



Spring 2005 Edition

Phoenix, AZ

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **3,215** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October 2004 through February 2005.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

21,290!

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“Grand” Group Meets Goal and Hosts Bee

Las Palmas Grand Quilters know how to set goals, reach them, and exceed them! The quilters, led by Joan Most, set a goal of 300 blankets to make in the year 2004. Husband (Tim Most) and friend (Jack Becker) agreed to treat the group to a celebration luncheon cooked by them if they met that goal.

On November 18, 2004, Las Palmas Grand Quilters presented AZ Blankets for Kids with 106 exceptionally beautiful and colorful blankets. With this donation, the group more than earned their celebration luncheon by making over 400 quilts in 2004!! Woohoo!!!

The boys cooked up a finger-licking lunch of hot shredded bbq beef sandwiches, garden salad, and a marble sheet cake for dessert. Yum! Thanks boys!

After lunch, blankets were sorted, bagged and delivered to our kids across the valley. These ladies (and their support chefs) provided over 400 children with a little comfort and security in a time when they needed it the most.

Not wanting to rest on their laurels, the ladies hosted a bee for AZ Blankets on Saturday, January 29, 2005.

During the bee, 267 blankets were collected. Las Palmas Grand Quilters donated 125 of



Tim Most (Bee Chef)

those blankets. We had a great turnout of 46 people. There were stations for layering, tying, closing and labeling, and kits were available for those who wanted to start fresh.

As a reward for our hard work on that day, the boys cooked for us once again! This time Tim and Jack stirred up two savory soups (chicken noodle and chili), corn bread, garden salad, drinks, and dessert. These guys know how to motivate quilters! Good food with good friends doing good things for the community... what could be better?

Congratulations on exceeding your goal for 2004 and thanks so much for starting 2005 with such a fun and productive bee!



Las Palmas Grand Quilters display a few of the 400+ quilts donated to AZB4K in 2004.

Meet Our Volunteers: Sunrise Village Quilters

Two great ladies, Jean Middleton and Dilly Muehlfelt, lead *Sunrise Village Quilters*. Ten months out of the year this group donates many wonderful blankets to AZ Blankets for Kids. They take July and August off to rest and recuperate.

Jean Middleton hails from Mason City, Iowa. Jean taught elementary school for twenty years and also helped her husband, Ralph, run an auction business. After raising three children, they retired to Arizona in 1985 and Jean went to work for House of Fabrics and then The Bernina Store. Jean had always been into garment construction (her parents gave her a Featherweight sewing machine as a graduation present) but had never made a quilt. About ten years ago, a friend forced Jean to take a quilting class at the "Ranch". She was hooked!! Guess what the seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren get for Christmas?

Dilly Muehlfelt raised eight children in Arlington Heights, Illinois and after being widowed felt she needed a lifestyle change. She headed west and landed in Tucson but soon followed her son to the Phoenix area. Dilly has quilted all her adult life and has made each of her 8 children a handmade quilt for a wedding gift. Twenty-one of her 22 grandchildren also received handmade quilts. But when number 22 came along, Dilly had gotten rid of all her hoops and frames and was in a dilemma about how to quilt this one! That's when her good friend and neighbor, Jean Middleton, introduced her to machine quilting. Three sewing machines later, Dilly is still quilting for nine great-grandchildren.

These two terrific ladies were responsible for founding and organizing the *Sunrise Village Quilters*. They meet the first

Wednesday of every month, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sunrise Village Resort, 5402 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa.

Monthly participation varies from 15 to 30 people. Their oldest member is 94 years young and still lugs her old Bernina sewing machine to bees. It is important to note that this group, like many others, is completely independent of AZ Blankets for Kids. They raise their own money for supplies needed to quilt and complete blankets. Dilly says, "Quilting has opened a whole new world to me! Quilters are fun, caring and sharing people." Jean believes passionately in the good that their blankets do for needy children and as some people tithe their money, she tithes her time to sew for AZ Blankets for Kids.

Whether you give of your time, your talents, or your dollars, it all translates into our AZ kids getting to wrap themselves in the warmth and caring that you provide. Thanks so much to the *Sunrise Village Quilters* and all our volunteers for giving so much!

Excellent Auction!

On February 13, the *Sunrise Village Quilters* held a white elephant auction at their clubhouse. Attendees were asked to bring at least one item for auction, with a minimum \$5 value. The bidding was fast-paced and fun! The items up for bid included crafts and quilts. And the food and drink was free!

The auction was a success and provided *Sunrise Village Quilters* with funds needed to continue making blankets for our kids. In addition, a \$400 gift was made to AZB4K from auction proceeds. Thank you *Sunrise Village Quilters*!

Hi Everyone,

My name is Carol Pettis. I was born and lived in Wisconsin until I retired from General Electric Medical Systems in Milwaukee in 1997. My first husband died in 1981 from cancer. I met my second husband Charles at General Electric Medical Systems and we married in 1982. From this marriage I have two step daughters and four grandchildren. I used to sew quilt tops for the ladies at our Lutheran church.

We moved out here to Gilbert, Arizona in August of 1997. I always dreamed of doing some type of voluntary work to help the less fortunate once I retired. Then in 2003 I read in the East Valley Tribune about Arizona Blankets for Kids. That is when I decided to make my dreams come true and start making blankets. It is such a rewarding feeling to me to make for the Kids of Arizona a blanket for comfort, security, to cherish and hopefully help them forget some of their traumas.

I think of the Arizona Kids as my grandchildren as I make each and every blanket. I would like to thank the ladies that started this wonderful organization. I am also glad that I can be part of this great group.

Sewed with Love, **Carol**



Volunteer Carol Pettis and one of her many beautiful blankets.

Sunland Village Gives 1,000th Blanket

Thank you Sunland Village Quilters!

We recently collected 19 beautiful blankets from the Sunland Village quilt group in Mesa. According to Marion Thiel, coordinator of the Sunland Village Quilters, they began their project in February 2002 and have made and donated 1,000 quilts to AZB4K. The 1,000th quilt was among the blankets collected on March 2, 2005.

As they presented Nancy Blackburn (Premie Coordinator) and Vicky Varga (Distribution Co-Chairperson) with the quilts, photos were taken to commemorate the event. Members of the group are Marion, Ellie, Cathi, Virginia, Jo, Betty, Bobbie, Carol, Waucille, Helen, Karen, Jean, and Callie.

AZ Blankets for Kids also thanks all the volunteers and groups that generously donate their time, talents, and support. With your help, we have delivered 3,235 blankets to various agencies since October, 2004.



Sunland Village Quilters give 1,000th blanket.

Saving Stamps and Trees with Your Current Address Please

Did you know our newsletter is available to view (in color) on our website? It is! If you prefer using the internet to check out our newsletters, make sure we have your current e-mail address. We'll send you a reminder and a link each time it's updated. By the way, we never share your information (addresses or phone numbers) with anyone.

Help us reduce postage costs and let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via the U.S. postal service.

Also, if your name or address has changed, let us know and we'll update our records. Send an e-mail to info@azblankets4kids.com or call our hotline at (480) 283-8746.

Blanket Guidelines

Please review the blanket guidelines on our website www.azblankets4kids.com (click on "Patterns"). We want to make the most of the time and talent you put into each blanket. Our agencies have provided useful feedback for us to pass along to you. The premie quilts, especially, have to be constructed to protect and comfort our tiniest recipients.

Board of Directors News

We are still looking for volunteers to fill two open board positions. One position involves preparing our newsletters and the other is keeping our scrapbook up to date. If you are interested or know someone who might be, have them get in touch with us through our hotline or e-mail.

Gold Wing Road Riders Association



Thanks once again to the Goldwing Road Riders Association, Chapter F, for their continued generous support!

Spring Blanket Bee at Chandler Police Dept.

Join us for our Spring Blanket Bee on Saturday, March 19, 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.

Our blanket bees welcome everyone from the novice to the professional blanket maker. Bring your talents, a sack lunch, and a friend. We will provide water, coffee, tea and snacks for you in the morning.

Sew Bee It - Quilt Raffle

On February 12, at the Meridian Manor Clubhouse in Apache Junction, members of the Sew Bee It quilt group celebrated Valentine's Day in a big way. They held a drawing for a beautiful king size quilt that was raffled off to raise funds to purchase blanket-making supplies. The lucky winner was Judy Givens, who was visiting friends here in the valley. She happily took her quilt home to Canada where it warms her body and soul. Congratulations Judy and thank you to the Sew Bee It quilters for their efforts on behalf of our kids!



Judy Givens wins Sew Bee It raffle.

AZIE thanks our local shops!

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

Bernina Southwest Sewing Ctr.

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

Felicity Fabrics

42101 N. 41st. Dr., #140
Anthem (623) 551-2580

Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts

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

Quilter's Delight

8230 E. Raintree, #106
Scottsdale (480) 368-9598

Quilter's Koop

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

Quilter's Ranch

1030 East 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, March 19, 2005

Spring Blanket Bee
Chandler Police Department
250 E. Chicago, Chandler
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 26, 2005

Raffle Quilt Drawing at Craftmart
1980 N. Alma School Rd., Chandler
Drawing at 3:00 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, August 19-21, 2005

AZ Blankets for Kids Quilt Camp
hosted by Cutting Edge Quiltworks
Mark your calendars! More details
coming soon!

3rd Thursday each Month

Las Palmas Grand - Ballroom
2550 S. Ellsworth Road, Mesa
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

4th Thursday each Month

Peace by Piece at Craftmart
1980 N. Alma School Rd., Chandler
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

First Wednesday each Month

Sunrise Village Club House
5402 E. McKellips, Mesa
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED