

Community Interest Company No. 08422226
www.projectlinusuk.org.uk

STITCHING TOGETHER

Dear Volunteer,

Can you please help us with our health and safety rules and regulations? Do you use pins when you are quilting? If so, can you remain vigilant when checking your quilts before you give them to your Project Linus Area Coordinator. In particular the bindings, which are easy places for naughty pins to hide away. We do check all quilts we receive, both front and back, but it doesn't harm to be extra careful with your help. Thank you so much for this. FYI some of the Quilting Groups we work with use clips which are very cheap and solve the problem.

Kind regards,
Pam Sawyer, Editor

AREA REPORTS

Edinburgh, East and Midlothian

Pip, Barbara and Beth



Here is a photo of the quilt and quilt top made by Members of North Berwick Day Centre on their 102-year-old Singer sewing machine. Volunteers Janet and Maureen (the ladies standing), both members of Law Quilters in North Berwick, go along to the centre each week to help the members who want to make items to sell.

Making the quilts was definitely a joint effort and while one lady turns the handle on this beautiful old machine, another feeds the material through to be sewn! You can find more information on the centre at

www.nbdaycentre.org.uk



Also, one of our quilters has created a Facebook page for this area and we are hoping it will be useful to spread the word. You can now find us on: *Project Linus - Edinburgh, Mid and East Lothians*.

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

Liverpool

Caroline Fogell



Zoe's Place is a Baby Hospice specialising in palliative and respite care for children aged 0-5 with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

We recently donated quilts and received the message that the children love them!

This is Pat, one of the Play Specialists at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, modelling some of the quilts we donate on a regular basis. They are always greatly appreciated, and we can never have enough!



Gloucestershire

Jacki Molloy



We do 300 quilts per year for this wonderful scheme. Huge commitment for my quilters but a challenge they so readily take on. 60 made towards the next delivery of 100 due in June, so well on course.

We were thanked by Corrine Marks, the Group-Start Office Coordinator, who said 'I hope you are well and not too busy with the blankets. I have had some feedback from a mum who wanted to say thank you. Thought you might like to pass her thanks onto your lovely ladies.'

Also, I wanted to thank the group of ladies who made the quilts for babies at HomeStart. I received a matching pair of quilts for the boys from Rhiannon and they're lovely. I've attached a photo if they'd like to see their handiwork in use!! Please pass on our thanks.'

**Home
Start**
Support and friendship
for families

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

South-west Essex and part of East London

Pat Thompson

2018 and the early part of 2019 has been a busy time for quilters in our area and I have visited a number of groups and individuals to collect donations.

Although it was a beautiful hot summer and not particularly comfortable to sew, many groups still managed to create and donate a variety of quilts and knitted blankets. The Knitting and Stitching group of Weighbridge Court in Ongar, Essex used their finely-honed and traditional skills to knit beautiful blankets for tiny babies to be used in special care baby units in and around the Essex and East London area. Many thanks to them for inviting me to talk to them about Project Linus. We had a lovely afternoon revisiting the skills that the knitting group had learned at their mother's knee which they were now using to create such beautiful work for Project Linus. Thanks also to St Peter's Sewing group in Roydon, Essex who have made some lovely knitted blankets and quilts.

Pictured opposite are Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Trust Hospital staff with some of the quilts donated to the children's ward made by members of various quilting groups in the area.



Here is a selection of quilts and blankets made by groups and individuals in our area.



Here is the latest batch of quilts ready for donation made from beautiful shirt fabrics donated by Charles Tyrwhitt and Esquel, shirt manufacturers. The fabrics are great to sew and quilt with and are very well-received by children of all ages, particularly teenagers who are sometimes difficult to please! We are indebted to these two companies for making regular fabric donations so that we can carry on making and donating quilts.



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

THANK YOU LETTERS

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the wonderful quilt you made my son Harry. It was coordinated by Eileen Head and made by Emma (according to the tag on it). Number 4879.'

