



May 2006 Edition

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Phoenix, AZ

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **3,822** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October 2005 through April 2006.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

27,937!

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Contact us:

(480) 283-8746
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www.azblankets4kids.com

**“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”**

Winston Churchill

give - (giv) vi. 1. to make gifts or donations; contribute 2. to be springy; be resilient: slang 1. resounding applause; as in give it up for our volunteers, drop-off locations, agencies and givers of all types!



*Left to Right:
Anne Brow,
Laurette Mon-
son, Doris Tan-
nahill, Nancy
Blackburn, Anne
Fetz, Phyllis
Akins, Carole
Willsey, and
Sylvia Saffell*

Sun Valley Park Quilters *Give* a Show

On Sunday, March 5th, the Sun Valley Park Piece Makers hosted their annual quilt show. Anne Fetz extended an invitation to AZ Blankets for Kids (AZB4K) to come to the show. Board Members Nancy Blackburn, Phyllis Akins, Carole Willsey and Sylvia Saffell attended the show in Apache Junction.

All quilters know what a treat it is to get together and see each other's work. Well, this was an extra treat for AZB4K. Not only did the Board Members get to view blankets created by these talented hands, they also got to take 100 blankets away with them for our kids.

Thank you Piece Makers for your time, talents and generous donation of blankets!

Save a Stamp

Did you know our newsletter is available 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.

In an effort to further reduce postage costs, we are now sending newsletters three times a year instead of four. And you may have noticed that we added an extra page to each one so you'll still get all the great information about our organization.

An Equation for *Giving* with Results We LOVE!



blankets 4 kids

I'll be the first to admit I'm no good at math, but this is an equation that adds up to more blankets for our kids. We've been extremely fortunate to receive monetary gifts from three generous donors.

Delta Marketing Group, Inc. raised money for AZ Blankets for Kids (AZB4K) by setting aside a percentage of sales. DMGI was founded in 1986. They sell new and refurbished computer hardware. Online catalog ads (DMGI.net) let their customers know that AZB4K would benefit from their purchases. Although sales were not what President Michael Hankerson had hoped for, he gave us a check for \$500. Look for more information about this donation in our next newsletter. Hint: Michael has twin daughters and they both received AZB4K blankets.

Our next donors have been giving to AZ Blankets for Kids for years. Two members of our Board attended a meeting in December with Gold Wing Touring Association's - F Troop. Susan Quisenberry and Sylvia Saffell enjoyed a tasty breakfast with a lively group. Both won door prizes (fortunately food items, not motorcycle items). But the big winner that morning was AZB4K as F Troop presented us with \$500.

And last, but certainly not least, we received another \$500 donation from our friends at Wal-Mart.

Whether gifts of time, talent or money, we truly appreciate them all. Every act of giving to AZB4K translates into more blankets for the kids, and that's what we're all about.

Give Yourself A Break

The weather is heating up again. Why stay here and hide in the air conditioning when you could get away from it all? Hurry! There were only three spots left when we went to press. Call Cutting Edge Quiltworks and reserve your space at **AZB4K's Quilting Getaway 2006**. Camp dates this year are August 18th - 20th. Once again our retreat will be at beautiful Camp Emmanuel Pines in Prescott.

The camp fee is \$125, which includes three days, two nights, five awesome meals and lots of fun. This is your weekend to treat yourself. Work on your own projects, read a book, take a hike or take a nap; the choice is yours. A \$25 deposit will hold your reservation, with the balance due on July 15.

**Cutting Edge
Quiltworks**

480-857-3443

**1949 W. Ray Rd.
Chandler**

Thanks to *Giver Betty*

A special thanks to Betty Manovsky for her gift of giving. Betty is a founding member of the Agave Quilters in Sun Lakes, is active in the Sun Lakes Charities Organization, Special Olympics, and sews faithfully for AZB4K. Betty also sews for a family of three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Daughter, Carol, lives with Betty and is her mother's eye for color coordination.

Betty is the driving force behind the Agave Quilters. She has given to AZB4K since our inception. She not only obtains the fabrics, cuts the kits and sews the blankets, but also delivers them to Williams Field Community School in Mesa and to the St. Peter Indian Mission School in Bapchule.

