
STITCHING TOGETHER

A big thank you to all our brilliant volunteers, without whom we would not be able to give so many children 'a hug you can keep'.

46,134 quilts and blankets donated in 2019!

**Heather Russell, Helen Scales, Sarah Smith
Directors – Project Linus UK**

AREA REPORTS

Liverpool Linus

Caroline Fogell

We held a successful sewing day at Abakhan Liverpool, making bright sheets for the Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Alder Hey Hospital. Staff say it makes a real difference for families to see their child on coloured sheets rather than stark white, and whereas patients can take their own bedding from home onto some wards, this is not possible on CCU due to infection control.

In the first photo the long strip we are holding is the till receipt - money was kindly donated by a local charity West Derby Waste Lands.

The second photo shows Veronica working away - she was a patient in Alder Hey in 1934 aged 7!



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

East Staffordshire Area

Thank you to the wonderful quilters in Sue Palmer's groups in Barton under Needwood for all their hard work in 2019. The photos show the amazing variety of quilts they have made and donated to us. They are also excellent cooks and provided a fabulous lunch when they got together to hand over the quilts.



South East Hampshire

Frances Harrop



I thought I would share a picture of the lovely quilts and incubator covers made by the ladies who meet at the Portsmouth Rugby Club premises. They had a Project Linus sewing day and have donated 7 incubator covers for Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth, and 18 other quilts. Most of these quilts have been donated to the local children's wards, Mother and Baby units or to women's refuge. Although they haven't given themselves a name, one of their husband's has called them the 'Scrummy Sewers' which is apt in more ways than one, as they made some gorgeous quilts.

I would also like to thank the ladies in Northney who have donated quilts throughout the year, and to all the ladies who attended the Project Linus day back in the Summer at Jolly Stitchers, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

Wigan and Leigh

Barbara Kennedy

Article published in the Wigan Observer December 2019 by Andrew Nowell

New Quilts bring comfort and joy

Children in Rainbow Ward have received homemade quilts and blankets thanks to a generous donation.

Patients on the ward were presented with the gifts which are aimed at providing a sense of security and comfort.

The brightly coloured blankets, with differing patterns from teddy bears to nursery rhymes, are made in a variety of sizes.

Lorraine Heaton, contract services manager for linen services at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (WWL), was acting as an external assessor for Patient Led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE) at a neighbouring trust when she learned of the Project Linus UK scheme.

After meeting with both Lesley Mercer, area coordinator for Lancashire, and Barbara Kennedy, area coordinator for Wigan from the scheme, and learning of the benefits of the programme, Lorraine was encouraged to bring the scheme to WWL.

She then worked with the team on Rainbow Ward at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and Project Linus to help bring the two together as a way of further improving the experience of younger patients at WWL.

Starting in America in 1995, Project Linus first came to the UK in 2000 with Wigan and Leigh division being set up earlier this year.

To make and distribute the blankets and quilts, the organisation relies on donations of funds and supplies such as cotton fabric and manmade yarns, as well as the support of its volunteers.

The blankets are made for babies, children and teenagers who may be in need of comfort which mirrors the projects mission statement of **'a quilt is a hug you can keep'**.

Barbara, who also works as a podiatrist at WWL, was confident that this donation would be the first of many saying: "We really hope that this will be the start of a good relationship between Project Linus and WWL".

"We are still a relatively new division, but our volunteers are really passionate about the cause and are keen to get involved".

Heather Dineley, Ward Manager for Rainbow Ward, expressed her gratitude for the donation saying: "Being in hospital can be daunting for a child of any age but these wonderful blankets and quilts will offer a huge amount of comfort to our patients".

"It is brilliant that people are willing to give up their time to make these and give back to their local hospital".

A special festive surprise is also being organised by Project Linus' Wigan and Leigh Division who will be making Christmas themed blankets to give to every child who spends Christmas Day on the ward.



Barbara Kennedy, area co-ordinator for Project Linus Wigan and Leigh division, Ann Carey, matron for child health, Lorraine Heaton, contract services manager for linen services, Heather Dineley, ward manager, Cat Scott, play support worker, Lily-May Green, Lisa Bentham, auxiliary nurse.

Right – Veronica Johnson, Barbara's mum, age 92, happily helping sew Linus quilts, she even bought a new sewing machine last year to make them

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear All at Project Linus,

Thank you so much for your kind donations to Oasis. The quilts and blankets were beautiful, and it was incredibly generous of you. They will make lovely gifts for the women and children this Christmas.

Donations help us to provide much needed essentials to women and children in our refuge. Women fleeing violence are often forced to leave their homes with very little, making a difficult decision and the vast change in their lives even harder. It's even more special and meaningful, when we are able to provide gifts during the times of celebration – which can be very lonely when living in refuge.

Without the ongoing support of people like you we would struggle to give our clients the basics they need to get back on their feet.

We are incredibly grateful for your support. Please continue to keep in touch with us via our website www.oasisdaservice.org

As early as it may seem, from all of us here at Oasis we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

With best wishes,

Daisy Fordham

Oasis Domestic Abuse Service

I just wanted to thank you for your recent donation that we received on the Neonatal Unit this week. All items received were very much appreciated by our staff and the families of our babies. Could you please pass our thanks on to your volunteers also.

I would like to take this opportunity for wish everyone at Project Linus a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2020.

Kind Regards

Paula Ainsley

Ward Clerk

Oliver Fisher Neonatal Unit

My son received a blanket from your project today at our local KIDS group. It is so beautiful. He is 3 years old with nonverbal autism. The blanket is bordered with sheep and right before I tucked him up in bed he pointed and said 'sheep' and then went on to count to ten pointing at each of the sheep as he counted. He has never done this before, and I rarely hear his voice in such a meaningful context. I am so grateful to tuck him up in bed tonight in his new blanket. you have made him very happy and in turn me too. I wish I knew who made it so I could say Thank you. Just please know it means so much to us. X

Thank you so much to you and your lovely friends for making these blankets for us xxxx"

Just wanted to thank you for making my dog blanket, at the time all I wanted to do in the hospital was to see my dog so that lifted my spirits incredibly. Thanks again (the quilt was dog themed with paw printed fleece)

I wanted to say a huge thank you for the beautiful quilt that we received when we were on ward 6 at the Sick Kids Hospital. My daughter is also called Beth which made me smile. My sister has recently had a baby and when she found out she was pregnant the baby was the size of an apple pip so her and her husband nicknamed the bump 'Pip' which I see is the name of one of the other volunteers!

Thank you so much.

I was just wondering if you still do quilts for children who have tragically lost their Daddy. My daughter received one from yourselves when she lost her dad at the age of just 8 years old. He had a brain tumor. She truly got great comfort from it and still does to this date aged 14.

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My goddaughters who are only 1 years old and 6 years old have just tragically lost their dad in a car accident early morning on New Year's Eve 😞 I know what great comfort it has brought to my daughter so was hoping it might be something you still did as I know it will help give some comfort to these 2 beautiful girls.

Many thanks for reading and please continue the great work you already do as it really does give comfort to those who receive these lovely quilts.

Much love ❤️

Cheryl

Easy Fundraising

Don't forget if you shop online, please sign up to **easyfundraising** and help support Project Linus UK!

It's a really simple way to raise money for Project Linus UK through your everyday online shopping with retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and it's completely free!

Over £20million has already been raised for good causes in the UK by **easyfundraising** shoppers so please help us get our share here: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/projectlinus

Money already raised from **easyfundraising** went towards helping our co-ordinators provide fabric and wadding for their volunteers. All proceeds are re-invested in Project Linus and the work that we do together.

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