



Azie's Blanket Coverage

September 2008 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 **1,159** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of May 2008 through August 2008.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

45,105!

In this issue:

1. Sun Lakes Quilters
2. LPG Bee
3. Ever Wonder?
New Place for Peace
Scrappy Kittie
Calle Rose Sale
4. Quilt Camp
5. More Quilt Camp
6. Circle Complete
Preemie Bees
7. Carole's Cuddle Corner
Prickly Piecers
8. Drop-off Sites & Upcoming Events

Contact us:

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



Above (L to R): Carol Manovsky, Doreen Goeman, Betty Manovsky (hiding like a turtle inside her shell) and Jamie Badger

Right: Doreen Goeman

Below: A beautiful scrappy squares quilt



Sun Lakes Quilters

A small group of dedicated sewers create blankets each month for AZB4K. These sewers are part of the larger Agave Quilting Group in Sun Lakes. Betty Manovsky and her daughter, Carol,



have diligently led this group to complete over 2,000 blankets. They meet once a month and then take home work to complete and have ready for the next month. Betty is an expert at delegating work and has one volunteer who ties all the blankets and another volunteer who crochets 4 to 5 blankets monthly.

Betty is extremely active in SunLakes, donating her time and talents to many organizations. It is volunteers like this that keeps AZB4K delivering comfort and happiness to the many needy children throughout Maricopa County and beyond.

June Bee at Las Palmas Grand

It was a warm June 21st at LPG, but what better excuse to stay inside with friends and sew all day in air conditioned comfort? There is no better excuse, so that's what we did! The totals for the day included 280 quilts, 1 afghan, 49 baby hats, and 3 pairs of booties.

There were enough teen quilts to fill requests made by AZB4K for several of our agencies who needed a total of more than 120 of our largest quilts.

At the end of the day we took 400 quilts away from the bee. There were over 50 people in attendance. With the heat and winter visitors gone, this was an amazing turnout!

REMINDER: In December, LPG's regular sewing day is the 2nd Thursday of the month, which will be December 11. Mark your calendars.



Far left: Barb Charlton's husband, Don, offers the shirt on his back for her scrappy bear quilts.

Left: Karen Johnston's in a bind with the iron.

Below left: More adorable applique work, this time with fuzzy sheep. The black and white prints with red accents really popped the furry sheep right off the quilt.



Above: Nancy Blackburn (middle) brings her special gift quilt in for friends to sign their photos and the squares they made for her.



Left: Bonnie and Carole take advantage of shade and early hours to do some spraying.

Ever Wonder?

Do you ever see a quilt in our newsletter and wonder where it goes? Well, I can tell you a story about the turtle quilt on the front page. This particular quilt was donated to be used as a wall hanging in a place where many would smile at its bright colors and topsy-turvy turtles. We found such a home for it with the Celebrate Life Family Support Center in Maricopa, Arizona. The quilt was hung on the wall of their parenting classroom.

Celebrate Life Family Support Center, which opened its doors in 2003, is a ministry of the First Baptist Church of Maricopa. Their mission is to provide counseling services, community resources, pregnancy testing and material assistance to families in the community. Their support comes from local donations and yard sales twice a year. Lucy Kelly, the director, said this year so far they've helped over 188 families.

So now you know. Those little heroes in their half shells are spreading their turtle power to children of all ages every day at the Celebrate Life Family Support Center.

Many thanks to the kind and generous donor of this bright and beautiful quilt.



New Place for Peace

Peace by Piece has moved its 1st Friday Bees from Sally's Fabrics in Mesa to the new 35th Ave. Sew and Vac in Chandler. Join them for a fun day of sewing and socializing.

1st Friday each Month
 35th Ave Sew & Vac
 4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler
 (SE corner of Ray and Rural)
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wanda's bees are productive and fun. She always has snacks and favorite recipes to swap with friends. She maintains a website and e-mail newsletter every month. Check it out at:

www.peacebypiecequilters.org

Scrappy Kittie

Keep an eye out for a new feature on the back of each newsletter. Each issue will feature a new scrappy shape to use in your quilts.

On the cover of our February 2008 newsletter, we featured Barb's scrappy bears. This creative use of scraps is fun and colorful and makes the most use of our fabulous fabrics.

