



Total donations
since we started:

487,304

This year to date:

17,514

Community Interest Company No. 08422226

September 2021

STITCHING TOGETHER

A special way to reach children in need

Norma Goodwin and Jane Sloggett, PLUK coordinators for Winchester Area and North Hampshire, have told us about a very special way to reach children in need and strengthen family ties. We've included the whole "Thank You" letter because it tells the story so well



July 2021

Dear Project Linus UK,

We have been so grateful to be able to gift Linus blankets to babies and children of fathers we are working with in HMP Winchester.

Over the past 18 months, especially, during the Covid pandemic, the Linus blankets have been needed more than ever as social visits were suspended for some months and even when first reinstated physical contact was not permitted. We would like to share with you some of the comments we have collected from the fathers we support in prison and the families who have received quilts over the past months. The comments below clearly express their gratitude to receive such a lovely gift and show the difference it has made.

Families told us that....

"My son really enjoyed getting the blanket. It gives him comfort to know that the blanket came from his dad. He has a smile every time".

"Receiving the blankets from the girls dad was so lovely! The girls absolutely loved them and felt more connected to him for sure. Also the quality of them was amazing, so thoughtful! Thank you very much".

"Made me cry, they are absolutely beautiful blankets. My son keeps hugging his saying Dada. I lay my daughter on hers. Really appreciate them. This will keep my babies closer to their daddy. We miss you loads, they love their daddy loads".

"Receiving the blanket was lovely because it makes our son really happy. Knowing that his dad is always thinking of him all the time"

Fathers told us how they felt being able to choose a blanket personally...

"It was really nice to be invited to do it and be able to actually pick a blanket I think they liked".

"I thought, it was amazing as when you come to custody sometimes the children are forgotten."

"It is like I could give them something from me".

"It was lovely to be able to choose the colours my children would love. Although funnily enough they chose each others when they arrived! The blankets are lovely and both have them on their beds".

"It felt good to pick something that I knew she would actually use"

"Made me feel that I'd actually done something for them. Sense of purpose"

"It was a nice to be able to do something myself"

"Keeps me involved in her life, gives her something else to remind her of me and brings my name up all the time, she calls it Daddy's blanky"

Finally a note that a Dad wrote to his daughter, which was attached to her blanket....

To my little Princess,

I'm sorry I can't be there to give you cuddles but I hope wrapping yourself up in this blanket will make you feel like you are getting a cuddle from me.

Can't wait to see you on our next video call. Miss your little face and that beautiful smile so so much! Cant wait to talk to you next. All my love from Daddy. x

The Spurgeons Team wish to say a massive **Thank You** for allowing us to be included in your wonderful project. The beautiful blankets have been hugely appreciated by all the families who have been going through such difficult and stressful times.

Yours Sincerely, Kerry Longhorn, Service Lead.

On behalf of the Spurgeons team, fathers at HMP Winchester and their families.

A Quilt is a Hug you can keep

And Norma received this letter and photos from another Community Group passing on Project Linus quilts

Dear Norma

I thought you might like to see the dinosaur quilt with its new owner! She was thrilled to receive it today and her sister loved the hedgehog one too!

The children spent ages with their new befriender finding matching up the patterns on the squares to see if there were any that were one offs but everyone seemed to have a matching pair or sometimes even a triplet! They then practiced their counting and counted 36 squares without going round the edge!!! Then they became magic carpets flying everyone off to space! It was lovely to watch them play with them and I thought you and your quilters would be so pleased to know that the quilts are making their way to the children we support ☺

Many thanks to everyone involved in Project Linus.

Best wishes,



Sam Hunt
Friends of the Family, Winchester

And the “thank you’s” keep on coming.....

Pip Peat, Coordinator of Edinburgh PL, writes

These thanks came recently with a lovely photo. The quilt included a big orange spotted strip with Peppa Pig and other novelty fabric

I just wanted to email to say a huge thank you for the lovely blanket we received while we were in the Castle Mey ward in the Sick Kids hospital in Edinburgh. My 2 year old daughter was admitted with a pneumonia and bronchiolitis and we spent 6 days on the ward. The blanket she was given had Peppa Pig on it and she loved it. It really helped us through this difficult time., And just to add the lovely gesture also really perked up my wife at a time she was clearly very concerned about. She is a doctor so I think inevitably fears the worse - the generosity made her feel better too. Thanks for doing what you do, it makes a real difference to the patient and the family

"Thank you for making the Project Linus blankets.

We were admitted to the children's hospital unexpectedly & had nothing with us for an overnight stay (my son was only 8 weeks old). Being able to wrap him in a gorgeous blanket made a big difference to us both. I was overwhelmingly grateful for such a thoughtful gift at a tough time.

Our son is now a completely healthy four months old."



And Elspeth Russell, coordinator for Glasgow and South Lanarkshire, was sent this lovely note

Hi Elspeth

I forgot to say last night I was sitting around our wee fire pit with some neighbours and one of the wee girls next door came out with a Linus quilt wrapped around her! I asked does that wee quilt have a wee tab saying 'made with tender loving care' which she then made an attempt to read to me. Both young girls next door to me have additional needs and autism. Their Mum said they both love their quilts and said she couldn't remember but either got them from school or when they were in hospital on separate occasions. The girls are now 14 and 20 and have had them for some time and still love and use them. ☺ Gave me a chance to explain to them about the wonderful work you all do. Just wanted to share the difference your commitment makes to children's lives for many years after receiving a Linus quilt.

Beryl Holmes, coordinator for Thirsk and Northallerton, writes

These are some of the quilts made by Appleton Wiske sewing group . They make about 40 a year and along with other quilts I receive from other quilters I deliver them to the Women's Refuge in Northallerton and McMillan nurses collect a lot from me .





Left: Director Sarah Smith with Helen Scales, Head Office Assistant

The Festival of Quilts this year was like no other. Due to Covid-19 the Exhibitor stands were well spread out and the aisles between far wider than normal. Visitors were strolling around and taking their time looking at the stands and quilts. The overall feel was relaxed unlike previous years when visitors were rushing here and there and trying to get to the front of a stand.

There was a gentle flow all day of visitors to our stand. We were able to take time to speak to many of them and introduce Project Linus UK to those that had not heard of us. Hopefully, they will become volunteer quilt makers. We received 43 lovely quilts which were distributed among the visiting co-ordinators.

Thank you to anyone who visited our stand and helped us to raise funds for Project Linus UK.

***Heather Russell
Director***

Did anyone hear a programme on Radio 4, August 31st, about the need for more kindness in our lives, and research measuring acts of kindness?

What is ***Project Linus UK*** but a tangible way lots of us can show kindness to children and their families when they need it?



Not just Robbie who loves his quilt—the staff are impressed as well

Hello I'm Robbie, a patient at Rainbow Ward in Wigan Hospital, and I've just chosen one of your blankets with crocodiles on.. It's such good quality and looks so lovely, thank you so much, you're really kind and I appreciate it a lot especially since I've been here 10 weeks. The crocs made me smile!

From the Wigan and Leigh branch

Fundraising has been an issue for all charities , however this year in March I decided to try Crowdfunding as Wigan Council have a Deal whereby they would give 25% of the money once a target had been reached or donators agreed. I set a target of £500 as an achievable goal , however was totally amazed by the fact at the end of the 28 days we raised £1000. There were a few hassles along the way but the team at Project Linus HQ were more than happy to help out. Thank you for the support Heather Russell from my numerous emails and phone calls!

This money was raised to mainly buy fleece for the group and be used for venue hire once lockdown allows us to meet, however we have got a bargain Accuquilt from ebay to loan out to members as well .***Barbara Kennedy, Coordinator.***

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 £20 million 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.

www.projectlinusuk.org.uk

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