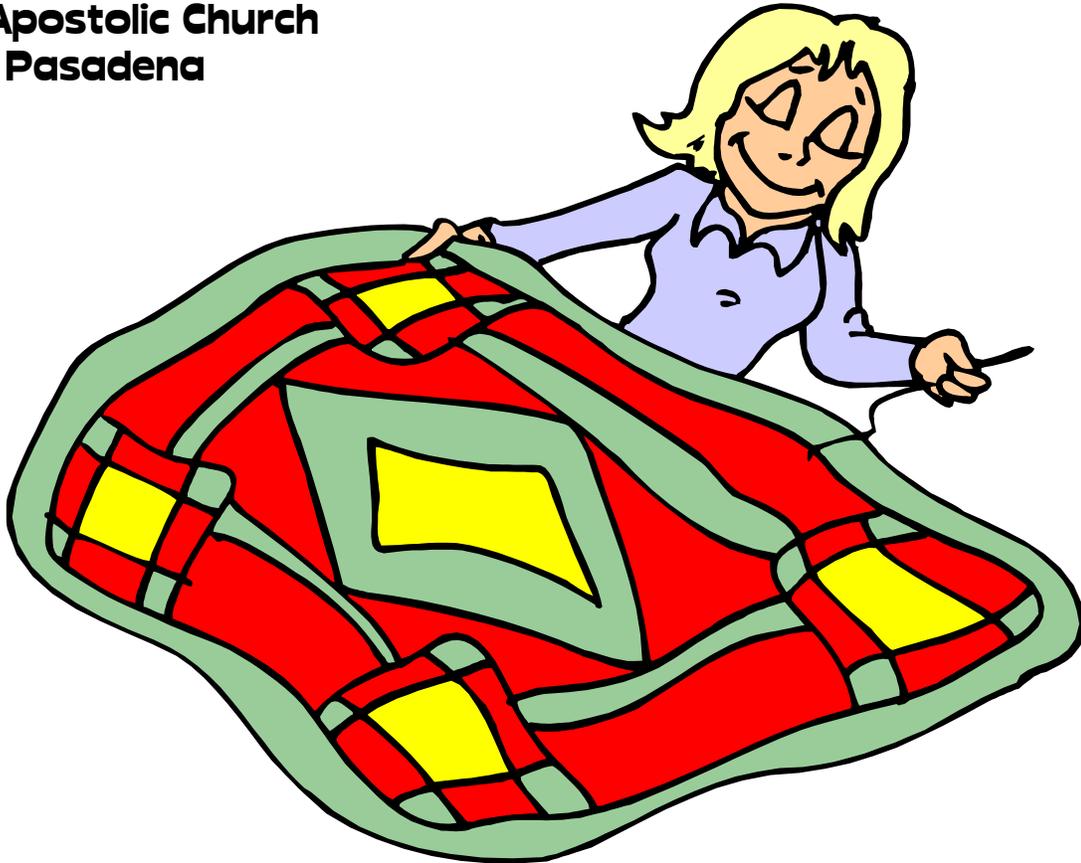


VOLUME iii
Issue #1

HANDMADE HUGS

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
February 18, 2006
New Apostolic Church
Pasadena**



On Saturday, February 18, Project Linus National Make-a-Blanket Day. A special day is planned and lunch and dessert is being provided!!! Bring your dollars and cast your \$1 vote (or votes if you can't decide) for your favorite Ice Cream blanket. The winner gets a great prize and the proceeds go to Linus. Everybody wins!

And don't forget that on Saturday, February 11, we'll be at PATCHWORK PENGUIN in Tujunga for another great blanket making day with Crissa. If you mention that you are with Project Linus when you shop there, you'll get a discount on your purchase.

Coordinator's Corner

SUZANN MCGINNIS

Ed.Note: This was Suzann's December message. She's actually had a lot more to say since then.

W

ow! Just when I think we've outdone ourselves . . . we do even more. We have passed the 8000 blanket mark in a flash. We sent 201 blankets to Louisiana, and the blanket days just keep getting better and better! The Valley Quilt Show yielded over 200 blankets thanks to *Lois Brestoff* and the guilds. *Theresa Costin, Lyn Kelley* and *Lenore Strong* sewed for over 24 hours.

LUELLA'S QUILT BASKET in Redondo Beach loves Project Linus and showed their love with over 200 blankets and bash for shipments earmarked for Hurricane Katrina unfortunates.

I was invited by Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Moore to speak at the Round Table meeting of the Captains of all the divisions for Valley Bureau. As a result, we are now delivering blankets to all six divisions plus Traffic. AND . . . Deputy Chief Moore contacted the Mayor's office and we are now servicing the Crisis Response Team for **all of Los Angeles!**

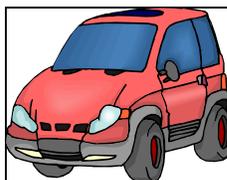
I delivered two brightly colored blankets to the North Hollywood Station. One of the detectives had called to ask on behalf of two little boys, ages 2 and 3 whose father had been stabbed in front of them during a robbery. The dad was hospitalized and prior to this the family was living in a tunnel by the park. LAPD has found a place for them to stay in Northridge and your blankets filled this need perfectly.

