



Azie's Blanket Coverage

February 2009 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 **2,726** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of September 2008 thru December 2008.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

47,831!

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Contact us:

(480) 283-8746
info@azblankets4kids.com
www.azblankets4kids.com

Holiday Village Bee in Mesa

Right: One of several tying tables at Holiday Village.

Below: Lynette Lamb (left) of Chandler, wins the door prize that is beautifully assembled by our own Carole Willsey (right). Lynette's mom, Linda Warnick, is a Holiday resident.



Our most recent bee was held on January 31st at Holiday Village in Mesa.

The room was big and bright and full of willing workers. We were even able to take advantage of

the great weather to spray quilt tops to their batting and backs. Thanks to all the ladies who worked in the sunshine that day!

We had an excellent crowd of 54 volunteers. Many

were looking for hand work to do or were attending a bee for their first time.

We had 3 to 4 tying tables filled throughout most of the day (photos above and below). Some of these ladies went from novices in the morning to experts in the afternoon and finished lots of blankets for our kids. At the end of the day, our distribution folks took away 170 blankets.

Our door prize winner, Lynette Lamb (left) was visiting her mom, Linda Warnick (Holiday Village resident). Carole Willsey puts together baskets filled with tools, toys and fabric. Now Lynette has all she needs to become a quilting addict like the rest of us!





Chandler PD Bee

Left: Eloise Babcock demonstrates quick and easy construction of the 2½ by 4½ Quilt.

Below: Jeannine Denton wins the door prize.



Sunland Springs Bee

Right: Joan Livingston has the winning ticket for the wall hanging raffle.

Below Left: Myra Scarlett wins the door prize and displays her basket of goodies.

Below Right: A group of regular volunteers get to sew in the round so they can see each other while they work and chat.



Chandler PD and Sunland Springs Village Busy Bees

Our Chandler Bee was held on October 18, 2008 and had 39 busy volunteers. We had an excellent demonstration by Eloise Babcock who brought us a new pattern created with strip pieces and very few seams to match up. This was so popular that we put the pattern on our website and include it here on the next page. Thanks Eloise!

This bee finished with an impressive 625 total blankets. Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

The Bee at Sunland Springs Village was held on November 15, 2008. The room was big and bright and full of whirring sewing machines.

We had three big winners at this bee. Two items were raffle prizes plus we had our usual big basket for the door prize. See two of our winners to the left.

At the end of the day we had 173 snugly blankets for our kids.



The 2½ by 4½ Quilt

This block is a quick and easy block to make when you strip piece it and then cut it apart. You could also use this block to use up those scraps that are too great to throw away but too small for most blocks. (Of course, this takes a lot more time to cut and piece.) Each block finishes at six inches. You will need 70 blocks (7 x 10) to make a quilt that is 42" x 60" without a border.

Let's begin with the strip piecing method:

Cut the width of the fabric into strips that are 4½" wide and 2½" wide from many different fabrics.

Sew the two different sized strips of different fabrics together. Press seams away from the larger piece. Now cut this strip into pieces that are 4½" wide and 2½" wide. Continue cutting until the strip has been completely cut up. Although eventually you will need the same number of each size, some strips may cut up with more of the smaller size. Then with the next strip you can cut more of the larger size.

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|
| 4½ | 2½ | 4½ | 2½ | 4½ | 2½ | 4½ | 2½ | 4½ | 2½ | 4½ | 2½ | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Salvage

Width of fabric = approximately 42"—44" wide
Sew together and cut into 4½" widths and 2½" widths x width of fabric

When you have a good stack of various prints in the two sizes, arrange them into blocks. All four fabrics in the block should be different. Put the smaller piece on the right of the larger piece making sure that the two seams do not match. Sew the segment together into 6½" square blocks and press away from the larger piece. Repeat. Although the blocks will be of different fabrics, they will be identical in layout.



Over 2 Grand from Las Palmas Grand

On Thursday, November 20th, 2008, Joan Most was adding up the total blanket tally after their final sewing day. If she hadn't used a calculator, she would've needed more than 108 people to volunteer their fingers and toes for counting!

