

# Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

## Jackson/Clay/Platte Counties, MO Chapter

Serving Kansas City, MO and neighboring communities

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2009

## Make a Blanket on Make a Difference Day

**When:** Saturday, October 24, 2009,  
9 am to 3:30 pm

**Where:** Cornerstone Church, 501 NE  
Missouri Road, Lee's Summit, MO  
(directions to the church on page 2).

As you may know, Make a Difference Day is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA WEEKEND magazine, it is an annual event taking place on the 4th Saturday in October. We celebrate it by gathering to make security blankets to give to children in the Kansas City area.

Come for all or part of the day. Our featured quilt pattern is called Scrappy Squares Plus Strips. There will be quilts to tie and fleece to make into blankets for those that don't want to sew. If you finish early or don't bring fabric, you can stitch a precut quilt kit.

Someone from Truman Medical Center will speak at 11:30, followed by a buffet lunch of cold cuts and bread for sandwiches, chips, veggies and more.

We will have coffee and iced tea. Soda is available from the church vending machine. A small contribution (\$2 or less) to help pay for lunch is requested.

There will be a small bag of goodies for everyone who attends and some door prizes. Please preregister by October 16 using the online form on our preregistration page ([kcprojectlinus.home.att.net/news/preregister.html](http://kcprojectlinus.home.att.net/news/preregister.html)). This helps us estimate the number of people attending and eating lunch. Those that preregister by Oct. 16 will get extra entries in the door prize drawing. You are welcome even if you don't preregister.

### Things to bring:

- Fabric for our featured quilt (details on page 2)
- Sewing machine and supplies
- Small cutting mat & rotary cutting tools
- Extension cord or power strip
- Finished blankets.
- Money for lunch

We have Warm & Natural quilt batting to use.

## Coordinator's Corner

It's hard to believe that fall is here. I'm still trying to figure out what happened to July and August!

Make a Difference Day is right around the corner and I'm busy getting ready. I'm working on goodie bags and a few door prizes to show appreciation for all that you do. I hope to see many of you at Cornerstone Church on the 24th.

Make a Difference Day will be the kickoff for a Quilt Challenge. I've

picked a cute fabric that appeals to all ages and a coordinating print for the challenge packet, which will cost \$1.50. More information is on page 5.

Incoming blankets increased in the last couple of weeks, so I'm hoping you're back to making blankets after your summer activities. Thank you for the blankets you make. Please know that they are all appreciated.

SusanB

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We're on the Web!  
<http://kcprojectlinus.home.att.net>

## Make a Difference Day Quilt Project Scrappy Squares Plus Strips

On Make a Difference Day we'll be making a quilt that combines scraps with strip piecing. Look through your scrap basket and fabric stash for lots of different

fabrics. Each 6" block has only 3 pieces for quick assembly.

<b>FABRIC REQUIREMENTS</b>		fabric width of 40" assumed (not including selvages)		
Block Size 6"		<b>Quilt Size</b>		
		<b>Toddler</b> 38 1/2" x 44 1/2" (30 blocks)	<b>Child</b> 38 1/2" x 56 1/2" (40 blocks)	<b>Teen</b> 49" x 67" (54 blocks)
For blocks				
Cut 4 1/2" squares	30 squares	40 squares	54 squares	
Cut strips 2 1/2" x the width of the fabric <b>OR</b> Cut strips 2 1/2" x 19"	9 strips <b>OR</b> 20 strips	12 strips <b>OR</b> 27 strips	16 strips <b>OR</b> 36 strips	
For Borders				
Border 1 (choose a solid, tone on tone or small print that contrasts with your block fabrics)	1/4 yard	1/3 yard	1/2 yard	
Border 2 (outer border)	1/2 yard	5/8 yard	1 yard	
Backing fabric	1 3/8 yard	1 2/3 yard	2 7/8 yards	

### Cutting Instructions for Border 1:

Toddler (child): Cut 4(5) strips 1 3/4" wide by the width of fabric.

Teen: Cut 5 strips 2 1/2" wide by the width of fabric.

### Cutting Instructions for Border 2:

Toddler (child): Cut 4(5) strips 3 1/2" wide by the width of fabric.

Teen: Cut 6 strips 5" wide by the width of fabric.

## Directions to Cornerstone Church

From the west or north, take I-435 to I-470.

From the south, take Hwy. 71 to I-470.

- Go east on I-470 to Exit 9, Douglas St.
- Go south (right) on Douglas, 2 blocks to Mulberry St. (St. Luke's Hospital is on the right.)
- Turn left on Mulberry St. Go 1 block and turn left on Grand.
- Turn right on Missouri Road. Cornerstone Church is on the right.

From Independence, MO

- Go south on I-470 to exit 10A, Colbern Road.

- Turn left on Colbern and get in the right lane.
- Cross over I-470 and turn right on Independence Ave.
- Go 1 block and turn right on Missouri Road. Cornerstone is the 2nd church on the left.

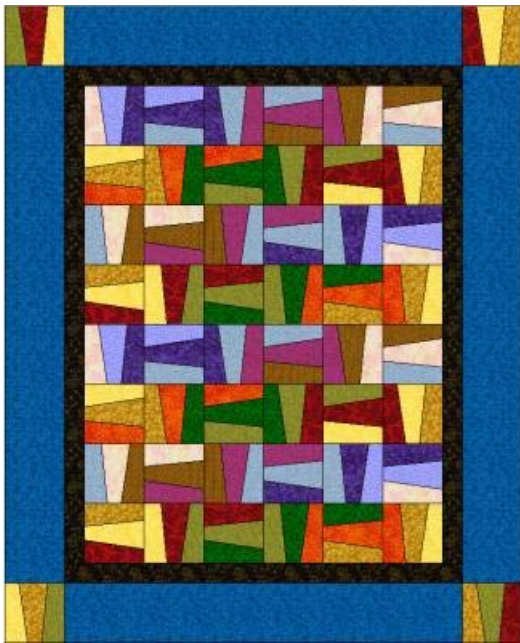
The address of the church is 501 NE Missouri Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. We will be in the Activity Center in the west end of the church.

You may stop in the circle drive to unload and move your car to the parking lot after unloading.

## Wacky Rail Fence — Quilt Pattern by SusanB

This scrap friendly quilt can be made with many different fabrics for a scrappy look or with fewer fabrics. This is a great way to use up some leftover fabric.

Quilt size: 39 by 48 inches.  
Block size: 4½" by 4½" finished.  
40" usable fabric width assumed.  
All seams are ¼" wide.

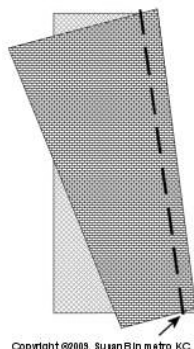
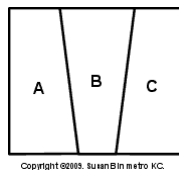


Fabric	Amount	Cutting
Blocks	52 rectangles	Cut rectangles 5 1/4" by 6 1/4"
Inner Border	1/4 yard	Cut four Strips that are 2 " wide by the width of the fabric.
Outer Border	5/8 yard	Cut four strips that are 5" wide by the width of the fabric
Backing	1 1/2 yard	
Binding	3/8 yard	Cut 5 strips 2 1/2" wide by the width of the fabric.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### MAKE BLOCKS:

- Stack 6 rectangles of 6 different fabrics.
- Make 2 cuts across the rectangle between the two longer sides. Make the cuts at an angle to the sides. Each set of blocks will be a little different.
- Rearrange the 3 stacks of pieces as follows:
  - Move the bottom piece of fabric in the left hand stack (stack A) to the top of the stack.
  - Move the top piece of fabric in the right hand stack (stack C) to the bottom of the stack.
- Using the top piece from each stack, stitch piece B to piece A and piece C to piece B. Match the top and bottom edges of the pieces ¼" away from the right edge, i.e.,



at the seam line.

- Repeat last step for the remaining 5 layers of fabric.
- Press blocks and trim to 5" square.
- Repeat steps 1 through 6 until 4 rectangles remain.
- Repeat steps 1 through 6 using a stack of 4 rectangles (instead of 6). These 4 blocks will be the corner blocks.

You should have 52 pieced blocks.

#### ASSEMBLE QUILT TOP

- Arrange the blocks in 8 rows of 6 blocks. Stitch the blocks together. Top should be 27½" by 36½" at this point.
- Stitch an inner border strip to the 2 longer sides of the quilt top. Press seams toward border strips and trim to exact length.
- Stitch an inner border strip to remaining 2 sides of the quilt top. Press seams toward border strips and

(Continued on page 4)

## From Quilt Top to Finished Blanket – How to Finish Your Blanket

Quilting and adding binding is the traditional way to finish your quilt top. Many of us choose a quicker method to finish our Project Linus blankets. The pillow case method, also known as birthing or quick turning a quilt, eliminates the separate binding and finishes the edges of the quilt before quilting or tying the middle. This is not a good method to finish bed size quilts, but it works well for smaller quilts.

1. If you're using a packaged batting, remove it from the package and let it relax overnight. If the batting has wrinkles or creases that persist, put it in the dryer on **low** heat for 5 to 10 minutes.
2. Press your quilt top and backing fabric so they are nice and smooth.
3. Place your batting on a flat surface (an uncarpeted floor or large table).
4. Smooth the batting and tape it to the floor/table in a few places to hold it. Stretch the batting very slightly so it is nice and smooth. If you are working on a table, you may be able to clamp the batting to the table with binder clips on 2 or more edges, instead of taping those sides.
5. Place the backing fabric, right side up, on top of the batting. Smooth the backing but do not stretch, and pin it to the batting in several places around the edges.
6. Place the quilt top, wrong side up, on the quilt backing. The quilt top should be smaller than the batting and backing. Smooth the quilt top. You want the top and backing as smooth as you can get them, but do not stretch them out of shape or to a larger size. If you stretch either one, it will make it harder to quilt or tie the layers without getting puckers or tucks.
7. Pin through all 3 layers about 6 to 8 inches apart all on all 4 sides of the quilt top. Also pin in 2 or 3 places in the center of the quilt.
8. If you have a walking foot or even feed foot for your sewing machine, use it. Sew through all 3 layers about ¼" from the edge of the quilt top. Leave a 6 to 10 inch opening on one side of the quilt.
9. Trim the backing and batting even with the quilt top on all 4 sides and **remove all pins**. Clip a small triangle from each corner. Do not cut the stitching.
10. Start at the corners farthest from the opening, roll the quilt top toward the opening. Roll the other 2 corners also. When most of the quilt is rolled near the opening, flip it inside out through the opening and unroll.
11. Fold the edges of the opening to the inside and finish by hand stitching it closed. Or, you may machine top stitch through all layers near the edge of the quilt.
12. Top stitch about ¼" to ½" from the outside edge with a straight stitch or a simple decorative stitch (e.g., serpentine or multi-step zigzag). This keeps the edge of the quilt flat when it is laundered and ensures the batting does not pull away from the edges.
13. Finish the blanket by quilting or tying the layers together. If you can pull the batting layers apart, it should be quilted or tied 4" to 5" apart so it doesn't shift and tear.

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## Wacky Rail Fence

*(Continued from page 3)*

trim to exact length. Top should be 30½" by 39½".

- Measure width of quilt top (i.e., short sides) and record as Measurement X.
- Stitch an outer border strip to the 2 longer sides of the quilt top. Press seams toward border strips and trim to exact length.
- Cut remaining 2 outer border strips so the length is equal to Measurement X, recorded above. Stitch a corner block to each end of these border strips. Press seams toward border strips.
- Stitch an outer border strip with corner blocks to remaining 2 sides of the quilt top, matching seams at edge of corner blocks. Press seams toward border strips.

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## Quilt Challenge

We're having a quilt challenge.

- Buy a challenge packet for \$1.50 and receive 2 fat quarters of fabric.
- Challenge packets will be available on Make a Difference Day and from SusanB afterward, while supplies last.
- Make a quilt at least 35" x 40" using some of both fabrics in the challenge packet plus any fabrics you want to add.

- Quilt must be a top, batting and back and meet Project Linus guidelines. E.g., no buttons; washable; enough quilting or tying to hold the layers.
- Turn your quilt in no later than January 23, 2010.
- Viewers will vote for the winner(s) with money. There will be a nice prize for the winner(s).

We'd like this to be a good fund raiser. If you know a place we could display the quilts for voting, let SusanB know at 816-761-4137 or susanBinKC@att.net.

## Financial Report for 3rd Quarter 2009

<b>Income</b>	
Donation—Wal-Mart	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$1,000.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Blanket Making Supplies	\$89.30
Postage	87.50
Printing	27.55
Office Supplies	25.10
Volunteer Appreciation	23.09
Headquarters Support	200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$452.54
<b>Net Income for Quarter</b>	\$547.46

Chapter Account Balance on 7/1/2009 \$197.95

Chapter Account Balance on 9/30/2009 \$745.41

The most exciting part of this quarter's financial report is the \$1,000 Community Grant we received from the Wal-Mart Foundation in July. This allowed SusanB to buy lots of fabric at the Chocolate Soup factory clearance sale (i.e., blanket making supplies).

The office supplies expense includes clear plastic trash bags for delivering blankets. The volunteer appreciation item is some 2" wide Project Linus volunteer buttons.

## Griddle Stitch Afghan - A Crochet Pattern by SusanB

- Worsted weight yarn - about 2 pounds (32 ounces) for a child size afghan.
- Crochet hook size H or I, depending on how tight you crochet.

To begin, chain an odd number of stitches, creating a chain that is approximately 40 inches long.

**Row 1:** sc in 2nd chain from hook, dc in next chain, \*sc in next chain, dc in next chain. Repeat from \* to end of chain, ending with a dc.

**Row 2:** Ch 1, \*sc in next dc, dc in next sc. Repeat from \* to end of row.

Repeat row 2 until afghan is as long as you'd like. If desired, change yarn to create stripes of different colors.

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*Send your email address to  
susanBinKC@att.net to receive news via  
email instead of US Mail. Project Linus  
saves postage and printing costs and you  
receive added E-News between  
newsletters.*

## News Briefs

### Trim Those Thread Tails —

Please double check your blankets and trim all those bits of sewing thread from the beginning and end of your stitching lines.

If you machine quilt and move to a new line of stitching without cutting the thread, **please be sure** you go back and trim away **all** of those runs of thread on both the front **and** back of the quilt.

Thread tails and runs of thread are a safety hazard. They can catch and wrap around a little finger or toe.

**Remove ALL pins** — Always remember to double check that all pins have been removed from your blankets.

### FUNDRAISERS

**Best Choice UPCs**—Please save the UPC codes from your Best Choice products. We get \$30 for every 1,000 UPCs. Please don't send the entire label, we only need the UPC code.

**Mountain Mist UPCs**— Save the UPC codes from Mountain Mist batting or any Super Fluff product (batting, fiberfill, pillow inserts) for Project Linus. We can get 25 yards of quilt batting with 100 UPC codes and a small handling fee.

Send your UPCs to SusanB or turn them in with your blankets.

We're on the Web!

<http://kcprojectlinus.home.att.net>

### BLANKETS DELIVERED

3rd Qtr. 2009 — 810

Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 30, 2009 — 5,209

## Drop-Off Locations

We have a new drop-off location. The Bernina Sewing Center in Blue Springs recently agreed to accept blankets for Project Linus. The store is on Highway 7, 1 mile south of Highway 40. Thank you to Myron Schwery and his staff for becoming a drop-off location. **Important:** Only the Blue Springs store is becoming a drop-off location.

A complete list of drop-off locations is in the next column. Remember that if you leave your blankets at Harpers Fabrics or Missouri Sewing Machine **in Kansas** they will be picked up by the **other** Kansas City Project Linus chapter and **will not** be delivered to children in Jackson, Clay or Platte County, MO.

Please do **not** leave donations at JoAnns Fabrics. JoAnns is not a drop off location. You may bring donations to our blanket group meeting on the 3rd Sunday of each month at JoAnns in Independence.

You may turn in your blankets at:

- **Missouri Sewing Machine** (the 3 Missouri stores)
  - 210 NE Barry Rd, Kansas City, MO (816) 468-5799
  - 3010 S. 291, Independence (816) 373-7997
  - 1011 Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO (816) 471-1276
- **Bernina Sewing Center**  
2402 SW Highway 7, Blue Springs, MO (816) 220-2223
- **Quilt'n Down Home**  
10 W. Kansas, Liberty, MO (816) 792-0300
- **SusanB's house** in Lee's Summit, north of Longview College. Call 816-761-4137 to arrange a time.

You can also turn in your blankets at any of our monthly blanket making group meetings.

## Blanket Group Meetings

We have groups that meet monthly to sew blankets. Join a group and have fun working with others.

More details are in the Calendar of Events on our website at

<http://kcprojectlinus.home.att.net> or call (816)761-4137.

To add your group to this list, contact SusanB at [susanBinKC@att.net](mailto:susanBinKC@att.net) or (816)761-4137.

When	Where
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.	Lone Jack Christian Church 200 W. Lone Jack/Lee's Summit Rd, Lone Jack, MO  Do not bring sewing supplies. At the meeting, you will receive a pattern and select fabric to stitch at home.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.	Jo-Ann Fabrics 3810 Crackerneck Road, Independence, MO  Bring sewing machine and basic sewing supplies. We have fabric cut, ready to sew. We also have quilts to tie if you don't want to sew.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1 to 3 p.m.	Quilters Stations 824 SW Blue Parkway, Lee's Summit, MO  Bring your sewing machine and basic sewing supplies. Peggy always has great kits to stitch.