

Middlesex DA Donates 215 Blankets For Kids Who Experience Opioid-Related Trauma

POSTED ON JUNE 12, 2017 by ROBERT HAYES



LOWELL, MA – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan recently donated 14 bags of blankets, totaling 215 blankets, as part of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office's partnership with Project Linus and Project C.A.R.E. to provide blankets for children who experience trauma.

Through this program Project Linus provides blankets to all children identified through Project C.A.R.E, a partnership involving the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, the Lowell Police Department, Lowell Fire Department, Trinity Ambulance and the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell to provide a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week rapid response trauma-informed intervention for children who witness a parent or loved one suffer an overdose.

Early and appropriate trauma-informed care can help children cope with trauma, build resiliency and help reduce the cyclical effects of substance misuse.

Blankets are also be provided to Middlesex County Chiefs of Police and other first-responders across the County to distribute when children have experienced other types of trauma such as witnessing a violent crime, loss of a parent or sibling or displacement.

Project Linus is a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to creating and delivering new handmade blankets to any child who may be in need of some extra comforting. Blankets can be knitted, crocheted, quilted or hand-tied by volunteers of all ages and abilities and are delivered to children in hospitals throughout the world or to any child in need of consolation.

You can find more information about Project Linus and its Greater Boston Chapter at <http://www.projectlinus.org>.

Project Linus

Greater Boston Area Chapter

www.bostonprojectlinus.com

THE BASICS

Blankets can be knitted, crocheted, quilted or hand-tied by volunteers of all ages and abilities and are delivered to children in hospitals throughout the world or to any child in need of consolation.



TIPS

- Blankets of all styles are welcomed, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans, and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors.
- Blankets must be made from NEW, CLEAN, WASHABLE materials in infant, child or teen friendly colors. Remember, these blankets are meant to be colorful, cheerful, and cuddly.
- Provide your name and address with blanket.
- The ideal blanket size is between 36" x 36" and 40" x 60".
- Blankets should be made from 100% cotton fabric, flannel, polar fleece, or acrylic yarn. Please do not use mohair, angora or other fuzzy material because they shed and can cause breathing problems in some children.
- Please only donate blankets that are free of contaminants. If unusually strong smells due to chemicals used in detergents, fabric softeners and dryer sheets, mold and mildew or smoking products are apparent, hospitals will discard the blanket rather than jeopardize the health of a patient.
- Always check blankets carefully for pins, and remove any embellishments such as buttons that could fall off and be swallowed.
- For quilting or hand-tied blankets, please be sure to attach all layer at close intervals so that the layers do not separate. Secure the batting into outer seams and if the blanket is tied, please anchor it every 4-6 inches. We don't want it to fall apart the first time it's washed.
- Weave in all yarn ends on crocheted and knitted blankets.
- **Do not knot the fringe on two-layered fleece blankets very tightly, this will cause the blanket to "bowl up" and we will just have to cut the fringe off and start again (making a smaller blanket). If you wish to knot the fringe, knot each piece loosely to itself (not to the next piece of fringe) or knot every other piece. This allows the blanket to lie flat.**
- There are knotting instructions for fleece blankets that are accepted for Project Linus @ <https://vimeo.com/9434757>