

## The Binky Patrol Story

Susan Finch had been involved raising money through special artist galas for a local battered women's shelter - Human Options of Newport Beach. It seemed easy to help them and fun. When she tried to volunteer, it required a lot of training. Her time was limited due to owning a retail business and she was unable to help the shelter. Her mom had an idea one day to make blankets for unwed mothers. She asked Susan to help her sew them. Susan had connections with local picture framers through her art gallery and asked for their fabric remnants. She ended up with a pile of blue, black, and off-white fabric. At that moment, a bell went off, she began to sketch a logo, came up with the name Binky Patrol and suddenly an organization was born within a few hours. Finch had the idea for combining a love for quilts, children and helping others. This was much larger than Josephine Roush (Susan's mom) ever imagined.

Binky Patrol officially began in Laguna Beach, CA in May, 1996 with founder, Susan Finch putting a sign up sheet in front of her retail business. From its initial 5 volunteers, Binky Patrol has grown to over 140 chapters and an estimated 20,000 regular volunteers nationwide ranging in age from four to 94. This is due to the help of exposure on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 1996, Family Circle in 1998, the fantastic chapter leaders who give their time and hearts across the country, and a truckload of media coverage from regional television, radio and newspaper ever since.

## Ways to Help

You can give your binkies to a local chapter. See our website: [www.binkypatrol.org](http://www.binkypatrol.org) for the most current list of official chapters. If they are not listed, it is not an official Binky Patrol chapter.

If there isn't a local chapter, you may mail them to the nearest chapter or to Binky Patrol's "Home Group" chapter in California for distribution:

Binky Patrol, Inc.  
c/o Carolyn Berndt  
19065 Ridgeview Rd.  
Villa Park, CA 92861

Or, you can simply take our inspiration and lead -- just make blankets and find a local area shelter or hospital or agency to give them to. You don't have to be a member of Binky Patrol to do this. If you choose this option, we're glad that we inspired you and wish you well as you help to comfort the children and teens in your area.



## WHAT'S A BINKY?

A BINKY IS A HOMEMADE BLANKET THAT CAN BE QUILTED, SEWN, KNITTED, CROCHETED OR TIED. THEY RANGE IN SIZE FROM 3 FEET SQUARE UP TO TWIN BED SIZE.

## Not crafty? That's OK.

### Interested in a display ad on our website?

Binky Patrol offers banner ads for sponsors at the chapter and corporate level.

### Make A Donation

Easiest way yet -- especially if time is short for you is to write a tax deductible check to Binky Patrol Inc. We also accept MasterCard and Visa. Since we are a 501c3 corporation, this is completely tax deductible. Each chapter makes an average of 360 binkies per year. Some chapters make as many as 1,200! That's a lot of children we are helping. Visit our website: [www.binkypatrol.org](http://www.binkypatrol.org) and click on the "make a donation" link.

### Start A Local Chapter

Do you enjoy hosting? Organizing? Making friends? Consider starting a local chapter to serve the needs of your community. A chapter is from 2 - 200+ volunteers. Your chapter will make binkies and deliver them to the children and teens in need nearest you. Some chapters are with family members, friends, churches, brownie troops, schools. Many chapters start from scratch with new friends they meet as a result of asking for help in their local papers. For more information, please contact director, Susan Staebell at [blast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blast@sbcglobal.net)

### Help Deliver Binkies

You may be surprised at how difficult finding the time to do this can be for our blanket crafters and binksters. We have specific volunteers that help their local chapter delivering binkies to shelters, hospitals and foster agencies. This volunteer stays in touch with specific people at these facilities and keeps track of how many binkies go where and when. Contact your local chapter to see if they need your help.

### Get Your Company Involved

Companies like Disney, Commpro, WalMart, Verizon, 3M, Ingram Micro, etc. have programs where they match volunteer hours with dollars for specific charities. Some of these same companies even provide space for company chapters to start. It falls under the philanthropy umbrella. Ask your company, or if you own a company, contact us on how you can get involved helping the children and teens in the area where your company is. More information: [binky@binkypatrol.org](mailto:binky@binkypatrol.org)

### Be A Resource Provider

Binky Patrol has needs to keep moving forward. Some of the needs include: batting, yarn, soft fabric, notions, promotional materials, labels for binkies, postage/shipping, printing. For more information, or if you have other ideas, please e-mail founder, Susan Finch at [binky@binkypatrol.org](mailto:binky@binkypatrol.org) or contact a local chapter to help the binky volunteers in your area.

### Help Kids and Teens Make Binkies

Many schools, scout troops and service organizations are looking for fun projects that also contribute to those in the community. Some schools have held "Bink-A-Thon's" for a day where each student helps to make blankets for children and teens just like them in local area shelters and hospitals.

**Other Ideas?** Please email [sfinch@binkypatrol.org](mailto:sfinch@binkypatrol.org). Thank you for your interest in helping us comfort the children.