

Frequently Asked Questions



Northern Kentucky Chapter

*Serving Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin,
Grant, Kenton, Owen, & Pendleton Counties*

How can I help Project Linus?

There are many ways to help out Project Linus. You

don't have to be a quilter or even know how to sew. This chapter is just getting started and we have so many opportunities for anyone to get involved. Besides the obvious blanket-making, we need help with organizing events, fundraising, pickup/delivery of blankets, marketing, networking, basic administrative support, etc.

Since we receive no outside funding, donations of: **new** fabric, fleece, yarn, spools of thread, batting, fabric scissors, postage stamps, JoAnn Fabrics gift cards, Wal-Mart gift cards, monetary donations and most importantly "helpful hands and caring hearts" are greatly appreciated.

There are also several other ways to bring in donations. We take part in programs with businesses that will make/match donations to us with your help. Here are some of those business programs:

- [Kroger Community Rewards](#) -sign up for a Kroger Plus card if you don't already have one & make sure to select the charity in which you want your Kroger matching funds donated to for every time that you use your Plus card at Kroger. If you already have a Plus card, go to Kroger's website & choose a charity that you would like to support.
- [Amazon Smile](#) - a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Be sure to choose LINUS PROJECT and make sure it has our Dry Ridge, KY address. (Note: using Goodsearch and AmazonSmile help the organization as a whole. We don't receive information about where the searches and purchases come from, but all donations to Project Linus benefit chapters too.)
- [Goodsearch & Goodshop](#) - Use Goodsearch instead of Google as a search engine. Every time someone searches through Goodsearch, Project Linus gets a donation. Be sure to choose Project Linus for the organization you are supporting. You can also shop through Goodshop, and a portion of your purchases are donated as well.
- [Corporate Matching Funds](#) – some companies allow their employees to make donations to charities through payroll deduction. Many of these companies will also match those donations up to predetermined limitations. We're always looking for new companies to partner up with.
- More to come....

How can I make a monetary donation?

Some items can only be covered with cash. Monetary gifts are tax deductible.

Donations may be sent to our **local** chapter at:

Project Linus- Northern KY Chapter
c/o Maria Jackson
5030 Jonesville Rd.
Dry Ridge, KY 41035

Or to our **National** Headquarters at:

Project Linus National Headquarters
PO Box 1548
Belton, MO 64012-1108

You may designate your donation for the benefit of the Northern KY Chapter, or any other chapter you would like to support. **Please make checks payable to Project Linus.** You can also make **donations online** at the national headquarters website www.projectlinus.org. Just be sure to note that your donation is for the benefit of the Northern KY Chapter.

How are monetary donations used?

There are many expenses involved in maintaining Project Linus. Normal expenses for our organization are: fabric, batting, yarn, other blanket-making supplies, blanket labels, printing, office supplies, shipping, accounting and auditing to name a few.

What kind of blanket-making materials does Project Linus use?

- ♥ Materials must be new, washable, and free of contaminants such as mold, mildew, smoke and pet hair.
- ♥ Materials should be unused and unwashed due to possible allergic reactions to some detergents and fabric softeners.
- ♥ They can be cotton or cotton/poly blend fabrics, flannel, or fleece.
- ♥ Quilt batting should be a cotton or cotton/poly blend and low-loft.
- ♥ Yarns should be soft & washable and contain no metallic threads. Besides afghans, an array of colorful yarn is also used for tacking blankets to hold them together.
- ♥ We also use colorful embroidery floss to tack some of the smallest quilts.
- ♥ We use a lot of thread in a multitude of colors to sew these blankets together.

What types of blankets are **acceptable** for Project Linus?

We accept NEW, HANDMADE/HOMEMADE, WASHABLE, blankets and afghans for children ages 0-18 years. Project Linus blankets are not donated to adults. As a national policy we accept all sizes and styles, although some chapters may have more narrow requirements based on the needs of the facilities to which they donate. Project Linus has a non-smoking policy for chapter coordinators. **Coordinators must be non-smokers and live and store blankets in a smoke free environment.** Project Linus blankets must be of excellent quality and free from contaminants. Special care should be taken to ensure that blankets are free of smoky smells or any chemicals which could cause problems for a child. Ensure that blankets are free of pet hair. Hospitals will not accept these blankets, and they will most likely be discarded. Recent studies show that laundering these blankets does not remove contamination, and in some cases can even make it worse. Always check blankets carefully for pins, and remove any embellishments such as buttons or ribbons that could be swallowed by a small child.

Common blanket types we use:

Quilts & tied comforters: a quilt is defined as a blanket which has three layers – a top (which may be “pieced” or simply a single large piece of fabric), batting in the center, and backing (which is usually a single large piece of fabric). In order to keep the batting from shifting, the three layers of the quilt must be secured together. This is accomplished by sewing the three layers together by machine, by hand, or by darning with ties every several inches. If you are tying the blanket, make sure that the ends are trimmed to 1” and that the knots are secure. Quilts do not have to be complex. Simple patterns work great.

Afghans: made of yarn that is crocheted or knitted into a blanket. Remember to use soft yarn for the delicate skin the blanket will touch.

Receiving blankets: usually a piece of flannel with a decorative or hemmed edge. A crocheted edge adds a beautiful touch to a receiving blanket. Skip stitch blades can be found at local craft stores to accomplish a crocheted edge.

Fleece blankets: fleece makes great, warm blankets for older children. Several techniques that may be used include – hemming the edge, fringing, or adding blanket binding. Please remember to trim all selvage edge sides of the fleece before construction. This makes for a neat, clean look when complete. Cotton and flannel will not hold up in the wash when used with fleece to create fringe tied blankets. We recommend sewing the flannel or cotton to the fleece instead of fringing the material.

What do you mean by “handmade” and why?

When we say “handmade” or “homemade” we mean something that is not commercially manufactured or purchased. Of course, home sewing machines, knitting machines, etc. are absolutely acceptable to use in making these blankets. It has always been the mission of Project Linus to donate only handmade/homemade blankets. We receive thousands of letters and thank you notes every year from children. Over and over they express how touched they are that a stranger would take the time to make something for them. They really know the difference. Purchased blankets are nice, but handmade blankets are from the heart. If you do not have the time or ability to hand craft a blanket, perhaps you would consider a monetary donation or helping out in some other way.

What types of blankets are **NOT** acceptable for Project Linus?

Project Linus chapter coordinators are instructed to reject blankets that are not of excellent quality. In addition, they must be free from contaminants. Special care should be taken to ensure all blankets are free of smoky smells or any chemicals which could cause problems for a child. Hospitals will not accept these blankets, and they will most likely be discarded. Recent studies show laundering such blankets does not remove contamination, and in some cases can even make it worse. Again, if unusually strong smells due to chemicals used in detergents, fabric softeners and dryer sheets, mold and mildew or smoking products or pet hair are apparent, most hospitals will discard the blanket rather than jeopardize the health of a patient. Always check blankets carefully for pins, and remove any embellishments such as buttons that could be swallowed. Thank you for helping to make sure that Project Linus blankets are safe and healthy, and will bring only comfort and security to a child in need!

What about sizes?

Blankets, just like kids, come in all sizes. These specific dimensions are only suggestions unless an organization requires a particular size for a special need. They can't all be perfect and we understand that. We take blankets of any size, but it's also very nice to have them all fit into a size range, allowing a difference of 1-3" in either direction. As long as the blanket meets the material requirements and is made of good quality, this chapter coordinator finds allowing a size range perfectly acceptable.

The most common sizes are:

Preemie baby 19" X 19" 24" X 24" *No fringe, please!*

A very small blanket can easily wrap a preemie baby, but some hospitals may prefer a larger blanket.

Newborn – infant minimum of 30" X 36" 36" X 36" 36" X 42" *No fringe, please!*

Pre-printed panel quilts make excellent baby quilts and they are very easy to finish. Usually all you need to finish it is binding sewn around the edges. One yard of fabric makes an acceptable baby-sized blanket. If using fleece, a 1-yard cut of a 60" wide fabric will usually yield two 30" X 36" blankets if cut in half.

Toddler 36" X 48" 40" X 55"

A cut of fabric is usually 40-42" wide, so a cut of 1 & 2/3 yards of a 40-42" wide fabric is the perfect size for a blanket. If using fleece, a 1 ¼ yards piece will usually be sufficient.

Child 40" X 60" 45" X 54"

Some toddler & child blankets may come close in size. If using fleece, a 1 ½ yards piece will generally work well.

Pre-Teen / Teen 48" X 60" 45" X 65" 50" X 72"

In order for a blanket to be comfortable for a teenager, it needs to be at least 2 yards in length. Since most fleece comes 50" wide, a 2-yard piece makes a nice blanket for a teenager. For pre-teens, the smaller sizes will usually do fine. The no-sew throw kits usually start at a size of 48" X 60" and would work perfectly for the younger ones.