This newsletter features a cute kitty as an extra thank you to Kittie Ellis. Kittie is the cool cat behind Cutting Edge Quilts. She's also a gracious sponsor of our annual summer quilt camp at Emmanuel Pines.

Use the new shape in each newsletter with your scrappy fabric panels. Save your newsletters and soon you'll have enough animals to make an animal farm quilt! Please e-mail photos of your finished scrappy quilts to us at:

info@azblankets4kids.com



Calle Rose for AZB4K

Calle Rose presents clothing, jewelry, watches, handbags, accessories and more. You'll FLIP over the latest styles in our fabulous new Fall Collection. Plus, get fantastic prices on all Sale Merchandise. A portion of the proceeds will benefit AZ Blankets 4 Kids.

**When: Saturday, October 24th from 10-5
 Sunday, October 25th from 10-4**

**Where: Stevens' Family Karate
 3140 S. Gilbert Rd., Suite 6
 Queen Creek & Gilbert Rd.
 Chandler (602) 316-8873**

We hope you can join us for a weekend of fun, fashion and fundraising!



“Life is not a path of coincidence, happenstance, and luck, but rather an unexplainable, meticulously charted course for one to touch the lives of others and make a difference in the world.”

- Barbara Dillinham



Notes from a Happy Camper!

I'm so excited to tell you about camp this year because I had the great pleasure to attend! On August 15th, 28 campers carpooled to a cooler climate in Prescott at Camp Emmanuel Pines. We had a lovely long weekend of socializing, stitching and snacking. This year was our fourth annual retreat into the wilderness. Extra thanks go out to our camp sponsor, Kittie Ellis (owner of Cutting Edge Quiltworks) and our camp coordinator, Elliot McMahon.

Our cozy accommodations were in Thumb Butte cabin. Sleeping quarters were at both ends of our sewing room. The sewing room had excellent natural light and just enough room to bring any shy sewers out of their shell to chat with nearby neighbors.

We had returning mother/daughter Susan Quisenberry and her newlywed daughter Courtney McNabb. We also had three-generation campers in grandma Patsy Hawkins, daughter Toni Stevens and grand-daughter Bethani Stevens. Our campers ages ranged from "tweens" to "don't ask" and we delighted in the diversity.

Several demo's were presented, including one from our non-quilter, Bunny Williams. With Kittie's help, she taught us how to transform a T-shirt into a fabric bag in 1 stitch line and 3 simple cuts. We also had a clever clutch demonstration by Judy Jackson, who utilized awning screen material as a liner. Another tricky T-shirt demonstration was presented by Kittie, who transformed strips of T-shirt cotton into a colorful rug using only a board with a nail on it and some simple braiding techniques. Thanks to everyone who shared their knowledge.

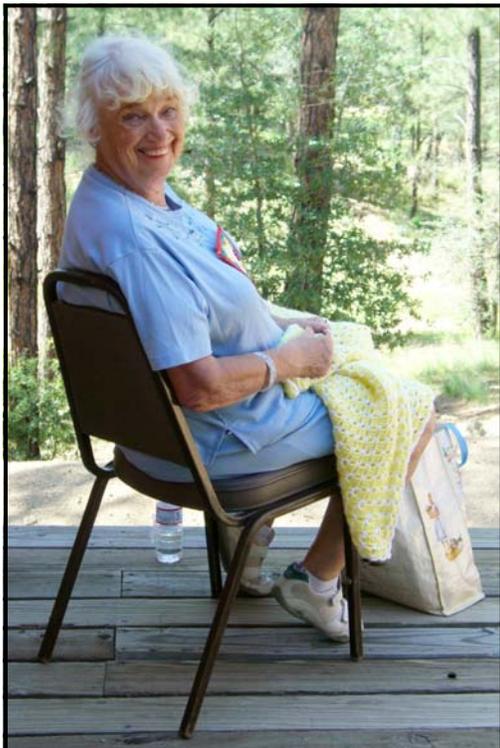
One section of our sewing room in particular was filled primarily with paper piecers. They made the most incredible blocks out of the tiniest pieces of fabric. There was even a big plastic storage container full of scraps used as their weekend "pot of gold". We requested several show and tells from



Above right: Pat Dillard finishes a pretty Spring wall hanging.

