



Azie's Blanket Coverage

August 2011 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 **2,789** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of April thru August, 2011.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

66,764!

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Contact us:

(480) 283-8746

info@azblankets4kids.com

www.azblankets4kids.com

New Agency: The Melonhead Foundation

Introducing a new blanket recipient agency, the Melonhead Foundation. The Foundation is named for a young lady whose goals included becoming an Olympic swimmer. Her name was Melanie Leone and she was diagnosed with leukemia at age 11. Her friends affectionately called her "Melonhead," even before she was diagnosed and lost all her hair during chemotherapy.

Of course the nickname was even more appropriate as she continued to train and compete all through her chemotherapy treatments.

Melanie had such a positive attitude, she viewed her hair loss as an asset in the pool: "No drag," she said. "It feels cool as I zoom through the water."

She was diagnosed on August 31, 1989 and died March 4, 1992. Her nearly three-year journey inspired many and awakened her family and friends to a different perspective on healthy living, healing and healthy maintenance.

The Melonhead Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the needs of children with cancer and their families.

The Foundation has a threefold purpose:

To provide financial aid to families of children 21 years of age or younger, with any diagnosis of cancer.

To provide a resource center for all patients experiencing cancer and searching for alternative practices.

The ultimate goal of The Foundation is to establish the first permanent Camp Wanahealyah in Arizona.

As a wellness center and healing home environment focusing on natural healing modalities, the Foundation intends to facilitate a cure for pediatric cancer patients. Their model teaches and implements natural practices for patients and their family members, including acupuncture, massage and Reiki. Their healing techniques treat body, mind and soul.



This is Abigail and her mom, Annabeth.

Abigail is two years old and has been diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. She was diagnosed in January of 2011.

She loves her new blanket.

Deb, from The Melonhead Foundation, sends blessings to all who give so freely of their time and talents to AZ Blankets 4 Kids.

Kids Cozied Up with Their Blankets from Jose's Closet



Jose's Closet is one of the many agencies AZ Blankets 4 Kids works with to put your handmade blankets into the sweet embrace of deserving children throughout the Valley. Often a child is placed in a foster home with only the clothes on their backs. Jose's Closet offers foster and adoptive parents a place where they can obtain clothes and other items for their children. Many thanks to Jose's Closet for helping us get our blankets into the arms of your kids.

Queen Valley Sharing Circle

AZ Blankets 4 Kids works with various blanket-making individuals and groups to gather handmade comfort quilts and blankets for kids in the Phoenix metro area. In an effort to stay more closely connected with our groups and offer them our thanks and support, we try to attend sewing days with several groups throughout the year.



We try to have several Board members attend and share a little bit about our mission with the volunteer group. Often times we'll share letters from blanket recipients or agencies who express their gratitude for all your hard work and to let you know that you're providing much more than just a blanket. There are times when that blanket may mean everything to the child who receives it.

The photos to the right were taken during a visit with our friends in the Queen Valley Sharing Circle on February 28th. Thank you, ladies, for sharing the day with us and for sharing your time and talents with our kids.



Beautiful Smiling Faces from Busy Sewing Places



What we do through AZ Blankets 4 Kids would not be possible without the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who sew for us. With our sincerest gratitude, we thank all of you for sharing your time and talents with us. Your hard work and dedication wraps thousands of kids in comfort each year. Please share your beautiful faces with us in photos whenever you can. Send an extra print by mail or e-mail a digital photo.

Above:
Golden Vista Sew-A-Smile

Right:
Sun Life Resort Quilters

Below:
Greenfield Village Sew N Sews



Emmanuel Pines Camp

This year marked a happy return to Thumb Butte cabin for our campers. At this favorite location, everyone works in one large, bright sewing room nestled between two dorms for sleeping. Below, the ladies gather outside the cafeteria, which features a variety of delicious food at each meal. Attendees included a couple of mother/daughter groups, former AZB4K Board members, many returning campers and several newbies. The weekend was packed with fun games, demonstrations, chatting with friends, and a little sewing too!



GAMES!

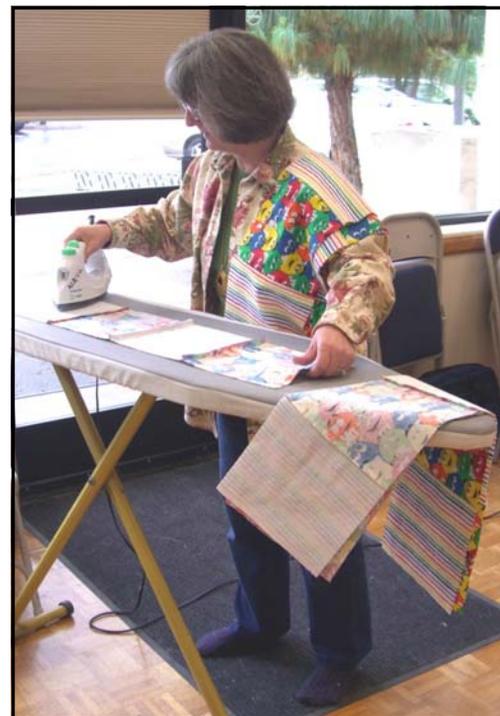


DEMOS!



Sunland Bee

It was a blustery day at our Sunland Springs Village Bee on April 9th, but that didn't keep our volunteers away. Below left is Candace Livingston with her door prize basket of goodies. Below right, holding her winning ticket, is June Wolfe with her raffle quilt made by Barb Charlton. The room of 60 volunteers was energized with good deeds.





Above: This bright and cheerful Dr. Seuss themed quilt was made by creative genius and Las Palmas Grand resident, Barb Charlton (left). The lucky winner of this raffle quilt was Jan Newhaus (right).



Above: The lovely Mary Duennes in a rare moment away from the blanket distribution table

Cool Summer Fun at Las Palmas Grand Bee



Right: Laura Alexander wins the basket of goodies made by our talented Carole Willsey



Left: A group of energetic volunteers from the Patriot Youth Corps. Read more about this non-profit in the article below.

Their program is dedicated to returning our youth to basic American Patriotism by incorporating the ethics of Citizenship and an appreciation for the men and women that have committed their lives to protecting and ensuring our country's freedoms.

Their focus is on both boundaries and self-esteem, and their

On a typically sweltering hot Saturday in mid June, we gathered with our friends at Las Palmas Grand in the East Valley. What better way to deal with the heat than to join friends in a day of blanket making in a bright and nicely air conditioned space?

It was nice to have some guys helping us out. Husband and wife, Tim and Cathy Means spent the day sewing with us. We also had several cool dudes and lovely young ladies volunteering through the Patriot Youth Corps (group photo above).

The Patriot Youth Corps, LLC, is a structured youth program incorporating military discipline with educational and service opportunities within the community, for the enrichment of the lives of America's youngest generations, beginning at age 7 through the completion of secondary academic graduation.

goals are accomplished through teaching the cause and effect of personal choices on the greater community, as well as critical thinking, teamwork, urban self-defense, and basic living and survival skills. They are a community- and family-oriented network, encouraging camaraderie and respect between students, staff, parents, siblings, schools and sponsors. They do not teach or engage in combat training of any kind, and are not a recruiting source for any branch of the military.

Throughout the day, these seven teens and their leaders helped in several steps of the blanket-making process. They sprayed tops, batting and backs together. They helped at the layering table. They even tackled hand tying several blankets. We thoroughly enjoyed the youthful energy their presence brought to the room and hope to see them again at future bees.

We hope to see you all again soon at our Fall Bee on October 15th at the Chandler Police Department Community Room.

Karen's Komments



AZ Blankets 4 Kids continues to grow and serve more of the seriously ill and traumatized children in the Valley.

We have recently approved six new agencies, bringing our total of approved recipients of blankets to 36. We have found that many of our new agencies provide services to older children. Therefore, our need for teen blankets continues to grow. If you have fabric that is suitable for that age group, please consider making the larger 40" X 56" to 42" X 60" blanket.

The new agencies are: Arizonans for Children, Chandler CARE Center, Helen's Hope Chest, The Melonhead Foundation, New Leaf and Welcome to America.

We continue to be blessed with volunteers willing to give of their time and efforts to help us fulfill our mission. As

our commitment to deliver more blankets grows, our need for new members on the AZB4K Board grows. Thank you to all of those new volunteers who have agreed to serve on our Board. Having new volunteers gives us the opportunity to search for and select new agencies and also gives us more volunteers to deliver blankets.

In November, my term of office will be over. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have made these past three years so successful. An organization this size could not run without the dedication and work of every member of the Board. These ladies have always given 110%. My thanks to all of you. Thank you to all of the people who so faithfully sew in their respective sewing groups or on their own. Thank you for your attendance at our sewing bees. We used to hold two bees a year; now we are able to host seven bees. These bees are always well attended. A big thanks to the hosting groups and the volunteers who come to sew. Everyone seems to have a great time and we complete more and more blankets for the kids.

Keep up the good work. You are all so AWESOME!!!

April 9, 2011
Sunland Springs Village
 Mesa

60 - Attendees
98 - Total blankets
 from this event



June 18, 2011
Las Palmas Grand
 Mesa

62 - Attendees
176 - Total blankets
 from this event

Gratitude for Arizona Women's Partnership

Because AZ Blankets for Kids is an all volunteer non-profit organization who's goal is to put comfort blankets into the hands of seriously ill or needy children in the Valley, we rely on donations from other organizations to pay for items like the postage to send out these newsletters.

One such organization is Arizona Women's Partnership. The Arizona Women's Partnership, Inc. is an all volunteer philanthropic non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the status of Arizona women and empowering women's grass roots organizations through mini grants and publicity. The organization is non-political and non-sectarian, and is sensitive to the needs of underserved and disadvantaged women and their families. Proceeds are generated from FUNdraisers and through corporate sponsorships and private donations.

AZWP supports the plans for a 5th Women's World Conference in 2015. You may recognize them as the organizers of the annual Wine, Women & Jazz event. At this event, the finest chefs in town tantalize your taste buds while Jazz Divas delight your ears.

The next Wine, Women & Jazz event will be held 4pm - 6:30pm of April 28, 2012. Tickets are \$55 (\$65 at the door) and will be available closer to the date of the event. Dress for the event is business casual.

We at AZ Blankets 4 Kids are so grateful for the support from AZWP's mini grants. We encourage you to check them out online at azwp.org and to support their events. You will also find a list of recent grant recipients on their web site. We are honored to be listed among these organizations who serve our communities in so many wonderful ways.

Thanks so much to all the dedicated volunteers at Arizona Women's Partnership.

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

7143 E. Southern Ave., #135
Mesa (480) 964-8914

Cutting Edge QuiltS

64 S. San Marcos Place
Chandler (480) 857-3443

Mulqueen Sew and Vac

3716 E. Main St.
Mesa (480) 545-0778

Mulqueen Sew and Vac

7838 N. 59th Ave.
Glendale (623) 934-0084

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, October 15, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Chandler PD Community Room
250 E. Chicago St., Chandler

Ongoing Events

3rd Thursday each Month

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Las Palmas Grand
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa

3rd Thursday each Month

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Peace by Piece at Cutting Edge
64 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler
NEW LOCATION

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AZ Blankets 4 Kids**

**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**