

### Thank You

While an attitude of thanks should be a major part of each of our lives, it is at the Thanksgiving holiday, we focus on our blessings and express our gratitude to God for them.

I can never say "Thank You" enough to each of you for all that you give to Project Linus. When I sent the Summer Newsletter requesting help for the victims of Katrina, all of you were amazing. Over 22,000 blankets were delivered to children in need. Monterey Chapter of Project Linus sent 200 blankets to Texas and Louisiana.

Not only were blankets provided but also assistance with shipping, monies for labels, fabric and yarn were given. You are an amazing group and I thank you! In addition to helping those from this natural disaster, we continued to provide blankets for the children in our community.

Thank you. To each of you I wish you and your families a very happy Thanksgiving. May the good things in life be yours in abundance.

Sincerely,

Noni McVey

### Special Needs

#### Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital:

Sizes :

- 16"x16" and 36"x48"

Requirements:

- Fabric, no floss or yarn, handmade, washable, baby colors.

These blankets are delivered to the Neonatal Unit.

#### American Lung Association

Sizes :

- 36"x48" and 40" x 52"

Requirements:

- Fabric, handmade and washable in very hot water.

### Quilting Tip

Here's a tip for those who find they are always replacing their blunt blade on the rotary cutter.

Take a piece of aluminum foil approximately 6" square. Start folding edge to edge until it is about a half inch wide and quite thick. Take your rotary cutter with the blunt blade and start rolling back and for over this foil until it is shredded. You will find you blade is now nice and sharp.

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## Letter of Thanks From A Katrina Victim

Good Morning,

I am not writing to receive information, but to say THANK YOU!

My Children and I evacuated to Houston when New Orleans had been threatened by Hurricane Katrina. Of course as usual, we left with the mindset that we would return home in a few days. As the day dawned and the news came that the levees indeed did not hold and New Orleans was under water, it also dawned on me as a Mother that I had not prepared for the inability to go home again. As the horror of

the situation back home began to sink in, so did the uncertainty of our future.

I am a single mother of three school aged children. Benjamin 16, Loren - he's 14, and Lindsey, 10. They were wanting answers, and I was only full of questions. We had arrived in Houston to a hotel room my Mom had called from California and reserved for us. We had a place to stay for three days. The weight of our situation grew as the uncertain hours passed. I had left home with my three children and 6 show dogs. I quickly got on the computer at the hotel and got word out to other Australian Shepherd breeders

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around the country that we needed help dispersing our dogs. Folks came and got them and placed them in new permanent homes for us. I was so very grateful, but my daughter cried with the parting of every pup. I told her there would come a day when she would be able to have a dog to show again, but right now, it was better for everyone for them to go to new homes.

My boys were so unhappy at having left their schools and their friends, and wanted to go home. They were struggling with having no home to return to and with knowing that I had a lot to deal with. We had no place to live, and I had no job. Surely this was some kind of joke right? I mean our lives had been swept out from under us, and it was only a couple of days ago all had been normal. A woman with a large house in Katy Texas sent a friend to our hotel to find a family that needed help, and we moved in here the next day. After a week of not knowing where to go, we now have a temporary home. I set about the process of enrolling my kids in local schools to avoid them failing the year, and to provide some sense of normalcy to their lives.

I then paired up with a friend who had evacuated to this area also, and we returned to New Orleans to see what we could salvage if anything. The last thing my daughter said to me when we left was, “mama, please bring my quilt back with you.” Our house was flooded and everything was crawling with mold. I could not bring her her favorite blanket.....and after seeing our home like that, I was wishing I had a favorite blanket! I returned to Houston with very little from our house, but had tried to take something from each child’s room, something that belonged to them. A few days later my oldest son Ben came home from his

new High school and said: “Mama, I have something for you.” I looked up and he had in his hand the most beautiful quilt! I asked: “For me? Where did this come from?”

He stated that he had been called to the office at school and told he could pick out a blanket for himself. They had been sent by “Project Linus.” I had never heard of it and had no idea it existed. He told the office staff: “My Mom would like this one”, and instead of taking one for himself he brought me the most beautiful quilt in the world! I cannot tell you what happened inside of me that day. HOPE ran through me right then and there. I held that blanket close and felt the love that had gone through the hands that made it. It was an amazing experience. I thanked God right then for the folks who made these blankets and arranged for those of us who have no answers, to have what is most important in this life, hope, love and comfort. A couple of weeks later my Daughter Lindsey came running in from school shouting: “Look Mom!” She too had been called into the office at her elementary school and had been allowed to pick out a blanket. Hers had horses all over it and they are her real true love.....she was truly blessed! I couldn’t bring her quilt from home, but she now has one “just for her.”

These days Thank You just seems so small. But I am writing to say those small words from the depths of my heart. THANK YOU to all involved with Project Linus! You are “touching” lives! May God bless you abundantly with every stitch!

Nanette, Benjamin, Loren, and Lindsey O’Connor

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## **Project ♥ Linus**

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