Betty's group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the Oakwood Sewing Room from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Newcomers are welcome! Thank you, Betty, for all your giving!

St. Joseph's *Gives* Luncheon for Volunteer Sewers



Above: A tiny tot slumbers in the shade of a blue blankie while his guard ducky watches over the binky.

Right: Beautiful blankets adorn every isolet.

Below: (Left to Right) Mary Duennes, Bonnie Becker, Carole Willsey, Kelli Nemec, Joan Most and Nancy Blackburn with our new totes.



Jerenda's Blankets

During our visit to St. Joe's, Jerenda showed us two holiday blankets that she had personally received when she lost her first son, Christian, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The blankets are plain cloth panels of traditional red and green. They were a bittersweet token that she didn't know what to do with, so she packed them away. Four years later she took them out when her son Landon was born. They became mementos from a brother he would never know. Then, 14 years later, it was brother Bryson's turn to use the blankets. When Bryson outgrew the blankets, Jerenda knew she would have no more children. She decided to store the blankets with the Christmas decorations. Now Christian's blankets have a place of honor each year under the Nativity set.

Who knew that a simple blanket could become a lifetime treasure?

March 10th was a touching day of thanks from St. Joseph's Nursery Intensive Care Unit to all of its volunteer sewing groups. Jerenda Ford, our blanket liaison, was there to greet us and introduce us to other friends in sewing. There were representatives from AZ Blankets for Kids, Project Linus, Newborns in Need and Sewing for Babies. What a treat it was to spend the afternoon with our counterparts. Some groups provided clothing, baptism garments, bean bags (to keep babies in a comfortable position), and of course, blankets.

After settling in to beautifully set tables, we were treated to an incredible lunch. There was salmon in a cornhusk boat and steak that melted in your mouth. The vegetables were good too; fresh salad and savory asparagus.

The desserts were just as impressive. Almost too pretty to eat. Almost. There were four tables of ten, and although we enjoyed our food, we also had a great time talking to new and familiar friends alike.

There was a large display with notes from nurses, pictures of tiny babies with smiling parents and samples of everyone's handiwork. There were soft little beanie hats and booties to fit your thumb; onsies and jumpers and satin dresses for special occasions; and blankets of every color, all soft and anxious to find the babies they were meant for.

Julie Ward, Chief Nurse Executive, said a few words about what our gifts mean to everyone at St. Joe's. And this is a proud grandma who knows what she's talking about. Last year, twins Ian and Julia came out to say hello after only 30 weeks in mom's womb. Grandma Julie spent two months in her own Unit visiting, nourishing and cuddling those babies. She now knows from first-hand experience how much it means to have strangers sewing their love, hopes and prayers into every item.

Thank you St. Joe's, for an unforgettable afternoon!

Jazz Attack - A *Giving* Quilt - by Wanda Dix

Wanda Dix is the driving force behind one of our favorite volunteer sewing groups... Peace by Piece Quilters. Join them the 4th Thursday of each month, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Craftmart in Chandler (1890 N. Alma School Rd). We recently caught up with Wanda at the Arizona Quilter's Guild (AQG) Show standing next to her award winning Jazz Attack. The following is Wanda's story of this *giving* quilt.

This quilt, Jazz Attack, was made in 2004 and donated it to the music department of the Middle School that my granddaughter attended. The quilt was used as a raffle quilt to raise funds to be used by their music department. The school decided to use the monies raised to send underprivileged chorus students, with their chorus class, to perform in Disneyland that year. Jazz Attack *gave* a smile to the face of everyone that saw it and provided many dollars in funds.

The person that held the winning ticket was one of my fellow quilt guild members. When her name was drawn I knew she would love the quilt as her daughter is a pianist! And I was so pleased that my quilt was going to the home of a quilter where I knew it would be taken good care of. When I presented her with the quilt, she did something very amazing. She *gave* the quilt back to me! Being a quilter herself, she knows how attached we become to our work, they are like our children.

Because this quilt always makes people smile when they see it (and I like to make people smile) I decided to enter it in the AQG Show this year. To my astonishment, the judges *gave* Jazz Attack a 1st Place ribbon! I had never entered a quilt in a show before and was stunned that I had won a blue ribbon.

Giving Is Golden (Vista)

The gals of Golden Vista RV Resort were busy sewers in March. Their annual Quilt Show was held on the 11th, where approximately 100 quilts and garments were on display. Attendees chose their favorites in various categories and ribbons were awarded. One lucky attendee went home with a gorgeous "Tennessee Waltz" raffle quilt.



AQG asked me to stand with my quilt during the show to meet and greet show goers. It was such a joy to watch people's faces light with a smile when they saw my quilt! It was a very heartwarming experience.

Jazz Attack *gave* me much pleasure during the making process. It gave the school the opportunity to raise enough money to *give* underprivileged children an experience and memories they will never forget. The quilt was then *given* back to me. It *gave* me a 1st Place ribbon and most importantly, it *gave* a lot of people a reason to smile.

This quilt seems to have taken on a life of its own! It just keeps giving.

Even its story gives people a smile! Are you smiling?



Above: Wanda Dix at the Arizona Quilter's Guild Show with her award-winning quilt titled Jazz Attack.

After the Quilt Show on Saturday, these ladies hit the ground running the following Monday and Tuesday during their Sew-a-Thon to benefit AZ Blankets 4 Kids. Several board members joined them in Apache Junction and were amazed at the number of blankets this group of ladies could put out in a two day period. By Tuesday afternoon they had completed 65 kid-size

blankets plus 60 preemie-size blankets! Wow! That's a 125 blanket donation in two days! Give it up for the Golden Vista Sewing Group!

FLEECE SCRAPS

Nurseries have a need for your scraps of fleece fabric. They use these warm fuzzies between tiny legs and under little arms. So please leave these tiny treasures with your next blanket donation or bring them to our bees.



New Patterns

We have two new patterns available on our website for your sewing enjoyment.

The Bear Quilt (left) was created for those of you who love to appliqué. See the back page of this newsletter for the bear outline.

The Easy Quilt (right) is perfect for those large prints you can't bear cutting. And it's available for sizes infant to teen!

Just click on **Patterns** at www.azblankets4kids.com



You Give to Us and We Give to Who? Or Whom?

We at AZ Blankets 4 Kids know we have the very best volunteers working hard to give our kids in crisis something warm and comfortable to cling to; and we want you to know what happens to your treasured blankets when you trust them into our hands.

In order for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to meet the State of Arizona and IRS "not-for-profit" status under 501(c)(3), we are required to inform, and obtain information from, recipient agencies about how the blankets will be used. We are required to keep a signed agreement on file from each agency accepting the following AZB4K criteria.

"AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc. will provide free of charge, security blankets, quilts, receiving blankets, tied comforters, and afghans, etc., to seriously ill or traumatized children. Recipients are children facing the most difficult times in their young lives and shall include those who are suffering the effects of serious illness, fire or major auto accident, sexual or physical abuse, mental or physical disabilities or homelessness."

When an agency wishes to receive blanket donations, an Agency Eligibility Questionnaire is completed by the requesting agency. This questionnaire states our criteria, explains the blankets are to be given - not sold, and that the blankets cannot be used for fundraising purposes. This questionnaire asks about the agency's mission and goals, the ages of the children served, the reasons they are referred, etc.

The Board then reviews the information. If the agency meets our criteria: a letter of acceptance is sent to the agency, a Criteria of Eligibility form is signed by the agency, and blanket deliveries begin.

We currently serve over 30 agencies throughout the Valley. These agencies include hospitals, child protective services, crisis pregnancy centers, schools, missions, fire and police.

It is an honor to receive the gift of your blankets. Please know that we place those gifts into the hands of children who need them and cling to them with hope for better days to come.



January 7
Sunland Springs Village
Mesa

77 - Attendees
93 - Blankets Donated at the Door
92 - Blankets Completed at the Bee

February 11
Chandler Police Dept.
Chandler

51 - Attendees
337 - Blankets Donated at the Door
72 - 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, June 24, 2006

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

Saturday, October 14, 2006

Fall Blanket Bee
Chandler Police Dept.
Community Rm.
250 E. Chicago, Chandler
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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.

Last Wednesday each Month (except during June, July & August)

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

AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc.

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Tempe, AZ 85284-0021

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED