

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

Montgomery County, MD Chapter

What is Project Linus ? (www.projectlinus.org)

Project Linus is a nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to donating handmade blankets for newborn to 18-year-old children in need of comfort. There are many chapters throughout the country. *The Montgomery County chapter accepts blankets from individuals or groups. We bring them to Montgomery County organizations, such as local family shelters, hospitals, and other places serving children who have experienced trauma.* The chapter provides service opportunities for Montgomery County youth and adults.

What types of blankets do you accept?

- ♥ All blankets must be handcrafted. We distribute several types of blankets:
 - Knitted or crocheted afghans (no wool please)
 - Quilts / comforters
 - No-sew fleece blankets (**ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS – ONLY SINGLE-LAYER, PLEASE**)

Please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- ♥ Please choose cheerful, child-friendly colors and patterns.
- ♥ When making fleece blankets, please read the instructions carefully. In particular:
 - Be sure to cut off the **selvage edges of both sides** of the fleece **before** beginning.
 - Use a single layer of fleece in a child-friendly pattern. Avoid “make it and give it” branded double sided kits; a single layer of fleece off the bolt is not only cheaper, but higher quality.
 - Please use the “slit” method in the instructions rather than tying knots. In some medical environments, knots can present a problem.
- ♥ All blankets **must** be machine washable. Hence **wool yarn**, which shrinks in the dryer and is also an allergy problem for many, is generally not accepted.
- ♥ Don’t attach anything to the blanket--no buttons or anything that could be a swallowing hazard.
- ♥ All blankets must be in new condition and free of odors.

When does the chapter meet to make blankets?

The chapter normally meets on the third Monday every other month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in the Richard Montgomery High School cafeteria, from September through April. At our meetings, we make fleece blankets; share chapter news and events; teach knitting/crocheting to folks who would like to learn; exchange fabric, yarn and other supplies; and show off our latest blanket and craft creations. Please follow our Facebook page, and give us your email address for newsletter updates. (We will **never** sell your email or use it for anything but sending you a newsletter or update.) **No pre-registration is required and all supplies are provided.**

The meeting dates for 2023-2024 are:

September 18, 2023	October 16, 2023	November 13, 2023	December 18, 2023
January 22, 2024	February 12, 2024	March 18, 2024	April 15, 2024

Can students in Montgomery County Public Schools receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours/credits for making blankets?

Yes! We eagerly welcome help from students and are happy to help with the SSL process. SSL hours are provided at every meeting. For SSL hours outside of the meeting time, contact the email address below.

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Where should I take the blankets I have made ?

Blankets may be dropped off at the following locations:

- Oasis Hair Salon (in Wintergreen Plaza in Rockville)
- Coordinator's house, 13401 Crispin Way, Rockville (please email, call or text so we know to pick it up)
- JoAnn Fabric and Craft, 2A Bureau Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1402
- JoAnn Fabric and Craft, Westfield Wheaton mall, 11160 Veirs Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD

Please include your name and address (mailing and email) in each bag.

If these locations don't work for you, email us and we will try to find another solution.

How can I donate or volunteer to help Project Linus ?

We gratefully accept donations year-round. All donated funds are used to buy fleece and blanket making supplies. Donate at our national organization web site, www.projectlinus.org, and click Donate. **Please be sure to write "Montgomery County Maryland chapter" in the comments section;** that way, your donation will be earmarked specifically for our local chapter. If your company has a charity matching program, you may be able to get matching donations for Project Linus by contributing your time; we'd be happy to help you participate. We also accept in-kind donations of quilting fabric, sewing supplies, and yarn. We always need volunteers to help not only with blanket-making but also delivery, helping at events, and organization.

Where do we deliver the blankets ?

We provide blankets through partner organizations, such as Shady Grove and Holy Cross Hospitals, several shelters, A Wider Circle, Montgomery County's Health and Social Services Program, Montgomery County Public Schools, and many others. We also provide blankets to families, first responders, refugee assistance, military family service groups, and disaster relief organizations. If you are aware of an organization not receiving blankets yet, please let us know (especially if you have a contact there).

Do you provide materials?

We have yarn and quilting fabric for volunteers to use; please contact us. We provide fleece at our own meetings, but we typically can not provide fleece for home use or for use by other organizations.

Can you help me hold a blanket-making event with my scout troop, church group, or other organization?

We'd love to help; please contact us. We will loan templates, instruction sheets and scissors. We will also help cut fleece into the correct sized pieces. Often, we can also send a volunteer to help answer questions and coordinate the event. We do ask organizations sponsoring an event to either purchase the fleece themselves or reimburse us for the cost of the fleece. Please email us for details.

For more info, contact:

Sarah Glavin, Chapter Coordinator
(301) 478-6291

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