

## HOMELESSNESS SPEED VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Take fleece fabric and make a tie-blanket for a family in our community. When you're done, bring the blankets to the St. Cloud Hospital Volunteer Program, Anna Marie's Alliance, LSS Crisis Nursery, The Salvation Army or Catholic Charities Emergency Services.

### Supplies, Instructions and Reflection

#### Supplies

- Fleece fabric (bright colors and patterns are encouraged!)
- Scissors
- Ruler

#### Instructions

1. Decide if you're making a small Luv blanket or a large Luv blanket. A small blanket should be 30" long and a large should be 60". You do not need to alter the width of the blanket, keep it the standard size it is on the bolt.
2. Select your fabric and alter the length.
3. Cut a 3" by 3" square out of each corner.
4. Fringe each side of the fleece by cutting 3" by 1" strips that you will later tie.
5. When all four sides have been fringed, begin tying each separate fringe. Make each knot tight but do not make it flush to the edge of the blanket (or else the blanket will bunch up and not lay nicely).

#### Reflection

1. What do you think this blanket might mean to a child or family member in the hospital or transitional housing?
2. How did making this Luv blanket impact your life? How will it impact the child or adult who receives it?

#### Why Luv Blankets?

Sometimes a small gesture goes a long way. By creating a Luv blanket for a community member, you are providing a personal and special gift for someone who will appreciate it. Children (and adults) in the hospital or in transitional housing are often scared and looking for comfort.

**On any given night in Central Minnesota at least 15 families looking for a place to sleep are turned away from local shelters because they are full. Almost half of Minnesota's homeless are children and youth.**

A simple Luv blanket might be just the thing to provide some comfort and warmth for these community members.