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www.projectlinuschicago.com

Project Linus-Kids Helping Kids **Guidelines for Presentations**

Thank you for introducing our PROJECT LINUS-KIDS HELPING KIDS program to your scout troop, classroom or youth group. By giving the gift of a comforting blanket to children in crisis, your group will experience the satisfaction of helping others

Presentation Materials

We have developed all of the materials that you will need to present Project Linus to your group.

- A script which includes a brief history of Project Linus and stories of children who have received Project Linus blankets can be found on our website under Service Projects.
- We have a Kids Helping Kids brochure on our website or it can be emailed to you. We would appreciate it if you would copy the brochure and give one to each participant. It is a double-sided document with two brochures per page.
- Pictures of blanket recipients and a sample blanket are also available to be borrowed.

You can find these documents on our website: wwwprojectlinuschicago.com under "How to Get Involved, then Service Projects." Some of these materials can be emailed to you. You may arrange to pick up the sample blankets, pictures and the quilt squares by calling Judi at 847-498-3987.

You may purchase Linus patches for \$1.50 each which should be ordered when you schedule your meeting. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to "Project Linus."

Ways your group can create a Project Linus Blanket

Fleece Blankets

Many school groups, scout troops, religious schools 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. A sample blanket can be borrowed from Judi.

* 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**, which we will then use 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 must purchase. There are two types of muslin-bleached and unbleached. The bleached muslin is white and very soft. 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. You might ask your school art teacher or another scout troop leader if they have markers you could use.

****The decorated squares MUST be heat set before returning to Project Linus which can be done by ironing the squares or putting 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.

*Supply paper for the children to practice their designs **and** to 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* 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 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. Please check the blanket for pet hair that has become embedded in the fleece

QUILTS, KNITTED & CROCHETED BLANKETS—The blankets can be square or rectangle. Each side must measure 36" or longer.

Return the decorated squares, fleece blankets and any borrowed materials to Judi Goldman, 637 Charlemagne Drive, Northbrook 60062. Please include your name and address.

Thank you so much for participating in this special project. It is a wonderful way for children to reach out to comfort 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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