



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

October 2020
Total Donations since we started: 452,533
Year to date total: 16,159

STITCHING TOGETHER

Our yearly raffle was drawn on September 17th. Thank you to those who were able to support us through the purchase of a raffle ticket before lockdown. The three lucky winners are:

Joan Rhind, Dumfries & Galloway; Mary Ann Caranza, Derbyshire; and D Ryecroft, Dunoon.

AREA REPORTS

Liverpool

Caroline Fogell

A Happy Ending

It was a Monday morning and Caroline and I were sitting in her front room surrounded by carrier bags and boxes containing a vast assortment of completed tops, half-completed tops, stray orphan blocks and fabric scraps. Caroline is our local Project Linus Co-ordinator here in Liverpool UK and we were trying to decide how best to deal with these donations - to just get them finished and out where they should be - giving comfort to a child.

I was making a small pile of things I thought I could manage myself when a delightful treasure emerged from the bundles. It was a fully completed little quilt featuring a wedding ring pattern in creamy yellow and grey and beautifully pieced and hand quilted. On turning it over I saw a label which read: "Made by Marion Edward Reeds, Houston, Texas. For Bob and Betty Reeds on their Golden Wedding Anniversary September 1993." There were also signatures written directly onto the backing: "Have a wonderful day, Marion." "Best Wishes, Charlotte." "With love and best wishes, Peter," "Love you, Karla" "Love, Alex." Also, it had been displayed at some point because there is a hanging sleeve.

It was obvious that if it was to become a Linus quilt the label would have to be removed and the signatures covered up somehow. This seemed like a great pity and so I offered to try and find the person who had made it and then take it from there.

A needle in a haystack? Not so. I am a member of a Facebook Quilting group called "Quiltville Open Studio" which currently has 77,723 members, many of whom are in the US but also in many other places around the world. I posted a picture of the quilt and a description of the label and said "Before it is given away, I thought I should try to find anyone of this family who would like to get it back. If you are that person please PM me."

Amazingly enough, within less than 24 hours Nancy Elliott Yetter from Houston posted that she had located a family with the right names. At the same time, I had a message from Susan Cohn LaCroix to say the same thing and that she was in touch with them. Wow, this was

amazing. Susan messaged and phoned to and fro doing the legwork and within a couple of days I was emailing with Marion Reeds, the maker of this quilt who now lives in Illinois.

Marion told me that the quilt was made for her in-laws who actually lived in Liverpool but that after her mother-in-law, Betty, died, her widower had given away much of her accumulated craft work and this quilt must have been part of that. We have no idea what happened to it afterwards until it turned up in the donated bundle for Linus. I didn't want to think that Linus had missed out on a quilt but equally Marion was keen to have the quilt back if it could be arranged. So we have a compromise. I have posted the quilt back to Marion and she is going to give me the postage's-worth of fabric to be used in a new quilt for Linus. Win win I think!

Jess Williams February 2020

Jersey, Channel Islands

Sarah Jordan

We have had to register as a separate charity in order to be able to claim funds available to Charities locally. Here is the press release in respect of the £500 donated by Channel Islands Co-Operative Society to us recently.

"The funding from the Co-op is awarded to good causes which promote social inclusion and diversity, health and wellbeing, support the elderly or vulnerable groups, help local producers or projects which protect our local environment. Project Linus were awarded £500 which they will use to buy materials needed to knit, crochet and sew.

The blankets are donated to schools, individuals, children's homes and Robin Ward. They are for children who are seriously ill, bereaved or traumatised.

Thank you for the blanket



Sarah Jordan, from the charity, said: "We will use the money from the Helping Hands fund to buy materials for our volunteers, as we support several charities and agencies who have a real need for our blankets and we want to help our volunteers purchase the materials they need".

'We not only help those children who the blankets are donated to but our volunteers also benefit hugely from this project. Those who knit the blankets can often find themselves alone, or feeling less able than in previous years, and they are given a real sense of purpose when they can make something for a child in need.'

She added: "Donations, such as that from the Co-op, are vital in keeping the charity going."

THANK YOU LETTERS

Dear all at Project Linus

I am writing to say a huge thank you for your generous donation of Blankets for the children and families on E5 Children's and Young Peoples unit at the Bolton Hospital Foundation Trust . The donation has been so well received.

At this time when the whole country is in crisis, it's so heart-warming that you have thought of our families and what a difference this will make.

We so much appreciate your support and hope you realise how important your donation is to our families and to the play team who depend so much on donations like these to make the children's' experience in hospital a positive one.

Lydia Hill, Play Coordinator



I would just like to say a massive thank you for McKie's blanket. He absolutely loves it and it is allowing him more time on the floor, very comfy! He loves the colours, it's so bright.

You're all angels making these for children, it will encourage him to be on the floor longer which is great new to aid his mobility. I have attached some photos for you. It was a nice surprise as he has just turned 2 it was his birthday the other day.

Zoe Shaw

We received this beautiful quilt at the Sick Kids in Edinburgh when my daughter was admitted overnight this week.



Please thank the person who made this beautiful quilt...it really made my daughter's day after a stressful time feeling unwell

My 4 year old daughter..... has been diagnosed with leukemia on 1st June. We are at the sick kids in Edinburgh and have been gifted a lovely bright yellow quilt with little girls round the edges and green fleece back. We didn't expect it and it was such a nice gesture. Thank you very much

To the volunteers at Wigan and Leigh Project Linus I would like to thank you for your kind donation of 15 handmade quilts for our resident families in our Refuge at Lewis House.

As you are aware, at Fortalice, we provide emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse, who come to us with very little in the way of personal belongings. We try to provide for all ages, and the generosity of people like yourselves makes this possible. The women are very grateful for any donations that helps assist them providing for their families during this difficult time in their lives.

Recently, a resident said on leaving the Refuge "To everyone at Lewis House, thank you from the bottom of my heart for showing me what a normal life can be. I am so lucky to have been given this chance, you literally saved my life. Your constant support and the love you have shown me is overwhelming. You have helped me when I felt that no-one else would."

Please accept our best wishes from all at Fortalice and thank you for your continued support. Gill Smallwood

Easy Fundraising

Don't forget if you shop online, please sign up to [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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 £20 million has already been raised for good causes in the UK by [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) shoppers so please help us get our share here: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/projectlinus

Money already raised from [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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.

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'