The dedicated ladies of Las Palmas Grand donated a total of 2,178 blankets to our kids this past year. I'll type it again so you know it's not a mistake... **2,178!**

If every quilt they turned in needed binding (at 6 yards per quilt), they ironed 12,642 yards or 37,926 feet or 7.1 miles of bindings.

Those are some impressive numbers, but there's more. In addition to the 2,107 quilts and 71 afghans made by this group, 837 hats and 164 pairs of booties were knitted and crocheted.

These ladies have the biggest hearts and busiest hands at work for our AZ kids.

If you live near US60 and Ellsworth, join them in their bright Ballroom on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except December, which will be the 2nd Thursday. Joan and the group will welcome you and show you how you can help.



Above: Mildred Morgan quilts a pretty blue and red patchwork pattern.



Left: Karen Johnston presents Joan Most with a Certificate of Appreciation from AZ Blankets 4 Kids.



Left: Beverly Dunn organizes a stack of squares for stitching.

Right: An extra fuzzy fleece bear quilt with added hearts, bow ties, and mittens.



Below: Karen Johnston presents Joan Most with a new quilt to raffle.





Above: Las Palmas Grand blanket-making beauties gathered for a sewing day and celebration luncheon in December, 2008.

Left: Barb Charlton holds a stunning "Santa in all seasons" quilt that was raffled at LPG to generate funds to make more blankets.



New Drop-Off Location with 3 Dudes

A new quilt shop opened for business in the space we once knew as Quilter's Koop. It's in Ahwatukee on Elliot, just West of I10.

The name of the shop is 3 Dudes Quilting. Two years ago, two of the 3 Dudes took a quilting class. Now, with the help of dude three, it has become a business.

The shop is bright and inviting and filled with beautiful fabrics, patterns and quilting tools.

Jeff Carr, Frank Costa and Ray Steeves are the dudes who've put this charming shop together.

Their shop has a relaxed atmosphere where you can go to chat with other quilter's in the community. They have snacks and drinks available so you'll want to spend time there just hanging out. See the back page for their address under drop-off locations.

Reminder of Preemie Blanket Tips & Guidelines

First, we want to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers who make blankets for our tiniest, most tender recipients. Of the record breaking 10,000 blankets donated in 2008, a generous 2,000 of them were preemie blankets.

Because of the fragile bodies these blankets cover, we have special guidelines for construction.

Here are a few highlights from our complete tips and guidelines available on our website under "Patterns":

- Always wash your flannel before cutting and sewing. It will shrink.
- Do not quilt within the center 12 inches of the blanket. Stitch in the ditch along the border and 1/2" from the edge.
- Always put the label on the FRONT of the blanket. This is for preemies only. All other size blankets should have labels sewn on the back upper or lower right corner.
- Close the opening by carefully hand stitching so no thread loops can get caught on tiny fingers and toes.



Golden Vista's Annual Sew-a-Smile

The Golden Vista Sewing Room had their annual "Sew-a-Smile" sew-a-thon over a period of two days, January 16 and 17.

The group's coordinator is Thelma Stonebraker. Golden Vista is located on Baseline Road in Apache Junction.

Each March, blocks are cut and kits are assembled. Volunteers take the kits home and sew the tops throughout the year.

Thelma then matches the finished tops with backs. During the two day sew-a-thon, approximately 25 women work to finish the blankets.

This year, on day one, they had 23 workers and on day two, they had 19 workers.



The Sew-a-Smile group has been meeting for at least the last 15 years and has made blankets for AZ Blankets for Kids for at least five of those years.

This year, the group completed 82 various sized blankets and 25 preemies.

Most of the residents are winter visitors and we are so fortunate they spend their escape from the cold making warm and comforting blankets for our kids.

Thank you ladies for the miles of smiles you have sewn into our kids' lives.

F Troop Motorcycle Group Keeps Giving More Than Ever Before

Our good friends with the Gold Wing Touring Association, F Troop Chapter, have amazed us once again.

The colorful quilt you see below was made especially for them by an anonymous and incredibly talented volunteer. Whether you're a fan of motorcycles, Elvis Presley, or pigs, you'll get a kick out of the focal fabric which features all three.

