebrate giving out **30,000 blankets** in the Tri-Cities (& beyond) area! (thanks to Janet Trump for the photo!)

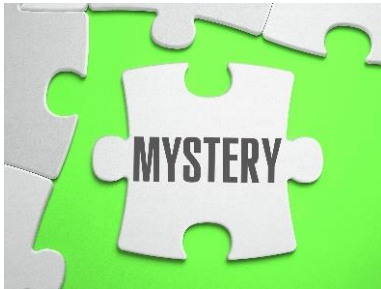
Leslie Streeter from The Chaplaincy spoke to us about her agency, its mission, and how Project Linus blankets are utilized (and appreciated).



The winning blankets in the Transportation Quilt Challenge are (below, l to r): **Donna Smith (1st)**, **Stephanie Carlon (2nd)**, and **Nan Seidel (3rd)**. Thanks for creating blankets and voting; watch for a new challenge to be announced at our fall 2018 Make A Blanket Day **(October 20)**.



Project Linus Mystery Quilt Challenge—Register in August



Did you see the [Exploring the World with Ethan](#) Mystery Quilts, either at the Tri-Cities Quilters Quilt Show in March, or at MABD in April? If your interest was piqued, stay tuned for the next [Mystery Quilt Challenge](#) coming this fall. Registration will open in August, clues will be released starting in October.

You can join the (very active!!) [Facebook group](#) now and see photos and read about the challenges while waiting for the next quilt.



Our chapter benefits from this fundraiser as well: we receive the full amount of the registration fee (\$15), so spread the word (& be sure to select us when you sign up!).

Mary Balagna (mystery quilt creator!) just posted this to the [Facebook group](#), so the buzz is beginning!

Oh my goodness - the 2018 Project Linus Mystery Quilt is going to be SO MUCH FUN!!!! It's a little easier than last year (yes, I can hear the collective sighs of relief) and we have a special addition to the challenge experience that will add another great piece to the puzzle! We will continue to have detailed patterns and instructional videos for each clue and it will still be a \$15 donation to Project Linus to join in on the excitement but there will be more! Please invite friends, family, guild members along with anyone who would like to learn to quilt to join us here in our Facebook group so they get the important news and announcements without delay! Mark your calendar - Registration opens! **AUGUST 20th** -

You can still get the Ethan pattern: Go to www.projectlinus.org and click on "Donate". Make a \$20 donation and in the comments section write "Exploring the World With Ethan" pattern along with the email address to use for the pattern download. The videos are no longer available.

Project Linus “Blanket Beacon”

The National Project Linus newsletter, the Blanket Beacon, is now [available online](#). Here are just a couple of items from this issue:

Project Linus has just reached a huge milestone—**over SEVEN MILLION blankets delivered!** Thank you all for your contributions to this total!

Project Linus Links and More:

[You Tube](#) is a great website. Go to it and search Project Linus. It's amazing what you will find. The national video and song detailed below, lots of videos on making PL crocheted edge and other blankets, etc. Take a few minutes to explore it - you will find some great information. Search for “Project Linus Love Notes” to see videos of PL blankets and their recipients.

[Project Linus Blanket Deliveries](#): Project Linus Coordinators and Volunteers make blanket deliveries to the agencies and organizations that provide blankets to children in traumatic situations. This video is a great example of how these deliveries take place across the nation every week:

[Project Linus Smiles Video](#): This video is a clear example of all the smiles Project Linus brings to volunteers and the children we serve.

The Project Linus Theme Song is [Covered in Love](#).

[Project Linus Website](#)

[Project Linus Facebook](#) – We’d love to have you “join us”

Quilt batting update

For some years, we have been able to get batting from The Warm Company at little or no cost. This is no longer the case, which means that batting costs are now a significant expense for the chapter. We will continue to provide batting, but probably on a more limited basis, so any help in this area will be appreciated. We frequently join remnant pieces together, so please be frugal and respectful of this resource.



Making Blankets for Project Linus

Thank you for being a blanketeer for Project Linus. All of your donations will be given to local children (infants through teens) that are critically ill, traumatized or otherwise in need. Here are some tips to help you get started.

Blankets must be new, clean and washable. Choose colors and prints that are child or teen friendly. Keep in mind that they're given to boys and girls so it's good to have a mix of masculine, feminine and gender-neutral prints and colors.

Blankets may be tied, crocheted, quilted, knitted or sewn. Camps often prefer tied fleece blankets but donations go to many organizations outside of hospitals. Free patterns are available at www.ProjectLinus.org or on [our website](#). There are no size requirements. Bigger is usually better. Small children can grow into a large blanket, but can quickly grow out of a small one.

Choose cuddly, soft and machine washable/dryable materials: all-cotton fabric and flannel; fleece and acrylic yarn. Please do not use denim, tapestry, polyester double knit, felt, vinyl, wool, corduroy or wool yarn. **Trim off ALL the selvages.**

Batting should be securely sewn into outer seams of quilts. Please sew and store the blankets in smoke- and pet hair-free environments. These cause allergic reactions in some children and cannot be used.

When making tied fleece blankets:

- Fringe should be no longer than 3 inches, no wider than 1 inch. Longer, wider fringes become a choking hazard for small children and can get tangled in IV lines. Blankets look nicer if all the strips are about the same size.
- Please be sure to trim the selvage to give the blanket a neat, polished finish. This is the finished edge of fabric, often where the designer and company names are printed.
- Tie knots securely but not so tight that the blanket bunches or pulls.

If you have any questions about blanket construction, quilting or tying, binding, etc., do not hesitate to ask! We are happy to help you learn better quilting techniques!! We also have expert knitters and crocheters, who are happy to teach, guide, or help you with a specific problem etc.

Upcoming events:

- Quilting at the Library: **Second Thursday of each month**, 10:00-4:00, Richland Public Library (955 Northgate Drive, Richland). Next meeting: **Thursday June 14**
- Battelle work parties: **First Saturday of each month**, 10:00-4:00, *Quinault Baptist Church, Kennewick*. Next one is **Saturday June 2. Potluck theme: Summer salads! (think picnics!)**

Useful information!

Project Linus blanket size guide

Hospitals: NICU – 28.5" x 36"
Infant/Crib: 30"- 36" x 36-50"
Elementary: 42"- 45" x 48"-55"
High school: 50" – 55" x 65" – 70"
Twin & Double bed sizes

Drop off locations

Badger Mountain Yarns, Richland
Discount Vac & Sew, Kennewick
Fabric 108, Kennewick (NEW!)
Janean's Bernina, Pasco
JoAnn Fabrics, Kennewick (NEW!)
Quiltmania, Richland

Reminders: Other ways to support Project Linus

Don't forget that you can add our local Tri-Cities chapter of Project Linus to your [Fred Meyer Rewards](#) card—our quarterly check from this source has been increasing, and we greatly appreciate those who help us out this way. You can add the national Project Linus to your [AmazonSmile](#) account. We also accept refills of the coin jars that were distributed a year or so ago 😊

We also appreciate support received from these local agencies:

Kroger's/Fred Meyer
The Columbus Foundation (Battelle)
Live Victoriously Ministries
Washington River Protection Solutions
Walla Walla Exchange Club Foundation

If your employer supports giving to or helping with community projects, please contact us! We have participated with other groups (corporate, Boy Scouts, etc.) who worked with us on Make A Blanket Day, and at regular work parties.

Chapter funds do not pay for any salaries; we are volunteers. Chapter funds cover the costs of purchasing supplies such as labels, ribbon, yarn, fabric and batting, postage, etc.

All this & more online!

Just a reminder to check [our website](#) for events and contests, as well as contact information and patterns. You can Google us if you don't bookmark it 😊

Find us on Facebook! You can also "[Like](#)" [our Facebook page](#) (you don't have to be "on Facebook" to see our page) and get reminders about upcoming events, resources, tips, etc.