

HANDMADE HUGS

HERALD

Volume I, Issue #1, February 2004

Handmade Hugs is a totally volunteer organization dedicated to comforting kids with security blankets. This is a local chapter of
PROJECT LINUS

NATIONAL "MAKE-A-BLANKET" DAY

Saturday, February 21, 2004

Be with us for "Make-a-Blanket" Day 2004! Each year, Project Linus promotes a day when participating chapter coordinators around the country band together to make blankets and spread the Project Lines word. Handmade Hugs, local chapter of Project Linus, will hold four events that day at the following locations:

- The New Apostolic Church at 814 Claremont in Pasadena
- Our Lady of Lourdes at 18400 Kinsey Street (Room #2) in Northridge
- Kingdom Sewing in the Quilt Station at 2355 Tapo Street in Simi Valley
- The Patchwork Penguin at 6540 Foothill Blvd in Tujunga

Quiltmaker Magazine has featured their "Kisses and Hugs" pattern for this year's "Make a Blanket" Day. This is the fifth pattern that QM has published in support of Project Linus, but any pattern that you choose would be acceptable - any size, any style as long as it is new and hand-made.

You could win a **JANOME** sewing machine by dropping off your donated blankets at any of the participating Janome dealers between February 1 and March 21, 2004. For each hand-made blanket donated the donor receives a ticket. The more blankets created the more chances to win. All tickets will be collected and one machine will be given away by each participating Janome dealer (see page 2 for dealers).



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Handmade Hugs Herald is published 3 times yearly
By the Volunteer Chapter of Project Linus.
S. McGinnis, Chapter Coordinator, 818 994 9675
D. Calvin, Editor/Publisher 818 885 0184

Items of interest to HHH members are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Suzann McGinnis at 818 994 9675 or email SuzQuilt @aol.com orlog on nationally to www.projectlinus.org, or locally to www.handmadehugs.org. Our local chapter of Project Linus has blanket-making events every month - why not join us? Check the Handmade Hugs website for the 2004 calendar of events and locations.

**Coordinator's
Corner**



Dear Blanketeers,

This is another milestone for our wonderful chapter . . . Our first newsletter. A special "thank you" goes out to Dot Calvin for making it a reality.

It is 2004 and we have a great year ahead of us. Be sure to take time at the website to look at the current calendar of events and their locations. We are meeting at four different locations each month, "sew" we are hoping you can join us.

2003 is gone . . . Please pat yourselves on the back for a job well done as we tally over 4,216 blankets produced since June of 2000. An extra pat for the love and quality that went into each one. Our blankets far surpass any that I have seen from other chapters or charities and should be a source of pride for each and every one of you.

National "Make-a-Blanket" Day is Saturday, February 21st. There is more information in the newsletter regarding all the activities planned. I'm looking forward to making blankets with you.

Suzann McGinnis
Chapter Coordinator.



**PARTICIPATING JANOME DEALERS
"MAKE-A-BLANKET" DAY**

Kingdom Sewing, 8923 Reseda Blvd, Northridge

**Kingdom Sewing at the Quilt Station
2355 Tapo Street, Simi Valley**

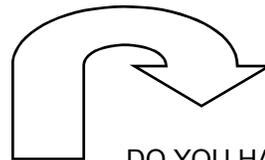
**Tanner's Sewing & Vacuum Center
913 W. Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel**

As of December 31, 2003, our chapter of Project Linus has produced 4,216 blankets. This does not include the 1,784 blankets that were collected from other PL chapter across the nation in November 2003 for children who lost their homes to the wildfires.

Our chapter donated 92 blankets (included in both totals) to this disaster relief and it was our Blanketeers ** along with the help of Cheryl Gifis, Elyse Johnson (PL Coordinator for Santa Clarita), her friends and John McGinnis who organized, counted and delivered them. We did discover that with careful packing, we could fit between 300 and 400 blankets in an SUV.

** Suzi Carrion, Theresa Costin, Amy Cutter, Pat Desmond, Joanne Milbrand, Cynthia Pfarr, Gail Thompson and ?? (my memory is not what it used to be). Thanks to everyone.

Suzanne M.



DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS....
Who are not quilters but who would like to help the Project Linus effort? There is always use for:

- Fabric 100% new cotton
- Batting
- Cash contributions
- Yarn...acrylic & washable
- Thread
- Gift certificates to JoAnn's, Michaels, or other fabric or yarn stores.

IF YOU KNEW SUZI

Born raised and schooled in Northeast LA, our own Suzi Carrion (RaffleMeister) put herself through nursing school when her two oldest girls were 2 and 4 years old. She went on to work as an RN in Pediatric ICU and the Neonatal ICU. Suzi has been married to Carlos for 17 years and their daughter, Faith, now 14, started performing in musical theater four years ago.

