



AZ Blankets
4 Kids

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Autumn 2003 Edition

Phoenix, AZ

Blanket Delivery

Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **3,608** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October through August.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

12,402!

Summer Blanket Bee at Palmas del Sol

A great big thank you to the quilters at Palmas del Sol East. When we arrived at their Blanket Bee on June 14, we were welcomed by Liz Gosset and were treated to a tour of their wonderful clubhouse facility. The room reserved for the bee was bright and spacious with large tables to work on and there were refreshments waiting for us. We enjoyed the company of about twenty volunteers and dove right in to making quilts. We even had a resident photographer to capture our quilters in action. The morn-

ing seemed to fly by with pauses only to ooh and aah at the quilts and blankets brought in that day as donations. We ended the day with many blankets ready to be distributed and many ready to be tied. Our thanks to the Palmas del Sol East Quilt Club for the warm welcome and the use of their clubhouse facility. **Mark your calendars** for the next Palmas del Sol East Blanket Bee on January 17, 2004.

Meet Our Volunteers

Liz Gossett and Jeannine Denton are two friends and volunteers for AZ Blankets 4 Kids that we would like to thank in this newsletter for their dedicated service. Both live in Apache Junction at Palmas del Sol East. Both belong to the quilting group there and have been instrumental in urging others to volunteer for us.

Liz is originally from Kentucky and has been in the valley for thirteen years. She loves to travel, play darts, and never misses water aerobics. She hand quilts all of her best blankets; this is a dying art and anyone who receives one of these quilts has a real treasure.

Jeannine Denton was born in Colorado. She moved to Apache Junction nine years ago after living for

many years in California. She has spent her career in accounting and still works tax seasons for H&R Block. She loves water aerobics, sewing and crafts of all kinds. She also makes and collects miniatures for doll houses. Jeannine said the closest she got to quilting in her youth was sitting under the loom, waxing thread for her grandmother.

Both ladies had a desire to learn quilting and took a class together about five years ago. They became interested in AZ Blankets 4 Kids after reading a newspaper article, and the rest is a history of beautiful quilts. Our thanks to these special ladies. Their quilts are lovely to see and a joy and comfort to the lucky children who receive them.

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4. Valley drop off points, Upcoming events

Contact us:

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www.azblankets4kids.com

Blanket Guidelines

We have developed the following blanket guidelines based on feedback from our recipient agencies.

Materials

100% cotton fabrics in child friendly patterns and colors. For knitted or crocheted blankets, please use washable, acrylic yarns. We have had an increasing number of requests for flannel receiving blankets and fleece blankets.

Construction

All blankets should be machine quilted or tied every four to six inches with a square knot (except Preemies). These blankets are well-used and need to be durable and washable. If tied, agencies request that we use pearl cotton or embroidery thread as opposed to yarn. Visit our website at www.azblankets4kids.com for pattern ideas or use your own.

If you are using a kit provided by AZ Blankets 4 Kids, *please follow the directions* provided to ensure consistent finished sizes.

S.O.S. Calling All Volunteers

We need blankets! As our organization grows, the number of agencies contacting us with requests for blankets is growing as well. We are facing challenges in meeting the blanket needs of our existing agencies. While we do not wish to refuse new organizations that meet our criteria, we can only begin deliveries to them as our blanket supply permits. We are making every effort to increase our supply of blankets—please help!

How you can help:

Autumn Blanket Bee at Chandler Police Department

Join us for our third annual Autumn Blanket Bee on October 18, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Chandler Police Department Community Room, 250 East Chicago, Chandler. Betty Riffil of Child Protective Services, Mesa, will be our guest that day and will share information about the agency.

Even if you do not sew, there is a job for everyone!

Knitted or crocheted blankets should be closely knit to protect tiny fingers and toes (not suitable for preemies).

Sizes

Preemies 16" x 16" to 18" x 18" Blankets must have flannel backing, no batting and minimal quilting. Either stitch from corner to corner in an X or stitch 2" from edges on all four sides. Do not tie. Infant-themed colors and prints are preferred.

Infant 36" x 36" or larger

Toddler 36" x 44" (one yard of fabric)

Child 36" x 44" or larger

Teens 40" x 60" or larger

We often receive requests for more blankets suitable for boys or in gender neutral colors and patterns, especially in the Teen size. Thank you for keeping our teenaged recipients in mind.

Attend an AZ Blankets 4 Kids bee—and as always, bring a friend!

Host a bee—to meet a specific request or to supply blankets wherever they're needed.

Adopt an agency—your group could address the blanket needs of one of our new agencies.

Spread the word—help recruit AZ Blankets 4 Kids volunteers among your acquaintances.

Invite an AZ Blankets 4 Kids representative to meet with your group.

Layering, closing, attaching labels, tying—your help is needed! If you do sew, bring your machine and basic sewing kit. We'll supply kits, batting, etc. Bring your talents, bring a bag lunch (water, coffee, tea and snacks will be provided) and bring a friend!

AZIE thanks our local shops!

Next time you are out shopping for blanket making and quilting supplies, please thank these shops for providing drop off points for AZ Blankets 4 Kids. We appreciate their support!

Bernina Southwest

7143 E. Southern Ave.
Mesa

Cutting Edge Quiltworks

1949 W. Ray Road #38
Chandler

Quilter's Delight

8230 E. Raintree Dr. #106
Scottsdale

Quilter's Ranch

1030 E. Baseline Rd.
#178, Tempe

Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts

12228 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Phoenix

Quiltery

10757 NW Grand Ave.
Sun City

Sun Valley Quilts

9857 W. Bell Road
Sun City

Zoe's Trunk

2986 N. Alma School Rd
Mesa

Quilter's Companion

Longarm
Goodyear (623)536-5882

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 18

Autumn Blanket Bee
Chandler Police Department
250 E. Chicago, Chandler
9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Saturday, January 17

Palmas del Sol East Blanket Bee
Apache Junction, 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
From Hwy 60, exit at Ironwood Dr.
turn right. Enter at Palmas del
Sol guard house.

First Wednesday of the month

Sunrise Village Clubhouse
5402 E. McKellips (NE corner at
Higley) 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Second Thursday each month

Las Palmas Grand
2250 S. Ellsworth Rd. (1 mi. south
of Baseline) 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED