

Stitching Together – June 2023

The newsletter for supporters of Project Linus UK

“A Quilt is a hug you can keep”



Community Interest Company No. 08422226

Total Donations received since 2020: **571,085**

Donations received so far this year: **10,525**

Focus on PLUK Director Heather Russell

For our first article about volunteers who help ensure that our organisation fulfils its obligations in providing comfort to babies, children and teenagers, here is a piece about Heather and her involvement with PLUK.



I became the PLUK Area Co-ordinator for West Staffordshire and East Shropshire in April 2009. As well as collecting and delivering quilts I also give talks and run workshops to raise funds for my area. In 2013, when Project Linus UK was incorporated into a Community Interest Company, I was asked if I would be one of the Directors. The three Directors have different responsibilities

and at present I have the roles of: Shows and Events Officer (organising the PLUK stand at Uttoxeter Quilt Village Show and the Festival of Quilts), PLUK Co-ordinator Secretary (registering and communicating with our 170 Area and Regional Co-ordinators), Secretary (dealing with general queries, Companies House paperwork and Website updates) and DATA Privacy Manager (ensuring GDPR is complied with by all Co-ordinators)

News from Ani Catt - PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire



‘SPREADING THE WORD’

In Jan 2023 I started free regular sessions each month, which are proving popular. The venues make no charge and we meet at two local libraries and at Witney Methodist Church to make patchwork and/or knits to be gifted free to children in Oxfordshire. Because the venues are in public spaces we are connecting with many people who have never heard of Project Linus UK - which is great! I publicise the sessions by word of mouth, via Facebook, local ‘for sale’ pages, by putting up small A5 posters



and also by giving out mini hand-outs wherever I can think of! All levels are welcome. We meet at Witney Library (first Monday each month 1.30-3.30), Witney Methodist Church, (first Friday each month 10-12), Carterton Library (last Friday each month 1.30-3.30). Hand and machine work. Bring your own basic sewing kit, or knitting/crochet or your own sewing machine if you want to do machine

work. Fabric/ yarn available or bring your own. If you have made items at home for Project Linus Oxfordshire it will be a good drop off point if you can't deliver to my house in Witney.

News from our PLUK Area Co-ordinators for Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian

In February Pip, Barbara and Beth received this lovely thank you:

"I just wanted to get in touch to thank you all so much for the work that you and your volunteers do! We received a beautiful patchwork blanket for our new-



born baby when he was in the sick kids unit at the Royal Hospital when he was 4 days old. He had an infection so had to stay for 3 nights for a course of antibiotics and tests. It was the scariest and toughest experience we have ever had and one morning I remember your blanket being brought into us and the nurse telling me this is for you to take home. It was the first mention of us going home and it gave me such hope and joy. My son is now 3 months old and doing so well. We still use the blanket to cuddle up during his feeds and we will always keep it as a reminder of how lucky we are to have him home

safe and healthy. Thank you so much for donating your time and please know how much more it is than a blanket to the parents and families that receive them!"

News from Heather Russell PLUK Area Co-ordinator for East Shropshire & West Staffordshire

On the first Friday of every month a group of ladies meet up at Morville in Shropshire and make quilts for Project Linus UK.

This picture shows just a few of them with the Project Linus UK Achievement Certificate that I presented them with on 3rd March 2023. From 1st January 2020 – 31st December 2022 they made 499 quilts.



News from Marion Henderson, the PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire & South Glasgow



It was a great privilege to be invited to The Preshal Trust, a Charity in Linthouse, Glasgow, where I received 17 Project Linus Quilts.

The Preshal Trust, through their Family Support Programme, deliver and develop a range of activities providing practical skills, emotional and personal support to vulnerable adults. I met with volunteers Margaret McBride and Cathie Gibson together with a few of the ladies who attend the quilting class.

This was a wonderful and humbling experience and impressed upon me how Project Linus Quilts help others in many ways.

News from Jenny Strong, PLUK Area Co-ordinator for South East London, Dulwich

We make Incubator quilts specifically designed (by us & Kings) for Kings College Hospital. Our sponsorship money has now ceased and so we had a coffee morning for friends, selling Christmas items and miraculously raised £1,350 from personal friends, the Golf Club, Bridge group and Dulwich Quilters. We try and give 206+ incubator quilts a year and 200 quilts for the wards. Last summer I held a tea party in our garden for the stitchers to say thank you for their work.

Liverpool Linus Area Co-ordinator Caroline Fogell tells us about two of their recipient groups.

At Christmas we made a donation to Forward Trust who run the M-Pact (Moving Parents and Children Together) project, for families affected by substance misuse. They loved the quilts and blankets and described them as magical.



They aim to help children and young people who may feel they have been overlooked or forgotten, and for them to know that someone recognises the issues they have to cope with in their daily life and can offer support.

Another organisation we donated to was 'Children Heard and Seen', who support young people and their families impacted by having a parent in prison and received this response from their Project Coordinator:

Sixteen children in Liverpool received quilts and blankets and families were overwhelmed with the gifts. A teenage girl has used her quilt to create a lovely safe space in the bedroom she shares with her sister. The younger sister understands when the blanket is on her bunk that her older sister is having some time out for herself.

I would like to say a huge thank to Project Linus for reaching out and thinking about children impacted by parental imprisonment - they are often overlooked and knowing someone has taken such time and effort for them can mean so much to the families.

News from Kim Wood, PLUK Area Co-ordinator East Staffordshire

2023 has been a busy time for stitchers in East Staffordshire.



Thank you to all my volunteers especially to Burton Belles, Heirloom Quilters and Whittington Wharf Quilters for all their 'Oh My Star' quilts which have been delivered to Pathway in Lichfield and to Acorns Children's Hospice in Walsall.



Whittington Wharf Quilters had great fun making Teddy Bear quilts which have been delivered to the Children's Emergency Ward at a local hospital.

PLUK West Lancashire have received some lovely photographs.



Sue Wilson, the PLUK West Lancashire Co-ordinator, delivered 27 quilts to a Nursery School in May. The pictures show the children with happy faces which sum up the good work of our volunteers.

Sue received the following thank you letter:

“On behalf of everyone at Rainbow Hub, I just wanted to thank you for your visit today. The blankets, which have clearly all been made with love are just beautiful and I know all of our children will be as delighted with the ones they will be receiving as the children shown in the photos were. Please thank everyone involved. It is our absolute pleasure to be able to pass them on to our families.”



The following messages were recently posted on our Facebook pages.

“Hello. My Daughter was recently in hospital and she’s absolutely terrified of hospitals. She was given one of these blankets, which she clung to throughout her stay. I just wanted to say, as a parent, I really appreciated it. It helped during her examinations and tests as she could keep hold of it, and it made her more comfy and relaxed as she liked to point out the different patterns and pictures. So I just wanted to say how grateful we were and how much it does help both child and parent. ♡♡ xxxx”

“I just wanted to say a very big heart felt thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Our daughter was admitted to Southampton PICU in December and was gifted the most beautiful blanket. Ever since that day she has not been without it. She is home now and doing amazing with full recovery thanks to the most amazing staff. This beautiful blanket is still with her and she can’t sleep without it. Thank you all so much it is beyond words what this gift meant and the thought that someone had spent time and effort to bring some joy at a difficult time. Thank you all so much.”

Find us at: www.projectlinusuk.org.uk or Facebook: Project Linus UK