Faith pulled Suzi along with her and Suzi was smitten by the spotlight. She met Mary Jensen (a committed Handmade Hugs Blanketeer) who had brought a quilt for one of the thespian troupe and Suzi couldn't wait to learn how to piece and quilt. This was two years ago and now she can't wait to have a sewing room with a long arm - a long arm sewing machine, that is.

Suzi no longer works as a nurse, so when people ask her what she does, she says she is a struggling actor who loves to quilt.

Suzi is a kitchen whiz too - look on the next page for her recipe for scones (she always brings them to Pasadena).

. . AND LINDA TOO !!!

...raised and went to school in Burbank, so begins Linda Huber's bio. She spent two years at Valley Community College and says her dad was a practical man who insisted that she learn to type and sew..... consequently typing and sewing were her only electives. She worked for Ocean Technology for a couple of years as secretary to the manufacturing manager until her dad insisted she apply for work at Lockheed where he worked.

She married Richard at age 20 and moved to the east coast.....but only lasted there for two years before she was back in California. Then she worked at Lockheed on and off as a Systems Analyst for about 10 years.

"I can't remember not knowing how to sew. . . I made most of my clothes . . . Dad would always give me money for fabric but thought that just going out to buy clothes was a waste. I left Lockheed when my oldest child was in Junior High . . . Fortunately working was always optional for me.

I putzed around with a home business of computer type-setting . . . Doing layouts and typesetting for magazine ads and for a company in Glendale.

(LINDA - CONTINUED)

When my daughter was about five, I wanted to redo her room with a Sunbonnet Sue quilt for her bed. I found a pattern of sorts, cut out a bunch of dresses and hats with scissors and my mom said she would take them and sew them on squares with a decorative stitch on her machine. Then she tied the quilt for me and I think it's still in the hope chest. I still had the bug to actually make a quilt, but had no idea how to really do it. After trying it alone and struggling, I finally met the sister of a schoolmate of mine who had taken classes from Mary Ellen Hopkins, who at that time owned Crazy Ladies Quilt Shop in Santa Monica. Being a fairly quick study, I came to find out about rotary cutters, mats and walking feet. The rest is history.

About four years ago I brought a jacket pattern and some Japanese fabric at Azabu-ya (a Japanese quilt shop on Westwood Blvd). I made the jacket and had worn it to the Glendale Quilt Show that year. The owner of the show saw the jacket and asked if I would teach a class at her shop. I wound up teaching several classes there and making garments for the owner. Word got around and I was asked to teach that jacket class at the Quilter's Studio in Newbury Park and at Sophie Ann's Quilts in Santa Mria. Then after making the Circles of Illusion quilt, I was asked to teach that class at Q is for Quilts and several other shops around.

In the spring of 2000, I was watching Oprah and heard the story about Project Linus. I thought it was such a wonderful idea to give these blankets to sick children because Lord knows we don't need any more quilts at our house! About a month later, one of the Glendale quilt members told the group about the story on Oprah's show. Suzy (McGinnis) sitting beside me said "I want to do something for these kids!" I said "Me too."

She couldn't find any group on our area to make blankets for, so Project Linus in Denver suggested that she start a chapter. One day she called me and said there was a need for three quilts at Grossman Burn Center and could we do anything about it. I had some quilts that I gladly gave her. . Then I began making quilts as fast as I could, but needed help. THAT'S WHERE YOU ALL COME IN . . . THANK GOD. The rest of the story you know ... and what a great ride it has been."

The MADISON INN BUTTERMILK SCONES

3 cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup firm butter (1 1/2 sticks) preferably
unsalted
3/4 cup chopped dry fruit - reconstitute in 1/2 cup
of any warm juice or water
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 cup of buttermilk *

*Substitute with one cup of milk and 2 table
spoons of vinegar. Combine the milk
and the vinegar and allow to sit for 10
minutes

TOPPING

1 tablespoon cream or milk
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons sugar

In a large bowl stir together flour, sugar,
Baking powder, baking soda and salt.
Cut in butter until the mixture resembles
coarse corn meal. Stir in fruit, nuts and
orange peel. Stir in buttermilk all at once
with a fork. You can roll the dough out
and cut into portions or with floured
hands, form into patties about 3" by 3"/
Place on a lightly greased baking sheet
spaced 1 1/2 inches apart. Brush with
cream or milk and sprinkle with cinna-
mon/sugar mixture. Bake at 450°F for
12 minutes or until the tops are lightly
browned. Serve warm and enjoy.

These scones can be formed and left in
the refrigerator overnight and then baked
when needed.

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Project Linus

18849 Vincennes Street
Northridge, CA 91324