Where do Project Linus blankets go?

Children ages 0 – 18 years of age will receive these blankets from a number of facilities in the Northern Kentucky counties of Grant, Owen, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Gallatin, Carroll & Pendleton.

Northern Kentucky hospitals, family emergency shelters, teen shelters, pregnancy support programs, hospital emergency rooms, orphanages, social service agencies, police/fire/EMS units, and camps for seriously ill or disabled children, and any other facility or program where sick, injured, abused, neglected, or otherwise traumatized children can be found, all benefit from your donations.

Opportunities to work with other volunteers in your community

There are two kinds of events that benefit our chapter. One is a chapter-sponsored event, which will be funded and staffed by chapter volunteers. These events would include workshops, blanket-making days, open-house events, etc.

Blanket making groups to benefit Project Linus are planned, funded, and led by a host church, community center, scout troop, business or individual. The goal of these groups is often to provide a common place for volunteers to gather to make blankets for donation to the local chapter. As opposed to chapter-sponsored events, the chapter does not plan, fund, teach or provide supplies to these groups. Some groups meet regularly, some have only met once - it all depends on the initiative and enthusiasm of the organizing body and the participants.

For more information, you can visit our website at www.projectlinusnky.org or the national website at www.projectlinus.org, or contact me directly at the phone number or email at the bottom of the page.

Sincerely,

Maria Jackson, Chapter Coordinator
Project Linus -Northern KY Chapter

No Sew Fleece Blanket

Project Linus
Providing Security Through Blankets

You will need:

Fleece: 1½ yard piece or choose your own custom size. (Fleece is usually 50-60" wide)

"Ruler or Shape Cut Ruler and Rotary Cutter": Works best to create neatly cut fringe. If you are using scissors, make sure your cuts are clean, even, and straight with no frayed edges.

This blanket is simply made in 5 easy steps.

Step #1: (Fig. 1)

VERY IMPORTANT! Before you begin, **trim off selvage edges** and square uneven edges as needed.



Figure 1

Step #2: (Fig. 2)

Cut a 4" square from each corner of the fleece.

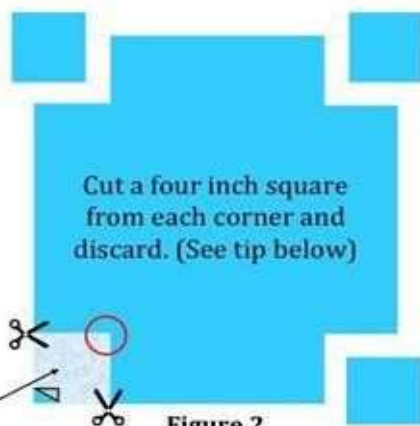


Figure 2

Step #3: (Fig. 3)

Cut 4" x 1" wide fringe around blanket

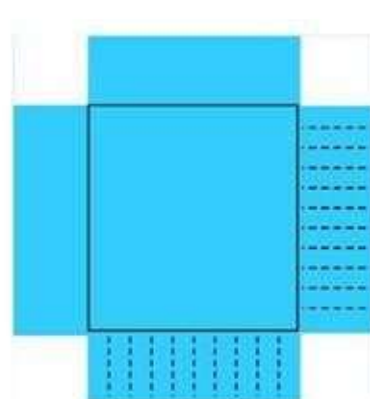
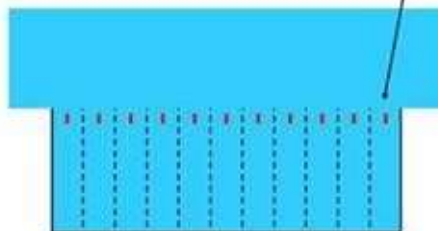


Figure 3

Tip: Cut a 4" piece of fabric or batting to use as your corner template. (Fig. 2) It won't slip and will make cutting easier. Using your ruler and rotary cutter cut vertically and horizontally (arrow) **ALMOST** to the corner (red circle) but **NOT QUITE**. Then use your scissors to finish the corner cut. This will give you a crisp, clean cut and you won't cut into the neighboring fringe. **NOTE:** Fringe may be cut in 1/2" or 1" increments.

Step #4:

Using a seam ripper, make a tiny slit at top of each fringe piece.



Step #5:

Feed the end of the fringe through the back side of the slit you just cut and pull through to create a neat and secure fringed edge.



Visit us at:
www.projectlinus.org

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