

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

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[www.projectlinuschicago.com](http://www.projectlinuschicago.com)

## Project Linus Corporate/Community Helping Kids Guidelines for Presentations without 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**

We have all of the materials that you will need to present Project Linus to your group. They can be found on our website ([www.projectlinuschicago.com](http://www.projectlinuschicago.com)) or can be emailed to you.

- The script includes a short history of Project Linus along with stories of blanket recipients and suggestions on how to be involved in Project Linus.
- Brochures and pictures of blanket recipients
- sample blankets that can be picked up at Judi's home in Northbrook.
- If you have any questions, please contact Judi at 847-498-3987 or email her at [ChicagolandLinus@gmail.com](mailto:ChicagolandLinus@gmail.com)

## 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. Detailed instructions for creating fleece blankets are available on our website [www.projectlinuschicago.com](http://www.projectlinuschicago.com) or can be mailed/emailed to you. We will provide master copies of our fleece instructions and brochures to be

distributed at your event. We ask that you copy these documents and have them available at your event.

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.

### **SOME IMPORTANT TIPS**

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\*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 trade it for the cut squares. We will cut the fabric you purchased into squares and use them 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 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.

## **BLANKET REQUIREMENTS**

Please review our general blanket guidelines which can be found 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, 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. It is a wonderful way to "give back" by comforting critically ill or traumatized children with the gift of a Project Linus blanket. We look forward to helping you introduce Project Linus to your group.

**Judi Goldman & Penny Gidd**  
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