



September 2006 Edition

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Covering Metro Phoenix, Arizona

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your generous donations have made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute **5,810** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October 2005 through August 2006.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

29,925!

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"I keep my end tables full of needlework and quilting so I don't have to dust them."

Author Unknown

needle - (nēd'1) *n.* 1. a small, slender piece of steel with a sharp point at one end and a hole for thread at the other 2. any of various similar implements for use in making stitches, as for use in knitting or one hooked at the end for use in crocheting: **botany** 1. a needle-shaped leaf, as of a conifer: a pine needle: **informal** 1. to prod or goad; to tease.



We Love Our *Needle*-wielding Volunteers

Thinking back to my childhood, there was no sound that said "all is right with the world" quite like the sound of my mother's knitting needles going clickety-click, clickety-click. And nothing could match the softness and warmth of her treasures when they were finished.

With so much doting on our quilting volunteers, it is long overdue to say a special thank you to all of you who knit and crochet beautiful, soft, cuddly blankets for our kids.

One such volunteer is Helen Green of Sun Lakes. Helen moved to Arizona from Oklahoma City in 1979. She had raised her four children and was seeking some community involvement. She learned of AZB4K from Betty Manovsky of the Agave Quilters in Sun Lakes.

Helen immediately set to work crocheting blankets for our agencies. She contributes at least 50 afghans a year! Her favorite pattern is a simple double crochet, changing yarn colors to create a pretty striped afghan. Her blankets are approximately 40" wide and 40" to 50" long, perfect for our child/toddler size. We

love all knitted and crocheted blanket donations (except preemies). And blankets with a tight knit stitch will withstand the strongest wrapping, cuddling and squishing that our kids are bound to give them.

Helen also has 8 grandchildren and just as many great-grandchildren clamoring for her lovely afghans. Thanks so much for treating our AZ kids like part of the family!

With all the finesse in the clickety-click, knit one pearl two and yarn-over, it will have your grandchildren saying, "You mean you can do all that but you can't play my Game Boy!!"



Fresh Air and Friends Amid the *Needles*

Once again the fresh scent of the needles welcomed our volunteers back to Camp Emmanuel Pines in Prescott. On August 18th, 29 campers converged on their quilting cabin. Their getaway lasted through the 20th at the low price of \$125 per person. Kittie and Natalie, of Cutting Edge Quiltworks, continued as our gracious hosts. Through their planning and generosity, campers enjoyed project demonstrations, "strip" poker, meals, lodging, and a sewing room made for socializing.

Campers were invited to spend their time in any way they wished. There was no strict agenda. They could bring UFOs (unfinished objects), handwork, crocheting, knitting, ipods (see Courtney's ear below) or simply a good book to read in the cooler temperatures.

AZB4K provided quilt kits for anyone who wished to work on them and it must have been a popular option. Over 100 preemie quilts were completed in 3 short days. An additional 24

quilts were completed in various other sizes. A dozen toddler size tops were added to this impressive list. Kittie kindly volunteered to finish them for our kids.

There were trips to the local quilt shops on Saturday afternoon, but the night belonged to the high rollers... rollers of fabric, that is. Over a dozen ladies bellied up to the betting table for a lively evening of "strip" poker. Texas Hold'em was their game and 2 1/2" strips of rolled fabric was their currency. Check out their convincing poker faces in the photo below.

Campers ranged in age from 23 to 74. The fun to be had at this camp shows no age discrimination. However, there was some playful teasing of the young'uns with ipods in their ears. There were two mother daughter couples; Ellie Gill and daughter Joy Osterberg as well as Susan Quisenberry and daughter Courtney Quisenberry.

Right: Check out the serious poker faces on these ladies guarding their stashes in this fun version of "strip" poker.



Below: Karen Dressler (former AZB4K President) sews with familiar faces and makes new friends too.



Above: Sharon Mitchell displays one of 50 festive holiday preemie quilts finished during the three day retreat.

Camp 2006



Left: A sweet mother and daughter squeeze between Susan and Courtney Quisenberry.

More Fresh Air at Camp Emmanuel Pines



The demonstrations were great! Mickey Hemstreet, a visitor from Illinois, taught an easy way to make flying geese. Laura Alexander made luggage tags. Karen Dressler demonstrated a creative way to make a hot pad using fabric and bottle tops. Sonya Parisi showed campers how to do Japanese embroidery. Susan Quisenberry demonstrated a cute little "no sew" Christmas tree, an easy wine tote and a curling iron tote. And Bonnie Park made a sweet little Santa Claus Christmas tree ornament.

Next year's camp will be held August 17th through the 19th and registration will begin in April. The famous French toast has already been requested!

“This camp restores your faith in human kindness and recharges your batteries.”
Tessa Bonvouloir



Top: Campers gather around for a demonstration to make mini bags and luggage tags.

Middle: Marilyn Clever and Susan Quisenberry display a beautiful quilt top.

Bottom: The sewing room filled with happy campers.



No Needling Needed



Top: Mary Hummer cuts fabric for kits.

Middle: Laura handles pressing matters.

Bottom: Marissa Ciaramitaro presents Vicky Varga with donation of quilts and knitted blankets.



The volunteers at Las Palmas Grand need no needling, prodding or goading to turn out hundreds of blankets each year (over 1,000 last year). On June 24th they hosted a Bee in their Ballroom. This venue is always a favorite. We love it for its extensive elbow room, natural light, and let's not forget our favorite chefs... Tim and Joe. Thanks again for the tasty lunch and all your time throughout the year keeping our quilters fueled up with food on their Bee days.

Although it was the middle of Summer, when many of our volunteers seek refuge from the sweltering heat, this Bee was very well attended. There were 51 volunteers in attendance turning out 76 blankets by the end of the

day. An amazing 412 blankets were donated at the door and kept our distribution volunteers sorting and packing at a steady pace.

During the bee we had the pleasure of meeting a new volunteer. Marissa Ciaramitaro is a young lady attending Fremont Junior High School in Mesa. She presented AZB4K with a donation of eleven preemie blankets, five child-sized blankets and a knitted blanket.

This motivated youth gave of her time and talents as part of her Summer Service Learning Project. She is the President of the Service Club and spent time visiting each station at the Bee. She paid close attention to each task and looked for opportunities to offer assistance from her Service Club. We hope to see more of Marissa and her classmates in the future.



Desert Club Donation

Once again we send heartfelt gratitude to the Desert Club. This non-profit women's service organization provides scholastic scholarships to students living in the East Valley and community grants to non-profit organizations serving women and children.

Desert Club, founded in 1946, currently has 38 active members and 112 "life" and "sustaining" members. Since 1958, Desert Club has hosted the annual Christmas Idea House where over the course of four days, events are held at one or more beautifully decorated luxury homes. All of the proceeds from these events go to scholarships and community programs.

AZB4K has received a generous grant of \$500. Thank you for your service to the community. Visit them on the web at www.christmasideahouse.org.

We Needle - ot of Help

I know, I know, it's a cheezy title... but we really do need a lot of help! 'Tis the season for quilting! And quilting Bees!

On Saturday, October 14th, we'll have our Fall Bee at the Chandler PD Community Room. We hope to see you all there. As usual, we'll provide quilt kits and snacks in the morning. You can bring your lunch or go to a nearby restaurant with friends from the Bee.

Most importantly, don't forget to bring lots of one or five dollar bills with you. We will be raffling this gorgeous quilt (right) during the Bee. Its burgundy, brown, green and gold tones will ring in the holiday season with warmth and beauty. Tickets will cost \$1 each or \$5 for six. You do not have to be present to win so don't fret if you have to leave early.

Since we're talking holiday colors, don't forget this is the perfect time to put pretty holiday prints into quilts for our kids! We have a great start with 50 holiday preemies from camp.



We Needle - ovely Bee Coordinator

The piles of blankets you see to the left are always our goal during Bees for AZB4K. However, coordinating a Bee takes a special talent... someone who's organized, knows all the stages of quilt production, and has the time and energy to help us out. If you know of such a lovely person... we need them!

We welcome all volunteers in general to talk to any board members at the Bee and see if there's a way you would like to contribute to our cause. If you sew in a group, we're also happy to help you sponsor a Bee in your neck 'o the woods.



June 24
Las Palmas Grand
Mesa

51 - Attendees
412 - Blankets Donated at the Door
76 - Blankets Completed at the Bee

August 18-20
Camp Emmanuel Pines
Prescott

29 - Attendees
124+ - Blankets Completed at Camp
(including over 100 preemies)

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, October 14, 2006

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

Saturday, February 17, 2007

Spring 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
Pyle Adult Recreation Center
655 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Last Wednesday each Month

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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED