

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

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Project Linus Script

The Project Linus presentation consists of several sections which include:

- *History of Project Linus
- *Introducing the Linus character
- *Stories of children who have received Project Linus blankets
- *Two projects where groups can make Project Linus Blankets

HISTORY OF PROJECT LINUS

In December, 1995, a woman in Colorado was reading the Sunday paper. She saw a picture of a little girl clutching her blanket. The article told how her blanket comforted her when she went to the hospital for treatments and procedures. This little girl with her blanket was the inspiration for an all-volunteer organization that has grown from one blanket to over 350 chapters nationwide. Since 1995, we have donated over 9 million blankets to critically ill and traumatized children. Each child is able to choose their very own blanket and keep it forever. There is a label sewn into each blanket with a picture of Linus and his blanket along with the message "Made with tender loving care for Project Linus."

LINUS

Project Linus was named after Linus, the Peanuts character, because he always carries his precious "security" blanket wherever he goes. What does "security" mean? How does it make him feel? Warm....safe.... protected....loved. A student gave a wonderful answer to that question----it makes him feel like he has his best friend with him all the time!

STORIES OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE RECEIVED PROJECT LINUS BLANKETS

Read the stories before sharing them with your group to ensure that they are age-appropriate.

**Whitney, age 14, wrote a letter to Project Linus after she received her Project Linus blanket. She broke her back while swinging upside down on her swing set. She had two surgeries and was facing another one. Whitney was very sad about staying in the hospital for such a long time. She received a Project Linus blanket during her hospital stay. She wrote to us that it gave her comfort when she needed it most. Most of all it gave her courage to go through another surgery and the long road of recovery. The person who created the blanket put a lot of love into it as she worked on it. Whitney could feel that love and it changed her long road of healing.

**There was a unhappy 3 year old boy at the hospital. The nurses tried everything to cheer him up-toys and games and even ice cream- nothing could make him smile. They brought in the Project Linus wagon piled high with blankets. He chose one that was made of six crayons of all different colors. He was even crabby as he directed the nurses to smooth any wrinkles in the blanket when she put it on his bed and the crayon points had to be near the pillow. All of a sudden, the little boy went to the back of his hospital room and took a running leap onto his bed, wrapped his new crayon blanket tightly around him and gave the nurse the biggest and the first smile he had had since he came to the hospital!

** A seven year old boy had just been diagnosed with a very serious disease. He was confused, sad and angry. The nurses came in to give him a Project Linus blanket and he chose a fleece blanket that had tied fringed around all of the edges. The little boy took one of the fringes and rubbed it between his fingers all day. It was the only thing that soothed and calmed him in the midst of a very scary day.

**A little girl chose a bright pink blanket. She immediately cuddled the blanket with a big smile on her face. When asked why she was smiling, she stuck out her hands and said "my new blanket matches my nail polish!!!" Her mom had tears in her eyes because, for one minute, her daughter was happy and it touched her that someone who didn't know her daughter took so much time to make a blanket for her.

**A very special little boy was named Mitchell. He lived with his Grandma. While Mitchell was in the hospital, he received a Project Linus blanket. The hospital was

creating an album of volunteer activities. Since so many children receive Project Linus blankets in the hospital, Project Linus was to be included in the volunteer album. The photographer took a picture of Mitchell with his Project Linus blanket . When he gave the picture to Mitchell's grandma, she was so thrilled because it was the only picture she had of her dear grandson Mitchell!!!

Ways your group can create Project Linus blankets

Fleece Blankets

Many school groups, scout troops, corporations and 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.

Quilt Squares

Your group can decorate fabric squares with pictures or encouraging messages which will provide comfort to children in crisis. We provide the squares of **bleached** (white) muslin which your group decorates with permanent fabric markers.

An addition to the above projects

Yarn Drive

We ask your participants to consider donating blanket-making materials to our chapter of Project Linus. These materials include new skeins of washable yarn (no wool), quilting cotton or fleece. We will share these materials with our blanket-makers enabling them to create more comforting blankets.

GENERAL BLANKET GUIDELINES

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

We accept blankets that are squares or rectangles with each side measuring 36 inches or longer.

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.

Anyone making a Project Linus blanket is using their imaginations to create the designs, their hands to draw and most of all their hearts.

**Any questions, contact Judi Goldman at 847-498-3987 or
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