

HANDMADE HUGS

HERALD

Volume I, Issue #2, June 2004

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

MAKE-A-BLANKET DAY was a huge success.



There was a grand total of 302 blankets and afghans just for that day. Kingdom Sewing generated 127 blankets and we're so grateful to Tim Brown for his sponsorship. Patchwork Penguin and our gal Crissa DuCharme rounded up 109 blankets. Tanners Sewing in San Gabriel handed in 66. Then there were the ladies who gathered to sew and contribute at the Apostolic Church in Pasadena. Thanks to everyone once again.

*Linus is loving all his new
and very wonderful blankets.*



HANDMADE HUGS HERALD is published 3 times yearly by the Volunteer Chapter of Project Linus.
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Items of interest to Handmade Hugs members are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Suzann McGinnis at 818 994 9675, or email SuzQuilt@aol.com or to reach the national organization, Project Linus email www.projectlinus.org. For local schedules and meeting places go to www.handmadehugs.org. Our chapter of Project Linus has blanket making events every month—why not plan to join us? Check the Handmade Hugs website for the 2004 calendar of events and locations.



Coordinator's
Corner

SUZANN

So much interesting email crosses my computer screen, I've asked to have some parts of it shared with you. This from a Neonatal nurse in Albuquerque

" . . . A hospital, even a unit for babies is a very cold, sterile, clinical environment . . . full of activity and noise. Every baby is hooked up to monitors, ventilators, feeding tubes, oxygen and IVs. . . Very technical and nothing at all like what a parent has planned for a baby to live in after arriving. . . Everything a parent sees in the unit [Neonatal Intensive Care Unit] and on their precious baby is a jolting reminder that their baby is sick, in the hospital and is not just their baby, but also a patient in an intensive situation.

It is easy for nurses to forget these are babies. They can become just patients when we are so busy doing procedures on them, working with their machines . . . doing all the technical things we do. . . It is also very easy for a baby to forget that he or she is a baby when the environment is so light, loud and jarring.

. . . When a baby is given one of these [Project Linus] blankets, it tells the parents someone else cares about their baby. It reminds them that their baby is a baby, not just a patient. It gives them something sweet and baby-like to focus on instead of . . . Monitors. It relieves some fear, gives some hope. . . When they come in and see a beautiful blanket on their baby's bed they ask right away, "Who brought this to my baby?" When I tell them, they smile, they pick it up and they fondle and look over every loving stitch. They then find the tag, almost always touch it and always put the blanket back on their baby, hiding IV lines and monitor wires and surgical dressings. Now their baby looks like a baby." — Neva Coffee, RN

...a *Project Linus* blanket
is like a big hug
when you most need one.

**TEACHER
TEACHER !!!**

A lot of Handmade Hugs members are teachers, but Maria Paolone is special in that she teaches QUILTING! She does classes in piecing,

machine quilting and applique at all levels at Q is for Quilts in Burbank.

Maria was born in Hollywood—so she's native Californian. She grew up in the Burbank-Glendale area getting her education at Our Mother of Good Counsel Grade School, Holy Family Girls' High School, and CSUN where she was a Pre-dental Major.

She married Carmine 31 years ago and they have two children—Marisa, 26, and Paul 19. She's worked at bookkeeping, as a monitor tech in ICU at St Joseph's in Burbank, and as a volunteer at St Joseph's Children's Dental Clinic.

What does she love to teach? Beginning machine quilting. "The 'newcomers' are always so enthusiastic and eager to learn even with their mistakes." She began sewing at age 10—taught by her mother. Her dad had a custom men's clothing factory in LA. It's kind of in her blood, you might say. Maria loves to do anything with her hands—knitting, crocheting, embroidery. Right now she's learning Brazilian embroidery in order to teach it at Q next fall.



Any other interesting facts? She's a miniature "freak." She and Carmine built a dollhouse for their daughter 23 years ago and Maria is about to re-do it! It took a lot of abuse, so wallpaper, carpet and paint are in order, new windows and doors, and electrify it this time so that she can give it to her daughter to keep.

Miniatures to build? A tudor style house, a coffee house, and then maybe a Santa's Shack. She has a miniature porcelain shoe collection, a Swarovsky crystal collection (all small) and a doll collection that consists of 40 dolls— all different sizes.

AND NOW ON THE NATIONAL SCENE—

Number of blankets donated to Project Linus

872,208

Number of chapters in Project Linus

332

We're involved in a win-win situation: we win when we make the quilts and we win when we know how much comfort they provide.

Sisters

Lisa Burroughs
Ann Bagne

Picture a small western town (pop.960) in the Cascade Mountains where one day a year the population swells to over 10,000 and you have Sisters, Oregon, the day of the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show.

Every year on the second Saturday in July the interior and exterior of the buildings on the town's three main streets are festooned with quilts from all over the United States and even the world. And in recent years, you would find Lisa and Ann there. Ann has been there so many times she would have to count the T-shirts to know how many. This will be Lisa's third year. They'll park their RVs in the city park and from there they'll cover the entire town, leaving their husbands and friends in the dust, to return to the park for cold drinks and naps, and then it's off again to try to cover the entire town at least once even if the temperature is over 100 degrees!

The show began as a way for Jean Wells, owner of the Stchin' Post, to display quilts from her classes. Now over 800 quilts are displayed each year, many for sale. The main show is not judged, and quilts are entered simply by sending in an official registration form. Last year Ann displayed her Round Robin quilt, Starring Five Hens. She's getting another ready to go this year. During the week preceding the show, classes are given by noted teachers.



If you go, be sure to bring a hat, sunscreen and plenty of film. It is best to come a day or two early so you can shop before the crowds arrive. There are plenty of things to do in the area as well. The town is in the Cascades, so there is hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities. Cascade Lakes Highway is a good way to enjoy the scenery through the Deschutes National Forest. In Bend, there are three nice quilt shops: Sew Many Quilts, So Little Time, Mountain Country Mercantile, and BJ's Quilt Basket. Just south of Bend are the High Desert Museum and the Lava Buttes area.

Lisa

Of course, we quilters enjoy our food as much as our fabric. In Sisters, there is Bronco Billy's for great barbecue. Just down the road is the Tumalo Feed Company. The day of the show various groups provide food and drinks. The high school cross-country team serves hamburgers and chicken kabobs in one of the parks. A local church serves lunches and home-made pie.



Ann

The local library holds its annual book sale (for the avid reader), and the Paulina Springs Book Company usually has a book signing the day of the show. Such authors as Sandra Dallas Persian Pickle Club, Jennifer Chiaverini (Elm Creek Quilters series), and Earline Fowler (Benni Harper mysteries) have appeared.

(Ed. Note: a splendid idea occurred to me and knowing that Ann and Lisa had journeyed to Sisters, and thinking that they were sisters, I thought they could tell us of their adventure. They're not sisters—not even related but if I hadn't thought that they were, we'd never have had this great guided tour. Dcal)

PARENT'S MAGAZINE names Project Linus as one of the "10 Children's Charities that Deserve Your Support." Go online to www.projectlinus.org to find out more.,

Lisa Burroughs, prolific quilter, offers this tip:

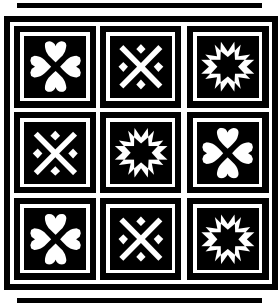
"After you've first attached the binding to your quilt, but you haven't turned it for sewing, press the seam into place (away from the quilt top). It will be easier then, to turn and sew the binding."



INCIDENTALLY . . .

QUILTING for Linus is catching on all over the country as well as abroad. In central Illinois, there are veteran blanketeers teaching young blanketeers the art of knitting and quilting.

In Hampstead, Maryland, students gather from across the state to make "rag quilts." In Cincinnati, Ohio, students from the Kids Caring Committee learn how to make quilts and then donate them to Project Linus.



HANDMADE HUGS

**SINCE
AUGUST, 2000**

4,980 BLANKETS

**387 BLANKETEERS
37 groups: churches,
Schools,
Girl Scouts, etc.**

HANDMADE HUGS HERALD
D Calvin
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