

FMS students benefit others with blankets

Seventh-grade teacher gets grant, then teaches students & other teachers how to make blankets for children in need

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COVENTRY — With the help of teachers, the seventh-grade class at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry made blankets to benefit Project Linus, a local organization that provides cozy, hand-made blankets to children.

Seventh-grade teacher Maria Boulmetis applied for a grant through Target that could be used for either a field trip or a project.

“The blankets, made of a double

fleece, are really easy to make,” she said. “I taught the other teachers and they taught the kids.”

The first mission of the making the blankets is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”

The second reason for making them is to provide a rewarding and fun

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Submitted photo

Seventh-graders at Feinstein Middle School work together to create a fleece blanket for Project Linus.



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Seventh-graders strike a pose with some of the blankets they made as part of the project.

Blankets made by students at FMS go to those in need

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service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

With chapters in all 50 states, Project Linus continues to grow.

Blankets are collected locally and distributed to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.

The Rhode Island chapter has regular drop off sites at Woman & Infants Hospital and local shelters.

Boulmetis applied for the grant in December, learned that she received it in January then met with people from Jo-Ann Fabrics to choose the materials for the 34 polar fleece tie blankets. It took a week to make the blankets.

"It was really sweet, they were so excited to do something to help others," she said. "They wanted to reach out to the kids they made the blanket for but I had to explain to them that it's anonymous."

Boulmetis said one of the lessons she wants to instill in her students is that helping others is part of being a well-rounded person and little things can make a big difference.

"If I can help one child understand that, then I've done my job," she said. "It's a very significant piece of growing up and learning about being a



Submitted photo

Blankets are created in all 50 states for needy children through Project Linus.

part of the community."

The local drop-off is at *The Reminder*. No call ahead is needed. Someone from the organization will pick them up.