

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

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Project Linus Corporate/Community Helping Kids Guidelines for Presentations with a Project Linus Representative

Thank you for introducing Project Linus to your co-workers, corporation, community group and service leagues. By giving the gift of a comforting blanket to children in crisis, your group will experience the satisfaction of helping others.

Presentation

A Project Linus representative will deliver a 20-30 minute presentation which will include the following:

- a short history of Project Linus
- a discussion of how a "security blanket" makes you feel
- stories of recipients of blankets
- We will bring pictures of children with their Project Linus blankets
- a sample blanket
- we request that you copy our brochure for each participant. We will provide a master copy of the brochure.

Ways your group can create a Project Linus Blanket

Fleece Blankets

Many Corporate/Community Groups have created fleece blankets for our chapter of Project Linus. These cozy blankets are much loved by the children who receive them. Detailed instructions for creating fleece blankets are available on our website www.projectlinuschicago.com or can be emailed to you.

SOME IMPORTANT TIPS

- *Purchase 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fleece for each blanket. Project Linus does not provide the fleece.
- *The hospitals and shelters request that only **ONE LAYER** of fleece be used for the blankets. Double-layered fleece blankets are too warm for the children and too bulky for storage.
- *Your event will go more smoothly if each piece of fleece is prepped in advance. This involves completing Steps 1 & 2 on the fleece instruction sheet. Your participants can then begin cutting and tying the fringe right away. Prepping the fleece is done by your group
- *The selvage or rolled edge **must** be removed and the fabric should be squared.
- *Fringe can be cut on two ends of the fleece or on all four edges. The fringe can then be tied or left as is.
- *Tie a knot in the middle of each piece of fringe. Do not tie two pieces of fringe together. Do not tie the fringe too tightly.
- * We cannot accept any blanket created or stored in a smoking environment.
- *If there is a pet in the home, place a washed and dried blanket in a plastic bag. Check for pet hairs.
- * **We do not accept blankets made with "bunny ears."** This type of blanket involves cutting a slit on the top of each piece of fringe and threading the fringe through it.
- *Do not use fleece that has symbols of a disease/syndrome ie pink ribbons for breast cancer or puzzle pieces for autism.
- * **BLANKET MUST LAY FLAT** before donating to Project Linus. **If the fringe is tied too tightly, it becomes bowl-like requiring the blanket to be re-made by Project Linus volunteers.**

*Fleece blanket instructions can be found on our website under the "Blankets" tab.

Quilt Squares

Squares of **bleached** (white) muslin may be decorated with permanent fabric markers. Your group will decorate the squares with pictures or messages which will provide comfort to children in crisis.

** Through our fabric exchange program, we will provide the prepared 8- $\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares. Your group will purchase the same amount of **bleached** muslin, wash and iron it, and exchange it for the already cut squares. **We** will cut the squares and use the fabric you purchased for the next group. One yard of fabric of 36" wide bleached muslin yields 16 squares. Divide the number of squares you need by 16 and the result is the number of yards you should purchase. There are two types of muslin-bleached and unbleached. The bleached muslin is white and very soft. The unbleached muslin is beige and not as soft. **We request bleached muslin.**

**Permanent fabric markers are provided by your group. They can be purchased at any craft store. Do not use Sharpies. We have had good results with Marvey Markers.

****The decorated squares MUST be heat set before returning to Project Linus. You can iron the squares or put them in a hot dryer for 30 minutes.**

**Since our blankets are given to children of all religions, we do not accept any blankets or decorated squares with religious symbols or messages.

** **DO NOT** use glitter, puffy paint or attach anything like buttons or sequins.

**Designs should be centered on the square.

**A piece of paper should be put under the fabric squares to prevent damaging the table with the markers.

**Finishing the quilt may be done by someone in your group or by Project Linus volunteers. A simple envelope pattern which can be found on our website works well with the squares although any pattern is acceptable.

YARN OR FABRIC DRIVE

Ask your participants to consider bringing new skeins of yarn (no wool) or quilting cotton (half yard minimum) to your event. These donations are offered to our "blanketeers" to supply them with materials to create blankets. Our blanketeers are often on fixed incomes. Purchasing blanket making supplies is sometimes a burden for them. Donations of yarn and fabric is much appreciated by our blanketeers.

BLANKET REQUIREMENTS

Please review our *General Blanket Guidelines* on our website before beginning the project.

Blankets donated to Project Linus must be new, washable and handmade!!

We do not accept blankets MADE OR STORED in facilities/homes where someone smokes. The residue of the smoke can be hazardous to children whose lungs are compromised by illness.

If there is a pet in the house where the blanket is made or stored, it must be washed, dried thoroughly and placed in a plastic bag before donating it to Project Linus. Before donating the blanket, please check for pet hair that might be embedded in the fleece.

Thank you so much for participating in this special project. The gift of a Project Linus blanket is a wonderful way to "give back" by comforting critically ill or traumatized children We look forward to helping you introduce Project Linus to your group.

Judi Goldman & Penny Gidd

Chapter Coordinators

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