

## "A blanket is like a hug when you need it the most." The History of Project Linus

On Christmas Eve 1995, and article titled "Joy to the World" appeared in Parade magazine. It was written by Pulitzer Prize winning photo-journalist Eddie Adams. Part of the article featured a petite, downy haired child named Laura. She had been going through intensive chemo-therapy and stated that her security blanket helped her get through the treatments.

After reading the article, Karen Loucks-Baker decided to provide homemade security blankets to Denver's Rocky Mountain Children's Cancer Center, and Project Linus was born.

Our Mission: Project Linus is a 100% volunteer non-profit 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 and afghans, 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.

Project Linus accepts all styles of blankets. You don't have to be an expert! They may be quilted, tied, knitted, crocheted or fleece. They must be new, handmade and washable, elaborate or simple. All sizes are accepted, infants through teen years. If you want to donate fabric, batting, or fleece, it can be dropped off at St. Wenceslaus Church basement, which is our local quilt making station. We meet the second Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We would love to have you come stitch, tie, sew labels on or just stop by to see what we do.

Some of the places the quilts are delivered to in our area include neo-natal intensive care units, hospitals in Omaha and Fremont, Boys Town, cancer kids camp, domestic violence shelters, Youth Emergency Services, Omaha Street School, probation officers to distribute, Ute Hale, and numerous others. We have also sent quilts to the Plainview, Nebraska hospital.

## **OMAHA PROJECT LINUS**

Web Page: <a href="http://omahaprojectlinus.org">http://omahaprojectlinus.org</a>
Chapter Coordinator: Ginny DeBates
E-Mail: <a href="mailto:omahaprojectlinus@hotmail.com">omahaprojectlinus@hotmail.com</a>
Omaha Chapter Began: October 2003

## ST. WENCESLAUS/DODGE PROJECT LINUS

Contacts: June Vogltance, <a href="mailto:vogies@vogies.com">vogies@vogies.com</a>
Janice Ladehoff, <a href="mailto:Ladehoff@gpcom.net">Ladehoff@gpcom.net</a>
Becky Stecher, <a href="mailto:bstecher@fsbdodge.com">bstecher@fsbdodge.com</a>

**Dodge Chapter Began:** 

