



Azie's Blanket Coverage

April 2011 Edition

Covering Metro Phoenix, Arizona

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **6,605** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of March 2010 thru March 2011.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

63,975!

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The Peace by Piece Quilters held their first charity quilting bee in April of 2004. Since then, they have donated 2,757 quilts to AZ Blankets 4 Kids.

Wanda Dix (back row, center) is the leader of this group. In 2011, they meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at Cutting Edge Quiltworks in Chandler. The fun begins at 10 a.m. and goes until 4 p.m.

They supply the fabric, so just bring your sewing machine with a walking or free motion foot, if possible. There's always work to be done, so just bring yourself, even if you don't have a sewing machine.

If you're not sold yet on this great group of gals, this next part will win you over for sure.



They offer a rider education program that can prepare you for many years of safe riding. They are also involved in civic and charitable affairs, projecting a positive motorcycling image to the general public.

We couldn't think more positively of this group. They continue to amaze us with annual monetary donations that help us help our kids. With deepest gratitude, we thank you. Ride safe and watch for motorcycles.

Peace by Piece at Cutting Edge



Sugary snacks are always provided to help keep up the energy level. Yum! For recipes, more information and fun stuff from Wanda, visit their website at www.peacebypiecequilters.org and join them 3rd Thursdays at CEQ. Thanks ladies, for your time and talents!

The Scoop on F Troop

The Arizona F Troop is a local chapter of the Gold Wing Touring Association (GWTA), which is an international not-for-profit organization of touring motorcyclists, predominantly Gold Wings, but not exclusively. The chapter has monthly breakfast or dinner meetings, which are social and informational. Activities with the group can include long and short rides, camping or motel weekends, poker runs, dances, holiday get-togethers, and more.



Weaver's Needle Bee - January 14, 2011

This bee was a record breaker, with an amazing 73 people attending. Wow! Thanks to everyone for coming!

We had a wonderful group of ladies working away at all stages of quilt making, from making binding, to hand tying, to sewing binding and adding labels. Four ironing boards were busy for most of the day and it was a good day for spraying too.

Thanks so much to our host group and their husbands for helping us set up for the day. Our hosts also provided an impressive and delicious salad pot luck (right).

The door prize winner, Barbara Manning, from Weaver's Needle, smiles (far right) with the basket maker, Carole Willsey.

Good friends!
Good food!
Good work!



Holiday Village Bee - January 29, 2011

January 29, 2011, was a lovely day for a bee. The ladies at Holiday Village (all 3 of them), and their helpful husbands, started bright and early setting up tables and arranging for lunch. Although this sewing group may be small in size, they have a bright and cheerful room that our volunteers appreciate.

Thanks to a special group of young volunteers from the Patriot Youth Corp. You worked hard and made a difference in the lives of some of your peers and small children, who will cherish the blankets you helped make.

A special thanks to Tim Most, who joined us to do machine-quilting for the day. You were an excellent example to our young men volunteers.

We had a delicious buffet of snacks in the morning, and lunch was tasty, fresh-made pizza from 5 Star Pizza Parties. Yum!

Thanks to those who did machine sewing, hand tying and labeling, ironing, cutting, spraying, layering. Everyone working together made the day great!



Las Palmas Grand Bee June 19th, 2010



Above: Wendy Esquibel and her kids visited to tell us about blanket recipient agency, Jose's Closet.

Right: Door prize winner Barb Ohler with another beautiful Carole

Good friends gathered in the bright, air conditioned space on a sunny June Saturday. Although we missed our winter visitors, we had a very productive day with 43 volunteers in attendance.

We had a delicious assortment of goodies in the morning along with tea and coffee to keep us hopping. Lunch was a make-your-own salad, followed by a birthday celebration for Jan, with cake and ice cream.

At this bee we announced the winner of the raffle quilt that was generously donated by Three Dudes quilt shop.



You can see part of it behind Wendy and her kids in the photo to the left. The lucky winner of this quilt was Trudy Schneckloth of Las Palmas Grand. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

Toward the end of our lunch, Wendy Esquibel shared a heart-warming story of their bright, young 10 year old foster child who lost a battle with leukemia. He was the inspiration for the service ministry of Jose's Closet. This organization exists to store children's clothes and equipment that are donated by various sources.

Often a child is placed in a foster home with only the clothes on their backs. Hose's Closet offers foster and adoptive parents a place where they can obtain clothes and other items for their children. It also offers a place where foster and adoptive parents can exchange clothes, cribs, strollers, toys or other equipment. They operate as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your donations of either cash or gifts in kind are tax deductible.

AZ Blankets 4 Kids is proud to count Jose's Closet among their recipient agencies. Their mission fits perfectly with our goal to provide comforting blankets and quilts to needy, seriously ill and traumatized children in our community. Thanks to Wendy for sharing her story.

Fall Bee at Chandler Christian Church - October 2nd, 2011



Chandler Christian Church was a new venue for our Fall Bee. We had lots of room to spread out and get work done. Salad, pizza and soda for lunch was yummy, if we didn't fill up on all the goodies brought in that morning.

We had a winner's swap at this bee. Carole Willsey (far left) won a tree skirt that was made by Anne Fetz (below with Nina Williams). And, as many of you know, Carole Willsey is the creative maker of our door prize baskets.



Letty Fowell (left) measures binding by the nose-to-outstretched-arm method.

A pretty smile from Jenny Clemenshaw (above) as she binds a quilt.



La Hacienda RV Resort Bee - February 26, 2011

A cloudy morning did not dampen the enthusiasm of our friends in Apache Junction. The ladies of La Hacienda and their husbands did a fine job of setting up the tables and providing yummy Oat Bran muffins for a morning snack.

Lunch was a wonderful salad pot luck with so many choices. The buzz of sewing machines, the hum of voices in the air, the sounds of volunteers working on quilts for our kids - what a great way to spend a cool Saturday.

Most of the volunteers brought sewing machines, but others chose to help with hand tying, sewing labels, ironing, cutting and preparing binding.



Congratulations to Glenna Wells (left), of La Hacienda, for winning the door prize basket of goodies put together by our own Carole Willsey.



Palmas del Sol Bee - March 26, 2011

We had some beautiful AZ weather for this first bee at Palmas del Sol, in Mesa. A group of nearly 40 spent the day with sewing machines buzzing, rotary cutters slicing and voices chatting.

For lunch, we had delicious Sloppy Joes with chips, pickles and cute little Peeps on a nest of tiny eggs for dessert.



Our door prize basket, prepared by Carole Willsey, was won by Karen Johnson (upper right), visiting from Fountain of the Sun.

A lucky raffle quilt winner (right), poses with her cat quilt made by Barb Charlton of Las Palmas Grand.



SunBird Sunny Quilters

This group of creative and productive ladies poses with their 77 beautifully finished quilts in Chandler. The blankets were delivered to the Fall Bee, held at Chandler Christian Church on October 2nd, 2010.

Materials were donated at a previous bee and by neighbors of SunBird, who generously give cotton fabric for their projects.

In addition to the 77 finished quilts, the ladies also donated 25 quilt tops and 56 preemie hats for our kids.

Pictured left (from left to right): Pat Steel, Eileen Ruetenik, Gini Moore, Lois Howard, Geri DeJohn, Ruth Carlson and Eileen Chick.

Thanks so much, ladies for your time and talents!



Las Palmas Grand Appreciation Day

1,985 blankets!

Once again, the ladies at LPG finished the year in grand fashion. Their annual totals were (drum roll, please)... 1,985 quilts and afghans, 886 hats and 207 pairs of booties.

On Thursday, December 9, 2010, the group gathered for their last sewing day of the year and to celebrate their success. After a few hours of sewing, the ladies enjoyed a lunch of build-your-own chef salad and ice cream sundaes for dessert.

Their leader, Joan Most, and her husband, Tim, do an amazing job every year. They've perfected the process of blanket-making for groups. Whenever a new group wants to know how to make blankets for us, we send them to Joan.



Raffle quilts are an excellent way to pay for blanket-making supplies. LPGs raffle quilts are exceptional and these lucky winners know it!

Emmanuel Pines Camp - August 13th-15th, 2010



Marilyn (far left) gives us a big smile while showing her Halloween Take Five quilt.

Pat and Susan (left) finish their aprons after lessons from camp organizer, Elliot, who's looking sharp (below).

Jenna (below) is busy piecing on her Singer.

The timing of this camp couldn't be any better. It's the middle of August and you've had just about as much Arizona summer as you can handle. What better way to get through those final dog days than a trip North to the fragrant, majestic, beautiful, and COOLER pine forest just outside of Prescott? Emmanuel Pines Camp is filled with cozy cabins and a dining hall that serves up delicious meals three times daily.

In 2010, we were split between two smaller cabins. For the upcoming camp, we plan on being back together in a large cabin, so please think about joining us. Contact Kittie Ellis, with Cutting Edge Quiltworks, to reserve your spot today. Cutting Edge is also a blanket drop-off location for AZ Blankets 4 Kids, so stop by with your donation and do a little shopping while you're there too. Their location and phone number is listed on the back page of this newsletter.

This camp is all about relaxing and being with friends. There are no structured classes, but we welcome demonstrations from anyone attending. You can work on blankets for AZB4K or you can bring some of those UFOs (unfinished objects) from your closet that would like to see the light of day again. You can sew, sit, sing or simply read a book on the patio while sipping a cup of coffee and snacking on sweets.

There will also be games. Games you wouldn't think you'd be that crazy about until that first roll of the dice in Left Right Center. Suddenly you spot a few fat quarters of fabric from a neighbor that you simply must have! The next thing you know, you're hooked and ready to roll!



Loretta White (below) wins AZB4K basket made by Carole Willsey.



Karen's Komments



We've had another very successful year. A BIG "Thank You" to all our volunteers. We couldn't help all the children we do without your loving support.

We know how hard you work on the blankets you donate to our kids and we want to help you make the highest quality blankets possible. These blankets are overly loved, dragged through the mud, wrapped tight around them for comfort or flying behind them as a super hero cape. They need to stand up to all this and many washings and tumbles through the dryer as well. That's a lot to demand from one small blanket,

but no different than what you would want to give your children or grandchildren.

Please don't let the downturn in the economy cause you to cut corners on blanket fabrication. We know fabric and batting can get expensive. If this is the case, consider making scrappy quilt tops or use those 40% off coupons at Jo-Ann's to get the best deal on your batting purchases. We would rather get fewer blankets of high quality for our kids, than many blankets we cannot pass on to the children. Please re-read the standards we published in our flyer and in a letter sent last Fall.

Below are a few highlights of some of our blanket-making standards. You can also find more information online at our website (www.azblankets4kids.org). You will find much of this information by clicking the Patterns button on the left of the page.

Fabric blankets should be made of three layers: a pieced cotton (or flannel) top, batting in the middle and a backing of either cotton or flannel. They are machine or hand quilted, or tied using pearl cotton. If tied, quilts should be secured every four inches (or about the width of a woman's fist). Please keep in mind that these blankets are well used and need to be durable and washable. Color choice is also important. Consider the age group of each blanket being made. New fabric, in infant, toddler, child or teen appropriate colors and patterns are the best choices.

Crochet or knit blankets should be made of washable acrylic yarns. Blankets should be closely knit to prevent tiny fingers poking through or becoming intertwined. These blankets should be at least 40" x 40" in size.

Fleece blankets should have a border or be tied according to pattern directions. If the edges are knotted, please adjust the tension and position of the knots so the blanket lies flat when completed. Colors and patterns should be age appropriate and the size should be at least 40" x 40".

Finally, we do not accept used blankets; nor do we accept manufactured blankets of any kind. Please direct these types of blankets to agencies who need them. Those agencies often need bed covers they can wash and put back on a bed in their facility. Our blankets are smaller, comfort blankets that become the property of each child who receives one.

Thank you again for all you do.



June 19, 2010
Las Palmas Grand Mesa

43 - Attendees
240 - Total blankets from this event

October 2, 2010
Chandler Christian Church

42 - Attendees
183 - Total blankets from this event

January 14, 2011
Weaver's Needle Apache Junction

73 - Attendees
141 - Total blankets from this event

January 29, 2011
Holiday Village Mesa

66 - Attendees
116 - Total blankets from this event

February 26, 2011
La Hacienda RV Resort Apache Junction

49 - Attendees
115 - Total blankets from this event

March 26, 2011
Palmas del Sol Mesa

38 - Attendees
84 - Total blankets from this event

Blanket Drop-off Locations:

35th Ave. Sew & Vac

4939 W. Ray Rd., #27
Chandler (480) 961-7363

3 Dudes Quilting

5053 E. Elliot Rd.
Phoenix (480) 598-8601

A Quilter's Oasis

9963 E. Baseline Rd., #105
Mesa (480) 354-4077

Bernina SW Sewing Center

7143 E. Southern Ave., #135
Mesa (480) 964-8914

Cutting Edge Quiltworks

1949 W. Ray Rd., #33
Chandler (480) 857-3443

Mulqueen Sew and Vac

3716 E. Main St.
Mesa (480) 545-0778

Mulqueen Sew and Vac

7838 N. 59th Ave.
Glendale (623) 934-0084

Quilter's Bee

7549 W. Cactus Rd.
Peoria (623) 334-9359

Quilter's Ranch

1721 E. Warner Rd.
Tempe (480) 838-8350

QuiltZ

13825 N. 32nd St.
Phoenix (602) 482-4141

Sun Valley Quilts

9857 W. Bell Rd.
Sun City (623) 972-2091

Zoe's Trunk

2986 N. Alma School Rd., #4
Chandler (480) 857-4833

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 18, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Las Palmas Grand
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa

Ongoing Events

3rd Thursday each Month

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Las Palmas Grand
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa

3rd Thursday each Month

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Peace by Piece at Cutting Edge
1949 W. Ray Rd., Chandler

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AZ Blankets 4 Kids

Help us thank these shops for their support by giving them your patronage. Let's go shopping!

AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc.

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