



Azie's Blanket Coverage

April 2010 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 **4,888** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of September 2009 thru February 2010.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

57,370!

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Spring Bee at Sunland Springs Village

It was a beautiful sunny day when we met with 59 friends at Sunland Springs Village for a bee on Saturday, April 10th. We had a wonderful group of ladies working away at all stages of quilt making, from putting together kits to layering and spraying to sewing on the labels.

As always, thank you to the husbands for helping us set up in the morning. There were coffee and goodies to snack on in the morning and a lunch of sub sandwiches, chips and a drink.

We had a special visit from Brownie Troop 788 of Ahwatukee. Take a look at our May 2008 newsletter to see just how much these young ladies have

grown since their first visit. This year marked their third visit and donation of \$250 raised from Girl Scout cookie sales. We are so proud to have them as our friends and we delight in the example they set as kind and charitable members of our community.

Congratulations to Rita Turchi, from Eveleth, MN who can be seen below receiving her door prize basket of crafting goodies from Karen Johnston, AZB4K President.



Below, from left, are Haley Hummel, Maddie Hatcher, Chloe Gallelo and Taylor Porter presenting their donation to Karen. Also in the troop, but missing from this photo, is Sophia Buge. Thank you ladies for your hard work. Know that your donation will help us continue to wrap kids in crisis in comforting blankets.



Another Grand Year at Las Palmas Grand in Mesa



The ladies at Las Palmas Grand continue to amaze us with their dedication to our kids. They meet twice each month, once for sewing day and once for cutting day.

What a gorgeous group photo this year with 47 ladies! These photos were taken at their appreciation lunch on December 10, 2009. We presented them with a certificate of appreciation for their donation of 1,985 quilts last year.

A delicious lunch of build-you-own chef salads and ice cream sundaes was served by volunteer husbands and friends. Thanks to the chefs!

This group is filled with creative ladies who make bright, cheerful and well-built quilts. These blankets will get a lot of love from their recipients and we know they will last for years.

Sewing days are the 3rd Thursday of the month following their Java Time (typically around 9 a.m.) in the Ballroom. Las Palmas Grand is located just South of US60 at 2550 S. Ellsworth Road in Mesa.

Joan Most keeps this group organized like no other. Please join them if you are looking for a group in the far East Valley.

Thanks so much to all of the sewers at LPG for another phenomenal year! We are always amazed at how much so few can accomplish in a year.

We'd like to offer a special thank you to Barbara Charlton. If you've noticed the too cute



scrapy bear t-shirts that several LPG volunteers are wearing in their group photo, Barb made them. She can be seen (above) with Sylvia Saf-fell, holding a quilt she made for AZB4K, using our Azie Bear logo.

Barb is a master of scrapy appliqué and has donated countless clever creations over the past few years. Rumor has it she's working on a book that explains the process and includes several patterns for scrapy shapes. We look forward to buying the first copies hot off the press!

Correction:

On Page 2 of our September 2009 newsletter, we had a photo of Phyllis Akins with past AZB4K Treasurer, Carol Anderson. Please pardon my brain working slower than my hands and typing Karen instead of Carol. It was so great to see you, Carol! We need you back on the Board. This bumbling reporter, Kelli Nemece, obviously needs your help.



Scrap Happy Stitchers from Palmas del Sol in Mesa

Thank you Scrap Happy Stitchers. Our Sylvia Saffell visited with these ladies from Palmas del Sol in Mesa. On Saturday, February 6th, the ladies had all the blankets they had made for us on display during coffee time for all the residents of their community. They covered the stage and walls with 110 beautiful blankets. There were also two drawings with quilts as prizes for their fundraising efforts. Sylvia had the honor of drawing the lucky winners. Thanks to all who came out to support them in their fundraising efforts and admire their work! Those 110 blankets have given countless warm fuzzies and feelings of comfort to their recipients by now. Thank you for your time and talents. Stay happy and keep stitching!

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”**

-Dr. Seuss



Caring Circle from Skyline RV Park in Queen Creek

The Caring Circle is a spin-off of the Sharing Circle of Queen Valley. Carol Graham started the group when she moved to Queen Creek several years ago. She wanted to continue making blankets in her new community and found a group of about 20 ladies who wanted to do the same. This is the 3rd year of the Caring Circle's kind efforts. We applaud you and thank you for the gorgeous donations.



Buzzing Bee at Chandler PD

What is better than a can packed with sardines and not as stinky? Quilters at the Chandler Quilting Bee on October 17, 2009. There was a record turn out of 55 quilters and hand sewers, usually only 32 volunteers attend.

Even though we were packed in like sardines, we had 202 quilts and 144 preemies ready to be delivered to the hospitals and other agencies at the end of the day.

Thanks to Gloria and the board members, this bee ran like a well oiled machine beginning with the set up and ending with putting the room back in order. A big thank you to the Chandler Police Department for once again letting us use their Community Room.

Besides lunch of pizza, salad, and sodas there were a few great surprises. Linda Thompson and Sherl-Ann Forshier from Air Evac (top left with Karen Johnston) stopped by with a tray of cookies to thank us for the blankets they give to the parents of infants that are being flown to another hospital. They shared stories of parents and siblings holding on to the little blanket as they watch their precious baby loaded on the helicopter. The Air Evac team left with an armload of comforting quilts to continue to provide something for the parents to hold on to.

Debbie Stupar (left middle with Karen) donated \$890 to AZB4K as a thank you for our response to provide four child size quilts to a family who just lost one of their children in a drowning. Debbie was so touched that she made a t-shirt Harley Davidson quilt to raffle with her motorcycle group. We would have loved to see this quilt. She thanked her group for buying the tickets and exceeding her expectation of the amount she was hoping to raise.

There were two raffles offered at this bee and a door prize. The first raffle offered is the 64"x64" quilt that was donated by Three Dudes Quilting. The winner will be drawn at our June Bee so there's still time to get your tickets. You can see a photo and find more information on the cover of our September 2009 newsletter.

The 2nd raffle was for 4 items that were donated by loyal supporters of AZB4K. Jenny Clemenshaw won a wall hanging; Gloria Wood won a cross-stitched Christmas bow; and Marylou Del Vecchio won a Christmas stocking and table runner.

The door prize (another beautiful basket of crafty goodies put together by Carol Willsey) was won by Andrea Christensen (left middle with basket).

We're not sure whether it was the record-breaking crowd or the bags of beautiful blankets that made Mary Duennes faint from joy, but we're glad Sylvia Saffell was nearby to fan her (left). Ok, so there was no actual fainting, but I love this picture! After each bee, our distribution team delivers blankets to our recipient organizations. Many are delivered the same day! Thanks, ladies, for all your hard work in distribution.





Holiday Village

On Saturday, January 30th, we spent a beautiful day with the ladies of Holiday Village. This bee was buzzing with 64 volunteers. We enjoyed a lunch of Sloppy Joes, chips, pickles and sweet treats.

Many of the volunteers brought sewing machines, but we had people assisting in all areas... hand tying, sewing

labels, ironing, cutting and preparing binding. It was also a good day for spraying. We used more than one full roll of batting. Congratulations to our door prize winner, Shirley Archambault, of Holiday Village.

Everyone's hard work netted 109 blankets by end of day. Many more blankets were put into other areas of construction as well to finish at our next event. Thanks to all who spent this lovely and productive day with us!



La Hacienda February Bee

Click, clack went the sewing machines, the hum of the voices in the air, the sounds of volunteers working on quilts for our kids. What a great way to spend a beautiful Saturday.

On February 27th, our gracious hosts at La Hacienda RV Resort put on another excellent bee. During setup in the morning, the smell of Oat Bran Flax muffins wafts in from the kitchen. Yum!

Lunch is a masterpiece of salad pot luck items that are mouthwatering. In between bites, we're all chatting about recipes and asking for our favorites.

Barbara Eckles brought a bounty of donated fabric that was sorted, cut and distributed to volunteers. Donated thread by the super spool were also shared at this bee.

Most volunteers had their sewing machines whirring throughout the day. Others helped with handwork, ironed, or prepared binding.

Our lucky door prize winner was Sherry West of La Hacienda. Congratulations!

Busy volunteers (51 in all) turned in 151 blankets by the end of the day while many more were begun and ready to finish at our next bee.

Thanks so much for joining us!



Sun Valley Quilt Show



On Sunday, March 7th, the Piecemakers Quilt Group displayed a room full of their handiwork at the annual Sun Valley Quilt Show. This small group (photo left) works all year for this show.

At the end of the show, these kind ladies fill our coffers with hundreds of these beautiful quilts. This year they donated 388 blankets and 195 premies, for a total of 583 bundles of joy for our kids.

Mary Duennes, Sylvia Saffell (with mom, Alice) represented AZB4K at the show this year. Sylvia has been attending since 2004 and says their number of blankets increase each year. Most of the blankets were loaded into Mary's vehicle and soon on their way to kids in need across the Valley.

This year's show and blanket donation was lovingly dedicated to their dear departed friend, Norma Cummings. The group uses a bear logo similar to our Azie bear and recently found a sweet tidbit among Norma's things. It was a piece of paper with a little teddy bear printed on it with this quote:

“Bear” One Another's Burdens

“Bear”ing one another's burdens is like a sponge...
It absorbs all of your energy and leaves you limp.
But with one squeeze of thanks, you get it all back!

Big bear hugs and thanks to this group for their continued kindness, talent and dedication to helping wrap kids in comfort every day.

There's A Sew-a-Thon Goin' On



There's a “Sew-a-Thon” goin' on with the ladies at Golden Vista in Apache Junction. Like the Energizer Bunny beating his drum, these ladies make their sewing machines hum! This year they began on Friday, January 15th and kept going and going and going until Saturday, the 16th.

Some of the do-gooders and go-getters can be seen in the photo above with their two day pile of 47 blankets. We love this! Thanks so much for your stamina! I wonder how much coffee they went through in those two days?!?

A Visit with East Mesa Group



On December 8th, 2009, AZB4K President, Karen Johnston and Vice President, Judy Babcock, were privileged to visit with the East Mesa Group.

This group (photo right) put out a spread of food that wasn't just gorgeous, but delicious as well. They quilt the way they cook, and donated blankets that were beautifully finished.

We traded a box of fabric for their finished quilts and shared the vision of AZB4K with them. Thanks so much for sharing your time and talents with our kids and for sharing the day with us.

Your hospitality warmed our hearts the way your blankets will warm their young recipients. We look forward to meeting again.



Karen's Komments

All kinds of recipes...

The last couple of bees I've attended and several of the groups I've visited have had Salad Pot Lucks. I love them. It's amazing how many different salad recipes there are. I've picked up a few good ones I'd like to share with you. The first one is for a dessert recipe - Pretzel Salad. It's so quick and easy and tastes yummy. The second is an entree salad - Chinese Chicken Salad. Very tasty dish with chicken, fruit, crunchy Chinese noodles and a dressing that includes curry and soy sauce. Both of these get numerous requests to share the recipe.

My other recipes are actually tips for making a better looking quilt.

All seams should be 1/4". Use a 1/4" presser foot if you have one, or mark your machine. Use a neutral color thread like grey or beige.

All seams should be pressed before sewing across them. Press the seam to one side, usually toward the darker fabric. When sewing rows of squares press one row in one direction and the next row in the opposite direction. This helps match the corners and makes for a better looking top.

Finishing the quilt: Quilt or tie the quilt no farther apart than a fist's width. Any further apart can cause the quilt to become lumpy when laundered.

Remember that the AZ Blankets label goes on the BACK of the quilts (except for the preemies). At this time, we are overstocked with preemies and have put a temporary moratorium on accepting them.

Please remember we cannot accept used or manufactured blankets.



October 17, 2009

Chandler PD

Chandler

55 - Attendees

346 - Total blankets from this event

January 30, 2010

Holiday Village

Mesa

64 - Attendees

109 - Total blankets from this event

February 27, 2010

La Hacienda

Apache Junction

51 - Attendees

151 - Total blankets from this event

April 10, 2010

Sunland Springs

Mesa

59 - Attendees

171 - Total blankets from this event

Pretzel Salad

Mix together 1 c. crushed pretzels, 1 stick butter and 1/2 c. sugar and spread on cookie sheet. Bake in 350° oven for 6 to 7 minutes. Cool, crumble and save.

Cream together 8 oz cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar. Mix in 20 ozs. well-drained crushed pineapple. Then add 16 ozs. cool whip. This can be made the day ahead. Before serving, stir in the pretzel mix- save a little for the top.

Chinese Chicken Salad

This is the whole recipe. I halved it, fed 8 people and still had about 1/2 of it for leftovers! Some of the items I did not half because they are so yummy (noted below with *). Enjoy!

- 4 c. cooked chicken (cubes or shreds)
- 2 c. Red Grapes, halved *
- 1 c. chopped celery
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1/2 c. slivered almonds *
- 1 can chunk pineapple *
- 1 can mandarin oranges *
- 1 can Chinese Noodles

Dressing:

- 2 c. Mayo
- 1 Tbsp. Soy Sauce
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. lemon pepper

Mix dressing ingredients. Chill. Combine salad ingredients except mandarin oranges and Chinese noodles. Add oranges and noodles just before serving. Pour dressing over salad and mix well. Serve with shredded lettuce or on rolls as a sandwich filler.

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, June 19 from 9 to 3

Las Palmas Grand
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd, Mesa

Saturday, October 16 from 9 to 3

Chandler Police - Community Rm.
250 E. Chicago St., Chandler

Ongoing Events

3rd Thursday each Month from 9 to 3

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

3rd Thursday each Month from 10 to 4

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

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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