

# HANDMADE HUGS

HERALD

Volume II, Issue #1, March, 2005

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



**From the Founder's Desk**

It's hard to believe we just finished our 4th National "Make a Blanket Day." With your help a total of 351 blankets were received. In the pouring rain 40 peopleshowed up in Pasadena to create and celebrate this annual event. **Cindy Reimers** and **Suzi Carrion** provided wonderful décor, raffles,

favours, a delicious lunch and - oh, did I mention the cake? It was to die for! Suzi made heart-shaped cookies and hand dipped strawberries in chocolate. Go Suzi!!

The winners of the day were **Georgia Robertson** (a new Janome from **Kingdom Sewing** in Northridge), **Jeanne Bartel** (a new Janome from **Tanners** in San Gabriel, and **Ann Bagne** (a \$100 gift certificate from **Patchwork Penguin** in Tujunga), Both **Jana Schneider** and **Lisa Burroughs** won beautiful gift baskets courtesy of **Trader Joe's**.

The previous weekend we had a special sewing event at **Kingdom**. **Tim Brown** opened his store on a Sunday especially for us. **Dot Calvin** and **Peggy Terzian** (our wonderful mother-daughter duo)made that day extra special as well. With little clay pots filled with wonderful goodies including thread and machine needles (thanks to **Kingdom**) plus flower seeds so that you could be a "Sew and Sow" for Project Linus. There were refreshments and pizza for lunch.Both events were well attended and included some brand new recruits. They all said what a great group we are and that they'll be back.

Something new this year (with **Debbie Hoffman's** help): every time you participate in a blanket challenge, you'll receive a charm - different for each challenge. A bracelet for your charms will be available at future Pasadena

meetings at a nominal cost. The first charm, a little gold hand with a heart cut-out, was given to those who donated a dog/cat blanket on February 19. If your are still working on yours, please let me know as I have a few charms left.

The next blanket challenge will be announced at the Pasadena meeting on March 5th. You're going to love this one.

Our retreat in Buellton in May still has a few openings, so give it some thought. Email me ([SuzQuilt@aol.com](mailto:SuzQuilt@aol.com)) and I'll send you the forms. Remember, we'll be at the same hotel as the one filmed in the award-winning movie "Sideways."

Concerning the train crash in Glendale, I was in touch with the Glendale Police that same day. This week **Sherri Servillo** from Chief Adams' office called and she will be helping us get blankets to the children of the people killed or critically injured in that crash.

On a brighter note, please mark you calendars for the San Fernando Quilt Guild and the Valley Quiltmakers quilt show at the AirTel Hotel and Conference Center in Van Nuys on September 9 and 10. They have chosen to spotlight **Project Linus** with a theme of "Wrapped in Love." There'll be a huge blanket drive and a "sew-in." More details to follow.

Looking at my living room filled with all your wonderful work, I want to thank all of you once again for embracing Linus . . . And remember

**THE BEST KIND OF SLEEP  
BENEATH HEAVEN ABOVE  
IS UNDER A BLANKET  
HANDMADE WITH LOVE.**

I am honored to deliver these beautiful blankets to children in need.

Suzann McGinnis  
Chapter Coordinator

## Hey!! It's Crissa!!

This month, our featured personality claims to have been born in Gardena on a day in June! Crissa Du Charme, quilter, needle-woman, entrepreneur, happy bubbly person has been a Handmade Hugs staunch supporter since the beginning. She is the owner and chief cook and bottlewasher of the "PATCHWORK PENGUIN," a classy, quilt-savvy fabric store in Tujunga.

Crissa opened "Patchwork Penguin" just last year, but the store is already a gathering place for quilters, knitters and crocheters, as well as a learning place for all sorts of classes for people from age seven on up..

One of four kids of Greek heritage, the South Bay area was her stompin' grounds growing up: Pennycamp Elementary School, Grant and Roosevelt Middle Schools, Mayfair and Mira Costa High Schools. Crissa says she flunked Home Ec. Later she went to both El Camino and Cypress Colleges, and majored in Accounting. She says now that she *hates* accounting.

She started sewing in Girl Scouts when she was eight years old or so. She made a "Ditty Bag." Remember those? And "SitUpons?" She is the mother of two, Anna and Colin and says she made all of Anna's clothes when Anna was little. She worked at "Quiltin' Things" for one year, went on a Mystery Weekend sponsored by "Bearly Stitchin'" and came home with a job at that store in Pasadena.

