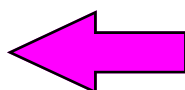


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Handmade Hugs is a totally volunteer organization dedicated to comforting kids with security blankets. This is a local chapter of
PROJECT LINUS

FOUNDER and COORDINATOR

Born in Downey, California Suzann McGinnis, Founder and Coordinator of Handmade Hugs for Project Linus, came to Van Nuys at



this age and became very much a Valley Girl.

Every school was a San Fernando Valley school - - Hazeltine Elementary, Fulton Jr High, Van Nuys High, L.A. Valley College, San Fernando Valley State and CSUN. Suz is a single mother of two - - Crystal, 22 and Jonathan, 18.

She worked in her mother's flower and gift business for years, and then turned to a career in the medical field. Currently, she counts 17 years at Orthopedic Medical Center (in the Valley, of course) as Administrator helping 5 physicians and overseeing a staff of 30.

Her mother sewed the family's clothes and when Suzahnn was eight, she started making her own clothes, and did so through her college years. After her children came along, she decided she needed her creative side back so in 1992, she found the Quilt Emporium in Woodland Hills and the rest is history.

Suz told this reporter, "One of my friends at the Glendale Quilt Guild told a story about a blanket she made for Project Linus that was given to a girl dying of leukemia. My heart was so touched that day - - - I knew I wanted to help and Linda Huber felt the same. After a few days and many phone calls, I became the local coordinator for Project Linus. With my organization and promotion and Linda's wonderful quilts, our chapter was born. Julie, at Q is for Quilts, offered room at her store and August 6, 2000 was our first and very successful blanket day."

The first blanket donation went to the Grossman Burn Center and she hasn't slowed down yet. She collects and categorizes all the blankets she gets, then she distributes them to many valley locations where there are children in need of comfort.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE ORPHANS?

Anyhow, we've been adopted by the Fairy Godmother Guild. They'll hold a luncheon and fair at the Atrium Hotel in Irvine on Sunday, October 10. Blankets created and donated by Handmade Hugs members will be auctioned off. Proceeds from this event are being earmarked for Project Linus.

Another group that has chosen to help our cause is the National Charity League of Glendale. Have you noticed all the young women crawling on the fabric-covered carpet at the Church in Pasadena? Armed with scissors and tape measures, they're fashioning fleece blankets and they will have made close to 300 by summer's end.



HANDMADE HUGS HERALD is published 3 times yearly by the Volunteer chapter of PROJECT LINUS.

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News items of interest to Handmade Hugs members are welcome. For additional information, please contact Suzann at the number above or email SuzQuilt@aol.com. Reach the national organization at email www.projectlinus.org.

Our chapter of Project Linus has blanket-making events every month—why not plan to join us? Check at www.handmadehugs.org for a calendar of events.

PROJECT ♥ LINUS -- *providing security through blankets*

QuiltersWarehouse is pleased to announce affiliation with PROJECT LINUS, a 100% volunteer organization, named after the blanket-toting character from the Peanuts comic strip. 100% of proceeds from purchased Project Linus patterns will go to the organization.

www.quilterswarehouse.com/projectlinus

Project Linus has a two-fold mission:

- ◆ First it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth & comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets & afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."
- ◆ Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding & fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

PROJECT LINUS has over 340 chapters representing all 50 United States. As a result of the efforts of these dedicated "blanketeers" over 700,000 blankets have been donated to children in crisis since its formation in December of 1995.

Anyone of any age can help these children. It's within our power to make a difference! Ed.note: look at this website for some really creative children's quilt patterns.

SAFETY TIP . . . For those of you who sew like the wind . . . Get yourself a pair of glasses - just plain, if you don't wear prescription lenses. Wear them while you're running your machine at high speed to protect your eyes in case a needle breaks. (Ed.note: ask me about the bandaid on my forehead.)



JUDITH'S BLANKET - - - (called so because Judith Bartnik showed us how to make it).

To make a blanket the size of your choice you need:

■#9 (US) needles, either very long or circular

■16 ounces of Wintuk or similar worsted weight yarn (acrylic or other synthetic—the softer the better) You may use more depending on the size you choose to make your blanket. Color is up to you but make it kid-pleasing.



DIRECTIONS

Cast on four (4) stitches. (Row 1)

Knit across
(Row 2) K2 yo K to end Repeat Row 2 until your blanket is as long on one side of the square as you want it to be. This

pattern makes the blanket in a square shape on point.. When your blanket is the desired length on a side, begin the next row. K2 yo K2 tog K to end. Repeat this row until you've decreased the blanket down to just 4 stitches. Bind off.

This pattern makes a soft drape-y blanket with a lovely patterned edge.



Counting this morning, more than 100 jar quilts have been made for Project Linus. Donna Ryan made over 1500 of the jar blocks.

**HANDMADE HUGS CELEBRATES
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
with a playday**

With the weather being not as hot as it was last year, several intrepid blanketeers took an air-conditioned bus to M&L Fabrics in Anaheim, to be met there by others who planned to take home a lot of stuff so they drove their own vans. The store was busy, but not any busier than HH members who patrolled the aisles calling back and forth to each other as a new treasure was unearthed. We made a lot of plans that day.

With arms full of our purchases and minds full of fabric we'd like to have bought, we headed for our awards luncheon at Hof's Hut. Coordinator Suz had all the facts and figures to give recognition to the work done all year long by all of us. See her message on page 4.

Then, strength fortified by lunch and some good pastry, we found a quilt shop in Anaheim—based in a 1920's Craftsman bungalow. The owner's mother took some on a tour of the burgeoning class and future retreat facilities so vast that some people wish they lived closer to Anaheim.

With a bus groaning under the weight of fabric purchases (and extra pastry), the blanketeers drove back to the Valley to plan more quilts and afghans.

PAPER TOWEL ROLLUPS—need to store or transport pieces or blocks in the order in which you'll sew them? Unroll as much paper toweling as you will need, lay out the pieces on the toweling, and re-roll. When you're ready to stitch, carefully unroll the toweling and pull off the piece to sew.