The next big event is **National Project Linus Make a Blanket Day** on February 18 in Pasadena. Get your quilts to one of the Kingdom locations and you might win a new Janome sewing machine.

The last challenge met by the group was the ICE CREAM CHALLENGE. Lots and lots of pretty blankets were made . . .every one of them

was an "Ice Cream Dream!" All the "Ice Cream" quilts and afghans , will be displayed on Make A Blanket Day. Blanketeers will be able to buy "tickets" and vote for their favorite blanket. The winner gets a nice prize and the money goes to further the mission. Lunch and dessert will be provided that day! It will be another wonderful gathering of the creative minds and generous hearts. **Love, Suzann**

THE LITTLE SUV THAT DOES!



This is the little SUV that takes Suz all over the valley and beyond to deliver the quilts made by the blanket-eers of "Handmade Hugs." It leaves Pasadena filled to the header and Keystone with so many blankets that she can hardly see out the back window. It picks up more at Patchwork Penguin. Then this tireless little vehicle (once the quilts and afghans are labeled, "sexed," sized and bundled into more plastic bags) takes the output of more than 50 blanketeers to various hospitals and medical centers where Suz is greeted by very appreciative hospital staffers.

Then it's back to work for Suzann . . . But she gets letters!!

FOR THE HURRICANE KATRINA relief . . .our blankets went to a Project Linus Chapter in Covington, LA, just across the bay from New Orleans and hit very hard. Over 30 boxes were sent from this area in response to the needs of those in need of comfort. Over 200 blankets were made in the South Bay area and sent to us via **Louella's Quilt Basket** in Redondo Beach. Suz says "Generosity and support and fabulous talents just glow in every blanket.. Thanks to every one of you."



The Editor . . . Cornered!

So sorry to have missed the October issue but my body and I weren't on speaking terms. But I'm better now and don't intend to miss an issue again.

I wanted to tell you about a new quilt shop . . . and it's practically in my back yard.

CANDY'S QUILTWORKS
8917 Reseda Blvd
Northridge, CA 91324
818 349 7397
candysquiltworks@sbcglobal.net

Candy opened in a big way at her Grand Opening on February 3rd and 4th. Eager shoppers were delighted with the scope of the store and the beautiful fabrics to be found there. Candy gave away two sewing machines on each of the opening days. And for favors, she gave out little pieces of fabric wrapped in shiny paper to look like taffy . . . almost too pretty to open to see what sort of fabric it was.

For those of you who collect quilts or make big quilts for your families, some storing guidelines:

To make sure your quilts will give pleasure to future generations, never store them in plastic. Instead, wrap quilts in a cotton sheet, pillowcase or acid-free tissue; then keep them in a cool, dry place. **Add this:** If you store fabrics in plastic containers, make sure the containers are ventilated on all sides.



WHAT CAN YOU GET OUT OF ONE FAT QUARTER?

- 99 2" squares
- 56 2½" squares
- 42 3" squares
- 30 3½" squares
- 20 4" squares
- 16 4½" squares
- 12 5" squares
- 12 5½" squares
- 9 6" squares
- 6 6½" squares

1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4

Lyn Kelley

"THEY HAD THAT SPECIAL GRACE, THAT SPECIAL SPIRIT THAT SAYS 'GIVE ME A CHALLENGE AND I MEET IT WITH JOY.'"

—Ronald Reagan

Our next challenge

THE MOST "PIECE-FULL" BLANKET

Make a quilt or afghan

Use more than 10 different fabrics or yarn to receive a special charm

There will be a special prize for the blanket with the most (number) different fabrics or yarn.

As you piece or knit or crochet, write down the fabrics or yarns and attach that count to the blanket.

Bring your "Piece-full" blanket to Pasadena on **Saturday, April 1, 2006**. Questions? Ask Suzann 818 776 3254



1...2...3...4...5...



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, 818 886 0184

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 2006 calendar of events and locations.

SuzShares Stories

I wanted to share with all of you the wonderful experience I had . . . I took . . . 155 blankets to **Box Brothers** in Northridge. I just backed up the SUV and off-loaded 31 bags of wonderful blankets that you [Handmade Hugs blanketeers] made for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and they took it from there. They boxed them all in 20 minutes in 3 HUGE boxes and for just under \$200 they sent them all to Louisiana. Sending the same load at the Post Office would have cost twice as much. Thank you to Orlando and his store for helping us with a job well done and a discount for Project Linus!