Right: Pam wins big and goes home with the giant gift basket full of goodies.





Above: Bunny crochets on the back patio.



(cont.) Judy Clark, who made bright blocks of dragons and witches on black backgrounds.

We also played a few games with excellent prizes, including fabric, patterns, kits and notions. One night we played button bingo, where players used pieces from their button collection to fill their bingo cards. Another night we played the fat quarter game. Players brought fat quarters as bargaining chips. Each roll of the dice determined if you passed your fat quarters to the left, to the right, to the center or got to keep it for yourself. I don't mean to brag (yes I do), but I won a round and got some gorgeous fat quarters as my prize.

The final word I have to say about camp is... YUMMY!

Heavenly French Toast

½ cup butter, melted
6 croissants
12 eggs
3 cups half & half

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup maple syrup
1½ tsp. vanilla

Mix together butter, cream cheese and syrup. Microwave until heated; mix. Tear croissants and place on bottom of two 9x13 pans. Pour cream cheese mixture over bread. Combine eggs, half & half, and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Pour over bread and let sit overnight in refrigerator, covered with foil or plastic wrap. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes until golden brown.

You may want to halve the recipe to make a single 9x13 pan of heavenly goodness or make the full recipe for a large group. Either way, you'll be a cooking angel in their eyes.

Below: Courtney works on her classic Ford quilt.

Right: Kittie (left) helps Bunny with a T-shirt demo.



Every year the campers would come back to their sewing groups raving about this Heavenly French Toast they had. Well, I'm raving too. It's delicious and Emmanuel Pines is kindly sharing their recipe with you here.

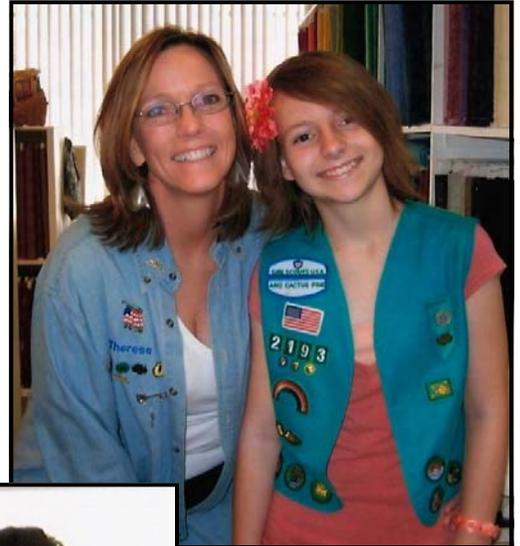
I had a wonderful time and will absolutely be back again!



Circle Complete - Recipient to Volunteer

Girl Scout Troop 2193 presented fleece and crocheted blankets to AZB4K on June 29th, 2008. They made their presentation at the Preemie Bee held at Cutting Edge Quiltworks in Chandler. The blankets were the culmination of work toward their Bronze Award. The leaders, Carol Bates and Therese Thissen, said the troop chose AZB4K as the beneficiary and each girl completed their project on their own time and with their own materials.

During our visit, we discovered that one of the scouts, Rachel Buttenhoff, had been a blanket recipient at Phoenix Children's Hospital some years ago. It was so touching to actually meet a recipient, hear of her good health, and learn that she still has the blanket and the comfort it gave her during her illness. Even more fantastic is that she has now completed the circle of love by making and donating a blanket for another ill, needy or traumatized child.



Above: Rachel Buttenhoff (right) with her mother and troop leader, Therese.



Left: Girl Scout Troop 2193 with their blankets and troop leaders.

Below: Kittie Ellis, owner of Cutting Edge.

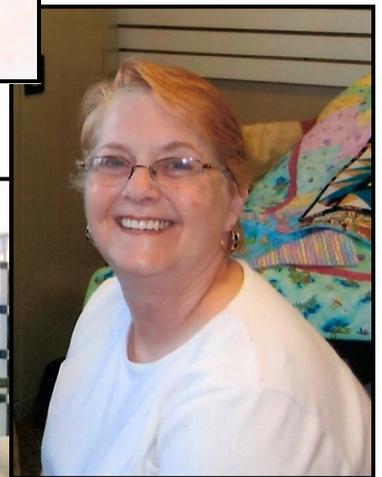
Far below: Phyllis (right) helps a volunteer with a 9 Patch Preemie kit.