This quilt was given to F Troop to use as a raffle item at one of their motorcycle events. They would then give all proceeds to benefit our kids. Not only did they raise funds with the raffle quilt, but they also donated several other monetary gifts as well.

This group of motorcyclists has always been extremely generous to us in the past. Even with the economic downturn, these folks opened their hearts and wallets to our cause.

We received four gifts from this group in 2008. One from the raffle and individual donations; two gifts from Honor Guard duty by F Troop members; and a third matching gift from a member's employer.

See Karen Johnston (left), receiving a check from Gary (former President) and Jerome (current President).

We can't thank this group enough for their generosity. They invite us to their annual December business meeting and we thoroughly enjoy their company.



Watch for our report on F Troop this time next year. Rumor has it that Karen and her husband, Patrick, may join the F Troop with their new BMW motorcycle.

That's another thing we love about them... they'll let anybody join! ☺



Karen's Komments

Wow! What a fantastic 2008 AZ Blankets 4 Kids had. We had a record breaking year with 9,919 blankets delivered. None of this would have been possible without each and every one of you generous volunteers. We are so appreciative of all the work each of you does.

Now we're looking forward to another great year.

The work of AZ Blankets 4 Kids does not get done without the dedication and hard work of our Board of Directors which consists of fifteen members. In November the Board of Directors elected new officers. I am pleased to be your new President. Judy Babcock is Vice President; Barbara Middleton is our new Treasurer and Carole Willsey, our past president, will serve as Secretary. Phyllis Akins serves as Preemie Coordinator; Nancy Blackburn as Kit Coordinator. Lynn Grant keeps track of all of our volunteers and sends out reminder e-mails and labels for newsletter mailings; Kelli Nemec maintains our wonderful website and also writes and produces the newsletter. Gloria Wood is our Bee Coordinator and Nina Williams is our Historian. It takes a few gals to distribute 9,919 blankets and our distribution committee does it all. That committee consists of Sylvia Saffell, Mary Duennes, Barbara Eckles, Bunnie Williams and Sally Borg.

This group of ladies is amazing and really keeps the wheels in motion.

We are pleased to be able to add four new agencies to our delivery schedule: AZ Teen Challenge Kids, Children's Advocacy Center, Airevac and Southwest Behavioral Health. We do screen all new agencies to ensure that they meet our criteria and help us fulfill or

agencies to ensure that they meet our criteria and help us fulfill or mission which is to provide comfort blankets to seriously ill and traumatized children in the Phoenix area.

Take a look at our 2009 Bee Schedule. We have six bees planned this year. We'd love to have you come for all or part of those days. We supply the blanket materials and you supply the love and labor to complete them.

Knit and Crochet Request

Thanks so much to all of our volunteers who knit and crochet. We've been getting such soft and beautiful blankets from you.

For those volunteers who are looking at patterns and getting ready to start a project for one of our kids, we have a request. Please choose patterns and stitches that create a more dense weave.

Our blankets are loved good and hard by our kids. In times of stress, those little fingers and toes are going to grab and stretch and pull that blanket around them with all their might. If we can reduce the stitches that have large, lacy openings, we

think the blankets will have a better chance of surviving the tough love from our recipients.



October 18, 2008
Chandler Police Department
Chandler

39 - Attendees

625 - Total blankets from this event

November 15, 2008
Sunland Springs Village
Mesa

42 - Attendees

173 - 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

7415 E. Southern Ave., #108
Mesa (480) 964-8914

Cutting Edge Quiltworks

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

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, February 21 from 9 to 3**

La Hacienda RV Resort
1797 W. 28th Ave., Apache Junction

Saturday, April 4 from 9 to 3

Sunland Springs Village
2240 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa

Saturday, June 20 from 9 to 3

Las Palmas Grand
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd, Mesa

3rd Thursday each Month from 9 to 3

Las Palmas Grand - Ballroom
2550 S. Ellsworth Road, Mesa

4th Thursday each Month from 10 to 4

Peace by Piece
Cutting Edge Quiltworks
1949 W. Ray Road, Chandler

1st Friday each Month from 10 to 4

Peace by Piece
35th Ave. Sew & Vac

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

AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc.

P. O. Box 11206

Tempe, AZ 85284-0021