



PROJECT LINUS FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 2019 | Volume 1, Issue 2

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Janice grew up in Gaithersburg, MD with three sisters, one of which is her twin. She, her husband and three daughters moved to Frederick County (Adamstown) in 1987 and her fourth daughter came along in 1992. She's a grandmother to 7 grandchildren (2 girls, 5 boys).



She loves to sew & has made countless costumes and dresses for her daughters, church plays and baby shower gifts and has made a Linus blanket for each of her seven grandchildren.

Always caring for others, Janice has been active in her church serving in many different roles such as, church clerk, Youth Leader, Treasurer, Vacation Bible School Director, and in her community as a Girl Scout leader. Alongside her husband, she's even been an assistant coach for a boys' basketball and a girls basketball and softball teams. So it's no surprise that when her twin sister became ill, she donated one of her kidneys. This is the kind of caring and love you can see in her when you first meet her.

Her husband's nickname was "Linus" and sadly in 2012 he passed away. He loved and supported children so what better way to honor him than volunteering for Project Linus. She sought out to find more information and learned that the nearest Chapter was in Carroll County.

For more information visit our website www.projectlinusfrederickmd.org



Community Liaison for Project Linus

She considered applying to coordinate a Frederick County chapter but was working full time & just couldn't dedicate the time needed to fulfill the role. Fast forward five years, when retirement was on the horizon, she looked again at starting a Frederick County Chapter only to discover, in October 2017, it was already launched. "Volunteering to support Project Linus is very rewarding seeing the security and comfort a blanket can be for a child".

Unfortunately, August 2017, her family experienced first-hand the security and comfort a blanket can provide when her oldest grandson was diagnosed (at age 9) with medulloblastoma (brain tumor). He underwent surgery at Children's National Hospital, DC, eight weeks of radiation at St Jude's Children's Research Hospital and 4+ months of radiation at Children's in D.C., countless tests, appointments and hospital stays each holiday. Fortunately in September 2018, they were blessed to hear that his MRI was clear of cancer. Throughout his journey he clung to his PL blanket.

We are blessed to have her on our Project Linus Team as one of our two Community Liaisons.





Blanket Making Days (BMD) 10am – 1pm

September 7 November 9 (2nd Saturday)

October 5 December 14 (2nd Saturday)

October 19 & November 16 - special BMD meeting to make blankets for Snowball Express

UPCOMING EVENTS



We will be at the Middletown Heritage Festival again this year on September 28 from 10am-5pm. We will be selling raffle tickets \$5/ticket for a chance to win this beautiful quilt. (larger pictures available on Facebook) Volunteers needed to work our booth. Please contact our Chapter Coordinator plfredcounty@gmail.com to sign-up



Last year Project Linus participated at a National level, but our Chapter was new and didn't have a chance to sign-up to participate. This year members voted to participate. This organization was chosen because of its tireless work for our military members and their families.

There will be two separate dates for a Blanket Making Day to make these special blankets which are October 19, & November 16, 2019. These two dates will be specifically to make blankets for the Snowball Express. Bring fleece, donate money so we can buy fleece or stop by to help us make as many blankets as possible. Stay tuned to Facebook for the specific times and more details.

What is Snowball Express? A program that, in 2017, became a part of the Gary Sinise foundation that serves children of our fallen military heroes their surviving spouses, and Gold Star Families. An important aspect of this program is its annual four-day experience in December, where they bring families together from all around the nation and gather them to give them a magical experience. It is at this gathering that they give each child a Project Linus blanket to keep. If you'd like to learn more about the Gary Sinise Foundation, visit <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org>

WHO KNEW



We have a new agency that we are servicing. In July our Chapter Coordinator delivered 40 blankets to this agency.

The Monocacy Health Partners CARE Clinic, in conjunction with Frederick Memorial Hospital, helps transition patients home, assists with follow-up care and provides guidance to improve your health and maintain wellness.

Their goal is to ensure you are seen within one week of discharge if your providers are unavailable or if you do not have a provider for any problems after discharge. They can address problems quickly and work with you on self-identified goals to improve your health and maintain wellness. Their services include; helping you understand your treatment plan and your role in self-care, assist and provide chronic disease self-management education, assist you in making follow-up medical appointments, removing financial barriers to accessing healthcare, provide education on matters such as understanding your medications and how to take them and connecting you with community resources. The CARE team members include Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Nurses, Social Workers, Medical Assistants, Dieticians and a Behavioral Health Specialist.



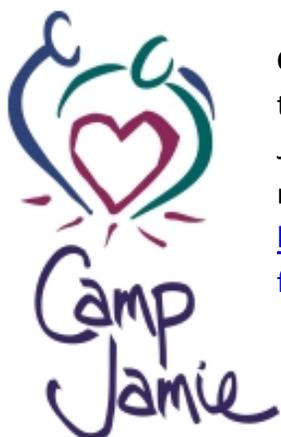
We are partners with Sleep in Heavenly Peace and accept twin size blankets for them.

What is Sleep in Heavenly Peace? It's a national nonprofit that builds bunk beds for children in need and opened a chapter in Frederick County this year. The new group has raised money to buy the tools to build the beds and local organizations, such as businesses or churches, can sponsor and build a bed for only \$350. Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers deliver and set-up the beds to families who have applied to receive one. The pictures are from some of their recent deliveries in Frederick County.

For more information or to apply for a bed visit their website at www.shpbeds.org



UPDATES from previously published newsletters



Camp Jamie – 40 blankets were delivered to Hospice of Frederick County for Camp Jamie by our Chapter Coordinator. For more information on Camp Jamie visit <https://www.hospiceoffrederick.org/Grief-Loss/Camp-Jamie.aspx>



Delivery to Hospice for Camp Jamie



One of our members, Brooke Renner, organized a group and made 50 blankets that were shipped to TAPS on May 5.

THANK YOU BROOKE! For more information visit www.taps.org/national

During the summer we had an abundance of blankets thanks to the generosity of the community and Patches of Mt. Airy, who creates many of our beautiful quilts.

Our Chapter Coordinator learned that Ft. Detrick has a day care on the base for children whose parents are deployed and/or have just come back from active duty. 150 blankets were distributed to the center.



INSPIRATIONS letters from recipients of our blankets & why we do what we do

June 2019

“My daughter and my 3 grandsons are currently in hiding in a battered women’s shelter. She received a blanket from your organization. No idea who or how but I needed someone to know she called me and it absolutely brought her to tears with joy. Our family has suffered 5 great loses of family members in completely different ways from cancer to murder to my 14 yr. old cousin being killed when a log flew off a logging truck going down a highway. And then her husband started to abuse her verbally and physically. I wish I could donate everything I have but at the moment everything I have are my kids and grandchildren. Please know you will one day see my name a great deal when I am able to get myself and my children together. From one mother to another parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or friend, whoever you all are who participate, YOU DO make a difference. You will always be the blanket blessings to me and my beautiful daughter and grandchildren. My 4 yr. old grandson Nowah called to tell me, meemaw an angel brought me a cuddly blanket so I can sleep warm. Thank you will never be the right words. God bless everyone involved”.

August 2019

Thank you so much for the sweet blanket! My daughter went in to have her tonsils removed and when she received the blanket she was so excited and that took her mind off being afraid. It has become a treasure and even after recovery is done, she still uses it in all her play. Our hearts are changed because of your kindness to our family.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Do you have ideas, comments or events for our Newsletter?

Do you have ideas for Fund Raisers?

Do you have ideas or activities that may be of interest to our members?

Forward them to our Editor at plfredcounty@gmail.com