Bees for Preemies at Cutting Edge Quiltworks

Phyllis Akins heads our preemie blanket efforts and has been busy with wee bees. Cutting Edge Quiltworks has hosted a few of these bees at their shop on Sundays.

Preemie blankets are favorites for their quick and easy assembly. Now, thanks to the time and efforts of our pattern maker, Sylvia Saffell, we now have the quickest and simplest of all patterns on our website. This is a whole cloth preemie pattern that lets the beautiful fabric do all the work.

If you've never checked out our patterns online; please do...
www.azblankets4kids.com



Carole's Cuddle Corner



I hope everyone is excited and eager for a season of blanket bees and renewing friendships with other sewers.

This will be the last column for Carole's Cuddle Corner. AZB4K elections occur in November and I am not running for president again. I will remain on the board in a new position. I love AZB4K and am firmly devoted to our mission that every child deserves comfort and safety in a world that is not always perfect.

AZB4K has had a wonderful year! We had 6 bees with fantastic results. We delivered 9,414 blankets to needy, ill and traumatized children with one month left to deliver in this fiscal year. We have met new sewing groups, visited with groups that have been faithful to us over the years, encouraged new sewers and romanced sewers not yet affiliated with groups. It has been challenging and fun. I work with the most caring, sharing and generous group of board members possible. It is a delight to meet and work with volunteers who amaze me by their dedication and philanthropy.

We have a wonderful calendar set up for the coming sewing season - bees in October, November, January and February. More requests for bees may crop up during the Fall. Our next board meeting is scheduled for November 8th at the Chandler PD Community Room. Guests are always welcome.

October Bee at Chandler PD

Please join us for our October Bee at the Chandler PD Community Room. We will meet from 9 to 3 on Saturday, the 18th. We'll have pizza for lunch for \$5. Also bring your dollars for a raffle. The first item is a 35x47 quilt made of reproduction fabrics from the 30s and embroidered squares. The second item is a 15x30 wall hanging called "Holy Family" made in black stained glass style, generously donated by Helen Peterson. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each, \$5 for 6 or \$12 for a yard of tickets (18).

Prickly Piecers Are Not Pokey

I was going to try to make up a tongue twister about the pace of Prickly Piecers not being pokey, but I didn't leave myself enough time to be that creative before printing. So you get a somewhat serious article instead... Thank you to the Prickly Piecers Quilt Guild for hosting an AZB4K Bee. We met at a cozy community room in a fire station on Chandler Blvd just west of I-10.



This is a fun group! They welcome sewers of all levels and are very kind about any little mistakes. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 in the evening.

Contact Ken Casey (left) for more details. His information and more about the group can be found at...

www.quiltguilds.com

Just click on the link to Arizona guilds and look for them in the list.

Right: Somebody said "free fabric" at the Prickly Piecers Bee so Susan Quisenberry (left) and Joan Most (right) were going through bags of fabric like trunks of gold! Joan was also the big winner of the door prize basket at the bee. Congratulations Joan! We know the fabric from that win is probably already in several new blankets.



June 21, 2008
High temp of 115°!!!
Las Palmas Grand Bee
Mesa

50+ - Attendees

400 - Total blankets from this event

Amazing work on a hot summer day!

Blanket Drop-off Locations:

35th Ave. Sew & Vac
 4939 W. Ray Rd.
 Chandler (480) 961-7363

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., #33
 Chandler (480) 857-3443

Quilter's Bee
 7549 W. Cactus Rd.
 Peoria (623) 334-9359

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 18 from 9 to 3
 Chandler PD Community Room
 250 E. Chicago, Chandler

Saturday, November 15 from 9 to 3
 Sunland Springs Village
 11214 E. Laguna Azul Circle, Mesa

Saturday, January 31 from 9 to 3
 Holiday Village
 701 S. Dobson 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
 4939 W. Ray Rd. Chandler

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