



January 2007 Edition

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Covering Metro Phoenix, Arizona

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **2,052** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of September 2006 through December 2006.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

31,997!

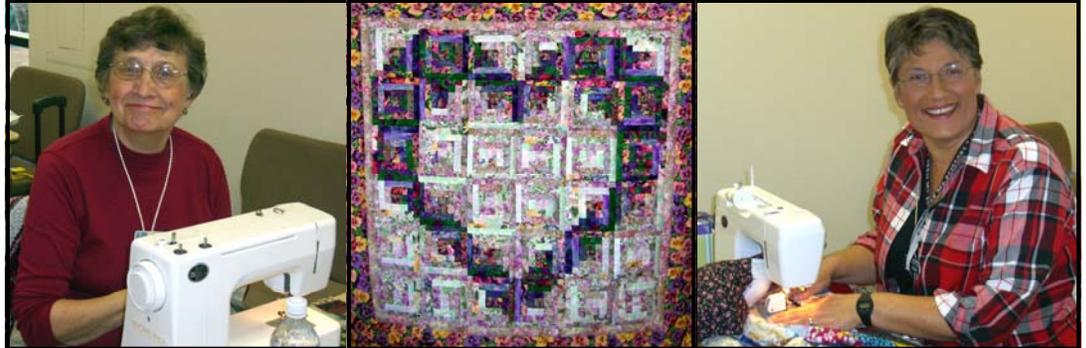
In this issue:

1. *Sunland Springs Village Delivers Fun*
2. *Distribution Delivered Over 6,000 Blankets*
Record Delivery from Las Palmas Grand
3. *F Troop Donation*
Patchwork Batting
Peace by Piece Hosts Two Monthly Bees
4. *Blanket Delivery from Cholla Quilters*
Scouts Deliver Smiles
5. *Caring Kids Club*
Bee Report
6. *Drop-off Locations*
Upcoming Events

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deliver - (dĭ-lĭv'ər) *v. tr.* 1. to bring or transport to the proper place or recipient; distribute 2. to give forth or produce *v. intr.* 1. to produce or achieve what is desired or expected; make good 2. to give birth.



Sunland Springs Village *Delivers* Fun

Our first bee in the new year was a busy one! On January 6, 2007, we were at Sunland Springs Village in Mesa. We had a whopping 78 people in attendance spanning three work rooms and a break room.

Two rooms were set up for sewing machines while the other was for layering and hand work. Our welcome table was set up in the Superstition Room which accommodated around 30 sewers, including the two ladies in the photos above. Louise Payton (left) and her daughter Lynda Schuler (right) joined us for a day of blanket-making and visiting with friends.

The beautiful log cabin heart quilt pictured above came from an incredibly generous donation of fabric and quilt tops. Many thanks to Marsha Seaton for her donation of four HUGE bags of gorgeous quilter's cotton. The heart quilt and a beautiful quilt of kites were little treasures within. Our volunteers finished them and we snapped a quick photo before sending the blanket out into the deserving arms of one of our kids.

To the right you will see two very important ladies. They are our new queen bees... I mean bee queens! Barb Middleton on the left and Judy Babcock on the right are our new Bee Coordinators.

They did an excellent job keeping track of the large turnout of volunteers. Our busy volunteers made 100 blankets during the bee and just over 100 were donated at the door.

Although our newly elected board members are all working hard, we still need your help. We are searching for a Publicity Chairperson. Duties would include distributing newsworthy items concerning AZB4K to media organizations and acting as contact person for events. The time commitment would be approximately four hours per month. Call or send us an e-mail if you're interested or if you would like more information about this volunteer opportunity. We'd love to hear from you.





Distribution *Delivered* Over 6,000 Blankets

The fiscal year for AZB4K runs from the beginning of October through the end of September. Throughout the fiscal year of 2005-2006 our volunteers helped us to distribute over 6,000 blankets to children in need and crisis throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The largest number of blankets delivered went to Phoenix Children's Hospital with 1,426. Next in line was Maricopa County Medical Center receiving 860 blankets. Rounding out the top three is St. Joseph's Hospital - NICU with 783 blankets. Whether an agency receives tens of blankets or hundreds of blankets they all find their way into the arms of deserving children.



Our busiest month was November with a total of 869 blankets distributed, followed by March, April and July, all in the six hundreds. How do those blankets get delivered, you ask? Mary Duennes (right) is one of several delivery volunteers. She is an angel on wheels. She is a familiar face to many of our contacts with recipient agencies. They are always happy to see her arrive with a smile and a car filled with blankets!

