

Fur n'Feathers 4-H Club Community Service Project Project Linus

In January 2016, members of the Fur n' Feathers 4-H club participated in a community service project by **making fringed fleece blankets for Project Linus**. Project Linus is a non-profit organization that provides 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".

Each family in the club provided all the supplies necessary to make one fleece blanket. Club members worked together to complete a total of **17 fleece blankets**. **Kids helping kids fueled their desire to connect with this community**. The blankets were donated to a local chapter in Syracuse and then were distributed to local hospitals, shelters and agencies.

To Experience Belonging: I pledge my heart to greater loyalty.....members of the club eagerly completed the activity in efforts to connect with the kids receiving the handmade blankets. Club members **enhanced their feelings of empathy and concern for others and witnessed how valuable and important their efforts truly are**. **Supportive adult mentors guided the youth** in making the blankets.

To Experience Generosity: I pledge my hands to larger service.....by participating in this community service activity, **members learned responsible citizenship and teamwork**. Youth were able to **share their gifts of time and talent with their larger community while building a greater awareness and compassion toward others**.

To Experience Mastery: I pledge my head to clearer thinking members of our club actively participate in community service opportunities. While our club participates in non-community service related activities, the most attended meetings are the community service ones. **Making a difference in the community whether it is locally, nationally or globally is a strong motivator for members of our club**. Youth members of the club have ample opportunities to **develop and strengthen their character through relationships with other 4-Hers, adult mentors, self-reflection and leadership**. Our club has a broad range of ages, so **older 4-Hers are always helping younger 4-Hers. That is the power of 4-H!**

For most of the participants making the fringed fleece blankets was a new experience for them. Selecting fabric, measuring, cutting and tying were new skills for many of the members, while experienced members improved skills, developed self-responsibility and improved their self-esteem by being able to teach others. Most members had plans to make more blankets on their own.

To Experience Independence: **I pledge my head to clearer thinking.....**each member of the club set out to make one completed fringed fleece blanket. It was quite a goal to aim for, but the youth accomplished their goals and the **room was filled with smiley and proud 4-hers!** Youth members had fun selecting fleece fabric from the store and **utilized planning and organization skills when cutting and tying the fabric**. One youth member had a difficult time tying the fabric into knots because it kept fraying, but he **persisted** and it turned out great!

Some members finished their blankets before others and happily pitched in to help everyone accomplish their goal. As a club leader, I consistently see this **progression of leadership opportunities**, and it makes me so proud of them. I have always emphasized that as a club we are a 4-H family giving help and encouragement when needed.

19 members of Fur n'Feathers 4-H club participated in Project Linus. Kudos to: Elizabeth Jesch, Peter Jesch, Siera Haley, Hana Haley, Caleb George-Hinnant, Laura Clark, Carson Clark, Henry Moran, Alison Moran, Lauren Tang, Clairia Cuykendall, Tice Cuykendall, Rose Chandler, Hugh Chandler, Lily Reeves, Skyla Lee, Janie LaPage, Cody LaPage, and Mackenzie LaPage. Nine adult volunteer leaders assisted with the project.

At the conclusion of the meeting, record book pages were passed to the members to complete.



**Fur n'Feathers 4-H Club Members
Project Linus**