



Making Blankets for Project Linus

Thank you for your interest in being a blanketeer for Project Linus. All of your donations will be given to local children (infants through teens) that are critically ill, traumatized or otherwise in need. Here are some tips to help you get started.

Blankets must be new, clean and washable. Choose colors and prints that are child or teen friendly. Keep in mind that they're given to boys and girls so it's good to have a mix of masculine, feminine and gender-neutral prints and colors.

Blankets may be tied, crocheted, quilted, knitted or sewn. Hospitals and camps often prefer tied fleece blankets but donations go to many organizations outside of hospitals. Free patterns are available at www.ProjectLinus.org or through Always In Stitches, which is the Hamilton County coordinator for Linus.

There are no size requirements. These are suggestions for minimum sizes: 36-by-36 inches for baby blankets, 42-by-60 inches for children's blankets and 45-by-72 inches for teen blankets. Bigger is usually better. Small children can grow into a large blanket, but can quickly grow out of a small one.

Choose cuddly, soft and machine washable/dryable materials: all-cotton fabric, flannel, fleece and acrylic yarn. Please do not use denim, tapestry, polyester double knit, felt, vinyl, wool, corduroy or wool yarn.

When making tied fleece blankets:

- It's best to keep them one layer. Two layer ones become very heavy.
- Fringe should be no longer than 3 inches, no wider than 1 inch. Longer, wider fringes become a choking hazard for small children and can get tangled in IV lines. Blankets look nicer if all the strips are about the same size.
- Please be sure to trim the selvage to give the blanket a neat, polished finish. This is the finished edge of fabric, often where the designer and company names are printed.
- Tie knots securely but not so tight that the blanket bunches or pulls.

Batting should be securely sewn into outer seams of quilts.

Please sew and store the blankets in smoke- and pet hair-free environments. These cause allergic reactions in some children and cannot be used.

You are welcome to attach a card to your blanket. We have some sample ones if you'd like some ideas. Project Linus asks that cards not include a religious message or scripture because blankets are given to a diverse group of children. Blankets may be tied in ribbons and bows for a nicer presentation. A small Project Linus label will be sewn into them before they are distributed.

Donation sites:

Always In Stitches, 1808 E. Conner St., Noblesville – (317) 776-4227 - Hamilton Co. coordinator
Fishers Police Department, 4 Municipal Dr., Fishers – (317) 595-3300
Quilt Expressions, 12514 Reynolds Dr., Fishers – (317) 913-1816
Quilt Quarters, 9840 N. Michigan Road, Carmel – (317) 757-8340