'Harry is 5 and entirely unexpectedly was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma last August - it is an aggressive form of cancer which he has in his chest. We are under the wonderful care of UCLH and about 2/3rds of the way through our journey/battle (hopefully). It's obviously been a tough time for all of us although with children there is little time to dwell and you just have to get on with the hand you've been dealt in the belief that come the end of it, he'll be charging around again and living his life to the max. We were given your quilt a few months ago and I've been meaning to say thank you ever since. It's a very thoughtful and much appreciated gift - it brightens up our cubicle and makes it more homely whilst being practical - recently it served as a blanket for me on a long night sitting in a chair next to him in intensive care post an op and even now when we are at UCLH in our far more comfy surroundings it's at the end of the bed for when the air con randomly kicks in during the small hours.'

I know you don't know us and we don't know you, but when life deals you a rubbish hand it reminds us of all the good in the world - from friends and strangers alike. Please do pass my thanks on to 'Emma' who ever she may be and to all the other quilters who parents simply forget to thank. It is appreciated greatly and a wonderful act of kindness on their part. I'm sure Harry will have his quilt for many years to come and even if he remembers little of all this due to his age it will always remind us to appreciate life.


With love and gratitude
Charlotte x'



My granddaughter was admitted to hospital yesterday. She will be in for two weeks of intravenous antibiotics and a rigorous course of physiotherapy along with other tests. She was made so welcome with the beautiful gift of a quilt from Project Linus. As amateur crafters, my daughter and I can really appreciate the work involved by the maker. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks and how this gift really lifted our hearts in what was a difficult day. Here's a photo from last night Orlagh slept with her quilt.

Kindest regards
Marion

This message was received recently on Facebook. Should we ever doubt that what we are doing is worthwhile and appreciated, read this...

'About 5/6 years ago I was put in hospital on suicide watch, while there I met another girl called Olivia, sadly we lost contact after but we was both given a blanket each while there to help us, the hospital let us take them home, 5/6 years later I still have mine, every so often I take it back out to remind me of how far I've come, I'm now 20 and it still helps me cope when things get dark, I just wanted to say thank you  you helped me more than I could ever explain, your all amazing people and I just wish I could return the favour, I will be making a donation asap as a small token of my thanks x'

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

Last week my son was in Intensive Care in the wonderful Evelina Hospital in London. While there a lady came around and offered him a quilt – it was such a thoughtful gesture and we were quite emotional about it.

I wanted to send you a picture of my son with the quilt now he is recovering at home. I am not sure if you would know who particularly to thank for a fantastic quilt, but from us, we'd like to thank you all.

Kind regards

Tracy Foster and Ethan



'Our daughter was made up yesterday by receiving the beautiful quilt you sent; but the whole family were very touched. In particular, her mum said it will be a wonderful comfort for Isla to have on her hospital trips. Thank you for your beautiful heartfelt gift. It has really helped uplift the mood during this challenging time. Your work is so important and valued.'

'I would like to say a big thank you to yourself, Maureen and the volunteers for the exquisite knitted blankets and handmade quilts. Our parents and babies will be delighted to have these as keepsakes.'

'Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt you sent my daughter. When she's ill with her epilepsy and other conditions it comforts her greatly and she loves to relax with it too which helps her autism so a massive thank you.'

'I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful quilt you sent for one of the children I work with. It is absolutely gorgeous, and the colours are perfect. I love the idea of her having her special quilt to keep and take with her and wrap herself up in when she needs a hug. I know the hours of work that go into these quilts, they are works of art, and it's a lovely charity. It's a very special gift to give children.'

'Many thanks for the delivery of quilts for our older children. They are beautiful. The children get so much pleasure and comfort from having their own comfort quilt to use in hospital at home.'

'Thank you for donating the knitting to NICU. They are all beautifully crafted and are much appreciated by the parents and staff. They will help keep our babies warm during their time with us.'

'Our daughter was just released today from the Winnicott Baby Unit at St Mary's hospital in London after 59 days. She received a quilt and wanted to thank the organisation for its wonderful effort!'

'Thank you so, so, so much for my BEAUTIFUL blanket. It has seriously made my year and has really cheered me right up. Once I am better, I'm going to learn to make blankets so I can help out your amazing cause. The detail is exquisite, and I shall cherish it forever. A million thank yous. C. xx'

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'