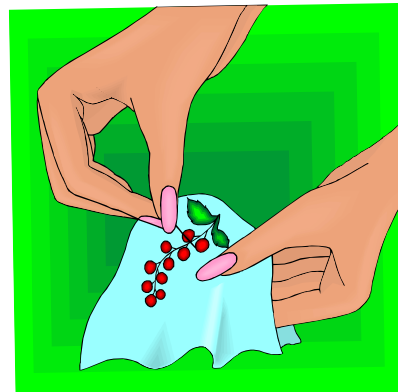
She was at "Q is for Quilts" one day and noticed a Project Linus flyer. She called Suzann McGinnis to donate some things and Suz encouraged her to "come and sew." Now she gets to Handmade Hugs meetings when she can, but that wonderful store, "Patchwork Penguin," takes up most of her time. She always very gracious - hosting gatherings of HH once a month. She finds the time at Patchwork Penguin to help customers select fabrics, threads, yarns and patterns, give advice about color relationships, and assist them however she can.

What does Crissa like to do best? She says it depends on what day it is. She claims there's not enough time to do everything she wants to do needlework-wise but one thing she wants to make a priority in the future is to teach kids.



### SPECIAL REQUEST . . . From Suzann

One of the NICU nurses at Tarzana Med Center volunteers for a free animal clinic in Sylmar. They are in need of towels or washable blankets for the many kittens and puppies that they rescue. She wanted me to ask you if you have anything you would like to give to his cause - the items are washed and re-used at the clinic, they do not go home with the animal. The bed/cage is about 18"x18" in the floor. If this need touches your heart, bring your donations to Pasadena and I'll deliver them. Great use for old towels or blankets.





**It's not just about quilts . . .** Knitters and crocheters need love too!! Lion Brand yarns has a wonderful website with many, many patterns for things to knit and crochet. [www.lionbrand.com](http://www.lionbrand.com) and while you're on the Internet, by all means look at [www.knittingcrochet.com](http://www.knittingcrochet.com) for a delightful site called the Yarn Lovers' Room. It's jam-packed with lots of interesting things to keep your needles clickin'!!

**TO WASH or NOT TO WASH . . .** That's the question. Some quilters wouldn't think about cutting without having laundered the fabric. Other quilters say that it really doesn't matter. The choice is yours. If you decide to wash your fabric, cut off a tiny triangle at each corner. This keeps the fabric from raveling in the washer and dryer.



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News items of interest to Hand-

made Hugs members are welcome. For additional information, please contact Suzann at the number above or email [SuzQuilt@aol.com](mailto:SuzQuilt@aol.com). Reach the national organization at email [www.projectlinus.org](http://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](http://www.handmadehugs.org) for a calendar of events.

**SUZ GETS LETTERS . . .** My friend says it's impossible to describe the impact that these blankets have on the children and their families. They are always so grateful and touched to receive one. She shared the following story with me: "A little 4-year-old boy was admitted to the hospital and had no family or visitors with him. He was very quiet and withdrawn. He wouldn't talk to anyone and appeared very sad and frightened. The nurse who was taking care of him went to the Nurse Clinical Coordinator on the unit and described the situation. She asked the Coordinator if she had any suggestions for cheering him up. The Coordinator said 'Let's give him a blanket.' They gave him a blanket with horses on it and he was so thrilled and proud of his blanket that he "made" his bed with it and would stand at the doorway and invite everyone who passed by his room to come in to see his horses. This little boy was changed by the gift of the blanket."

It is a known fact that going in a positive mental state promotes physical healing. So in essence, these blankets are very therapeutic.

As the Nurse Coordinator told me on Monday, she sees the difference the blankets make almost every day. She said "You (Blanketeers) do great work! Please let those who participate in this worthwhile of causes know that they do make a difference in the life of a child."

## Make-a-Blanket Day Count

**New Apostolic Church**

**109 blankets**

**Kingdom Sewing**

**132 blankets**

**Tanner's Sewing**

**54**

**Patchwork Penguin**

**56**

**TOTAL 351 BLANKETS**

## 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](http://www.quilterswarehouse.com/projectlinus)