

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Howard County, MD Chapter

Thank you so much for your interest in Project Linus. Project Linus is a 100% volunteer, non-profit, national organization with a two-fold mission:

First, it is our mission to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."

Second, it is our mission to provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities for the benefit of children.

What are the guidelines for making a blanket?

Participating in Project Linus is very easy. We accept crocheted, knitted, quilted, simply sewn, and no-sew fleece blankets. But please remember the following when donating:

- **All blankets must be handcrafted.**
- Be sure to cut off the **selvage edges** of fleece **before** beginning.
- All blankets **must** be washable. Hence wool yarn, which is an allergy problem for many, is unacceptable. It also shrinks in a dryer.
- Nothing should be attached to the blankets--buttons, glitter, or anything else which would present a swallowing hazard.
- All blankets must be free of perfume or any other odors.
- If the blanket is made in a house that has pets, the blanket must be washed, dried, and put into a plastic bag.
- **We cannot accept any blanket made in a smoking environment.**
- To avoid accidents, please check your blanket carefully for straight pins.
- Please do not use fabric that has been stored in a damp area or has musty smell since mold spores can cause an allergic reaction and are very difficult to remove from the fabric.

What are the size guidelines?

The sizes can vary. We donate to neo-natal units, and we donate to children up to age eighteen. Please choose fabric in cheerful, child-friendly colors and patterns that are appropriate to the age of the child.

Also remember that both boys and girls will be receiving blankets. Boy blankets are often in short supply.

This guideline for approximate sizes may be helpful:

Baby: 36" x 36" to 42" x 42" Toddler-pre-teen: 42" x 1-1/2 yd Teen: 42" x 2 yards
(Note: 42" is the approximate width of the fabric.)

Where do I take the blankets I have made?

Blankets may be dropped off at one of the following Howard County participating fire stations:

- Fire station 2: 4150 Montgomery Road (at Old Columbia Pike), Ellicott City
- Fire Station 3: 17535 Frederick Road (N of I-70 off Route 32), West Friendship
- Fire station 7: 5815 Banneker Road (off Little Patuxent Parkway), Columbia
- Fire station 9: 5959 Tamar Road (off Route 175), Columbia

Please include your name and address in each bag of every donation.

When do we accept donations?

We accept donations year round. Every month we prepare blankets to go to hospitals and shelters and make deliveries. It is an ongoing volunteer effort of our community.

To where do we deliver?

Anytime there is a child in trauma, we try to distribute a blanket. Below are some of the places to which we have delivered:

Howard County Pediatric Emergency Unit
Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital
Johns Hopkins Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
Johns Hopkins Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Children's National Medical Center - Laurel

St. Agnes Hospital
HopeWorks of Howard County
Kennedy-Krieger Institute
The Children's Home

Is there another way that I can help?

Another possibility in which you may be interested is sewing Project Linus labels onto blankets in preparation to their delivery to shelters and hospitals. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays from 9:00am to 11:30am at the Florence Bain Senior Center in Columbia. You do not need to be a senior to participate. We supply all the materials needed. It is just simple sewing, and the group is a lovely bunch of ladies. We would love to have you join us if that is something which you would like to do.

In addition, cash donations are always welcome! We receive no money from Project Linus headquarters. Individual chapters must raise their own funds, and money is always tight. We also accept in-kind donations. For a list of needed in-kind items, please email or call.

May I contact you?

Absolutely; we can be reached via email, telephone, or mail.

Joyce Hoelzer, Coordinator

Email: jrhhoelzer@gmail.com

Telephone: 410-418-4994

Address: 9307 Michael's Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Attention Girl Scout Leaders: When blankets are completed, we have a patch that is super! Each costs \$1.50. The Girl Scout leaders get to design the criteria for earning the patch. If you are interested, Arlene will need a check made out to Project Linus for the number of patches plus \$2.54 for shipping. Allow four (4) weeks for shipping.