Record *Delivery* Again from Las Palmas Grand



Above: Lynda Denny, Super Quilter
Below: Las Palmas Grand Quilters

If you want to hear about a group that consistently delivers amazing numbers of quilts to AZB4K each year, you want to hear about Las Palmas Grand Quilters. Once again they had a record delivery of 1,300 blankets in 2006! This group of less than 50 quilters processed around 4,000 yards of material. They are possessed with quality construction, durable binding, and detail in quilting. They meet in their ballroom the third Thursday of each month. Many volunteers join in these bees and/or work from home as well.

One such volunteer is Lynda Denny. Using a borrowed Bernina, Lynda quilted 924 blankets in 2006. Quilt tops are layered, sprayed and delivered to Lynda for her special finishing touch. When health problems threaten to keep Lynda down, she immerses herself in quilting. She moved to AZ from Washington state five years ago and we are fortunate she found Las Palmas Grand and AZ Blankets 4 Kids. Many thanks to Lynda for her time and talent. We wish you happy sewing and a healthy 2007!

The group photo below was taken on Thursday, December 14th, 2006. These ladies and their fabulous chefs (Tim Most, Dick Snively, Jack Becker and Steve Morgan) know how to celebrate. After a busy morning of sewing, quilters were treated to a delicious meal of salad, grilled steak, baked potato and ice cream sundaes. These ladies should be so proud of their accomplishment. Imagine 1,300 kids in the area getting warmth and comfort from the blankets so lovingly created by their caring hands and open hearts.





Gold Wing F Troop *Delivers* Donation

Once again we have new scoop from the F Troop. This giving group of Gold Wing motorcyclists has delivered generous annual donations to our organization for several years now. This year is exceptional in its generosity.

Although the main focus of this group is motorcycling, they have adopted AZB4K as a worthy cause and one well worth their time and effort. This group is the type to dig deep into their pockets when there is a need. They had previously organized an event to raise funds for our organization.

Gary Stout, F Troop President, invited a few of our board members to one of

their breakfast meetings at Old Town Buffet in the East Valley on Saturday, December 16, 2006. His invitation mentioned a donation, but he saved the amount as a surprise.

In addition to a kind reception and delicious breakfast, we enjoyed participating in a special Christmas gift raffle. Everyone wins at F Troop events, especially AZB4K when we were presented with an outstanding gift of \$950. We offer our sincere gratitude for your extreme kindness and wish you safe riding.

As an extra thank you, please watch for our motorcycle friends on the road, give them space and keep them safe.

Make Materials Deliver More with "Patchwork Batting"

Choose leftover strips of batting that are approximately the same length. Straighten and match up the edges of the strips by laying the edge of one strip about 1" over the edge of another. Place a rotary cutting ruler at the center of the overlap and rotary cut through both layers. Gently remove the top cut off piece and bottom cut off piece, leaving the strips in place. Use a marking tool to make a 1/2" long tick mark across the cut edges about every 6 inches. No pinning is needed, as the tick marks will help you align the edges of the batting strips during sewing. At the sewing machine, with the batting strip edges side-by-side and butted together, match up the tick marks. Sew the strips together using a walking foot and a wide zig-zag stitch, being careful to catch both edges. The batting seams will be undetectable in the finished project.

Vicky Varga

Peace by Piece Quilters *Deliver* Two Monthly Bees

Busy bees abound when the Peace by Piecers are in town! This year promises to keep volunteers busy with not one but two bees to attend each month. Wanda Dix delivers these bees for your quilting enjoyment...

The 4th Thursday each Month from 10 to 4
 Westside Multigenerational Center
 715 W. 5th Street in Tempe

The 1st Friday each Month from 10 to 4
 Sally's Fabric Store
 1235 E. Main Street in Mesa

For more information about this talented and energetic group of quilters, visit their website at www.peacebypiecequilters.org or contact Wanda via e-mail at wdix@getnet.net. They have a lot of fun and welcome new sewers with open arms!



Blanket *Delivery* from Cholla Quilters in Mesa

We are fortunate to have a wide variety of volunteers. Some work individually while many sew with groups. We try to visit our groups whenever possible and share information about AZB4K as well as express our thanks for your hard work and generosity.

One of our most recent group visits was with the Cholla Quilters (right) at the Velda Rose Methodist Church in Mesa. The Cholla Quilters presented three of our board members with a batch of beautiful, bright quilts. Thank you Cholla Quilters!



Wolf, Bear and Webelos *Deliver* Smiles

Below: Johnathan Haman is all smiles while surrounded by blankets and working diligently on his.



Above: Valentine blanket with label.