Please keep in them in mind for your holiday mailing or any time you need to send a package. . they do it all.

BOX BROTHERS
Mgr: ORLANDO PEREZ
8925 RESEDA BLVD (next to Kingdom)
NORTHRIDGE, CA 91324
818 882 7447



A FEW THINGS QUILTERS SHOULD REMEMBER Helen Squire

- ◆ The fabric you need the most of, you will have purchased the least of.
- ◆ Unless you are a paid professional quilter, it is okay to have unfinished projects (UFOs) in your sewing room.
- ◆ No one has to use all of their tools and gadgets (ask any fisherman or carpenter). Buy them :just in case."
- ◆ When you make the same mistake twice, it's called experience. Three times and it is a nasty habit.
- ◆ Store water-erasable markers in a glass or cup, with the felt-tips pointed down for longer and wetter use.
- ◆ No one has to validate our quilting . . . except you.
- ◆ Your way is never the wrong way if you think it's right.
- ◆ Know where your supplies are and what they do. Organization is the key to success.
- ◆ If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
- ◆ Remember, the one who dies with the most fabric wins!

TEN REASONS WHY I LOVE QUILTING . . .

—Pat Pancino

1. I love a challenge . . . and quilting challenges not only my artistic and creative self but also my organizational skills. Now . . . Where did I stash that adorable turtle print?
2. Quilting allows me to maximize the use of my dining room and table since I don't eat there anyway.
3. Promising quilts to my kids helps to keep the lines of communication open. My daughter always calls me to ask if I have started on her quilt yet. (It's been three years now since I told her I'd make her a quilt.)
4. Quilting helps me stay awake for my favorite TV programs in the evenings.
5. I love the opportunity Project Linus has given me to create quilts for children and families that need a "warm hug" for comfort in difficult times.



TRIVIA TRACKERS NOTE . . . 53,000,000 is the number of American women who know how to knit or crochet, a 51% increase from 10 years ago. And 255 is the number of stitches stitched in 3 minutes by a woman in Scotland to set the world knitting speed record.

—Claire Gliddon
Sacramento CA Coordinator

ROAD to CALIFORNIA . . .

Suz writes: "In addition to *Theresa Costin's* "Quilt Celebration Mexico 2004" quilt, I got word that *Nan Maples'* quilt "Jungle Birds" has also been juried into the show. I know we are off the scale when it comes to generosity, but I think talent and creativity is holding a very close second."



ORPHANS

Nan Maples would like any of your "orphan blocks" you have stashed away. Maybe you made some in a class or started a project that never quite came together or tried a few fabrics to see you they looked . . . maybe you have one . . . maybe you have 20. . . if you can part with them.

Go through that cupboard and pull out those blocks and send them to Linus to be put in a quilt by Nan. This is an ongoing collection so you can bring them to a blanket day or mail them to me (Suzann) and I will get them to Nan.

INFORMATION comes to us from Janome that last year, thanks to the best dealer participation ever, Janome customers made and contributed more than 40,000 handmade blankets. Project Linus representatives distributed the collected blankets to children's hospitals, fire departments and family service organizations. Wherever possible, the blankets remained in the area in which they were created.



SUZ AGAIN . . .

Drum roll and applause for all of YOU!!!
Our new grand total is

8,955 BLANKETS

SINCE June 1, 2000.

LIKE A PATCHWORK QUILT . . .

Life is not given all in a piece.
It is more like a patchwork quilt
Each hour and minute a patch to fit into the patterns being built.

Some patches gay
Some patches dark
and some that seem ever
so dull.



But if we were given to set some
apart we'd hardly know which one
to pull.

For it takes the dark patches to set off the light
And the dull to show off the gay

And somehow the pattern just wouldn't seem
Right if we took any part away.

Life is not given all in a piece
but in patches of hours to use.

But each one can work out her pattern of life
to whatever design we might choose.

Author Unknown

Those in receipt say: "Thank you for the blessing of this quilt. . . It is surely made with love." "A HUGE thank you from the evacuees in MS who have so graciously received your thoughts, prayers and love through your blankets." "This week a six year old boy attended his mommy's funeral. She was cremated. The cremation urn sat on a pedestal in the front of the church for all to see, wrapped in a purple Linus blanket. The boy couldn't hold the urn, so he wrapped it in his mommy's favorite color." From Project Linus National Headquarters: "We continue to be simply amazed at the wonderful group of chapter coordinators and volunteers we have. What a privilege and a pleasure it is for us to join hands as we try to do our small parting easing some of the trauma these children have experienced. The disaster is devastating but having a part in easing a tiny bit of their suffering has been heartwarming. Thank you all." "I held that blanket close and felt the love that had gone through the hands that made it." "THANK YOU to all involved with Project Linus. You are 'touching' lives! May God bless you abundantly with every stitch."