Left: Eric Stephens, Spencer Jarvis, and Blake Stephens are all tied up in their blanket bee.

I recently had the distinct pleasure of attending a blanket bee unlike any other I've ever attended. This bee was brimming with boys! The pack of scouts was led by Heidi Jarvis at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Tempe on December 13, 2006.

The church lovingly donated supplies of colorful, cozy fleece material. Heidi Jarvis, Sue Bentz and Sharon Anderson prepared the fleece in advance and cut fringed edges around each blanket.

The pack was made up of Wolf, Bear Cub and Webelos Scouts ages 8, 9 and 10 respectively. Their nimble fingers tied the fringed edges of 50 fleece blan-

kets in just a few short hours. Other family and friends joined in the fun as well.

I explained that the blankets would go to agencies including hospitals, homeless shelters, fire and police stations. They were thrilled to be able to help other children and hoped they liked the blankets.

The materials were bright and cheerful and printed with themes including sports, animals and cartoon characters. Labels were added the following weekend so the blankets could make it to their final destination with children before the Christmas holiday.

Caring Kids Club *Delivers* Kindness



Above: Megan King - new volunteer
Left: Caring Kids Club
Below: Betty Riffil (left) with raffle quilt and Carole Willsey

On Saturday, October 14, 2006 we had our Fall Bee at the Chandler Police Department. There were 48 attendees, not including the cute group above who made a special visit. They are the Caring Kids Club (**C**hildren * **A**ware * **R**esponsible * **I**nvolved * **N**eighborly * **G**iving). These caring kids, ages 3-9, set up a lemonade stand and generously donated \$163 in proceeds to AZB4K.

The kids made the choice to donate to AZB4K, while the parents provided guidance and supervision. The kids were involved in the process as much as possible. Their mission is to find ways to help the community, assist charity groups and learn about the culture and traditions of others.

One proud parent, Suzanne Whitaker, has provided us with another way you can help. She is the author of "Creative Kids' Murals You Can Paint". The book is a 127 page paperback with beautiful full-color images throughout. Suzanne, who is also a professional artist, shows you how to paint murals to brighten any kids' room. For each book sold, she will donate \$7 to AZB4K. The book is available at major bookstores across the Valley, including Borders Books, or you can find it online through Amazon.com.

Thanks so much to the Caring Kids Club and their caring parents!



During this busy bee, we also raffled the beautiful quilt seen in the photo above. The winner, Betty Riffil, has worked with Mesa Child Protective Services for 8 years. She has been a featured speaker at past bees and shared inspiring stories about what our blankets mean to the children she serves. During a quick visit to our bee, Betty purchased a raffle ticket for our quilt and we were so excited when her name was drawn as the winner. Thank you, Betty, for all your support, and for placing our blankets in the hands of your kids! And congratulations as our quilt winner!



October 15, 2006
Chandler Police Dept.
Chandler

48 - Attendees
474 - Blankets Donated at the Door
(including 176 preemies!)
50 - Blankets Completed at the Bee

January 6, 2007
Sunland Springs Village
Mesa

78 - Attendees
101 - Blankets Donated at the Door
100 - Blankets Completed at the Bee

Blanket Drop-off Locations:

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

Cottonfields Quilt and Knit

12409 W. Indian School Rd.
Avondale (623) 535-1200

Cutting Edge Quiltworks

1949 W. Ray Rd., #38
Chandler (480) 857-3443

Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts

12228 N. Cave Creek Rd., #120
Phoenix (480) 971-6460

Quilter's Bee

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

Quilter's Koop

5053 E. Elliot Rd.
Phoenix (480) 785-0710

Quilter's Ranch

1030 E. Baseline Rd., #178
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

**Many thanks to these
shops for all their
support!**

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 17 from 9 to 3

AZB4K Spring Bee (new location)
Chandler PD Desert Breeze Sub-Station
251 N. Desert Breeze Blvd., Chandler

Sunday, February 25 at 2 p.m.

White Elephant Auction
Las Palmas Grand - Ballroom
2550 S. Ellsworth Road, Mesa
Preview/Donate/Snack at Noon

Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m.

White Elephant Auction
Sunrise Village - Club House
5402 E. McKellips, Mesa
Preview/Donate/Snack at Noon

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
Westside Multigenerational Ctr.
715 W. 5th Street, Tempe

1st Friday each Month from 10 to 4

Peace by Piece
Sally's Fabric Store
1235 E. Main Street, Mesa

Last Wednesday each Month from 9 to 3

Sunrise Village - Club House
5402 E. McKellips, Mesa

AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED