



Summer 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 **4,902** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October 2004 through June 2005.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

22,977!

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Contact us:

(480) 283-8746

info@azblankets4kids.com

www.azblankets4kids.com

Pack Your Bags and Your Sewing Machines!

It's already August and that means it's time to reward yourself for making it through the worst of the summer heat. What better reward than a weekend getaway to cooler temperatures at Emmanuel Pines in Prescott? Cutting Edge Quiltworks is graciously hosting our "Getaway 2005"! The weekend of August 19th through the 21st, we'll be filling a cabin with the whirl and hum of sewing machines and friends chatting and laughing together.

Campers will enjoy three days, two nights, and five (oh-so-yummy) meals. This event is for all of our amazing volunteers to treat themselves to a quilting getaway. However, you're perfectly welcome to spend the weekend doing whatever you like best. This is YOUR getaway! You can hike into the woods and read a book. You can bring a pile of UFOs (UnFinished Objects) to complete. You can bring your yarn and needles and crochet or knit while you catch a breeze filled with the scent of pine. The possibilities are endless!

Kittie and Natalie (with Cutting Edge Quiltworks) will be providing lots of fun options too. There will be a recipe swap (so bring your favorite recipe), fat quarter game (bring an ugly one and a beautiful one), demos on how to make some easy gifts, and "Poker Night" on Saturday!



Natalie (from Cutting Edge) enjoys one of five delicious meals provided during last year's quilting getaway.



Kittie (from Cutting Edge) handles a "pressing" matter at the 2004 camp.

There will be a special focus on preemie quilts this year. We'll have lots of kits available if you'd like to sew for the wee ones. There will also be a prize for the camp's favorite preemie quilt. But if you're reading this, then you probably already know the greatest prize for all our hard work is the "ooohhs" and "aaahhs" from fellow quilters. And I know those will be making a steady hum through the cabin all weekend long.

As I sit here clicking away at the keyboard, I'm told there is one more spot available at camp. Hurry! Pick up the phone and call Cutting Edge Quiltworks at (480) 857-3443. The cost is only \$100. Again, that's three days, two nights, and five meals. Maybe you can reserve that last spot (credit cards are accepted)!

Ok campers, start packing! See you soon!

Volunteer Ellie Gill Wins Raffle Quilt

Congratulations to AZB4K volunteer Ellie Gill. She purchased the winning ticket for our 2005 Raffle Quilt! The drawing was held at Craftmart in Chandler on March 26 and Ellie was presented with her prize at Cutting Edge Quiltworks in Chandler on March 29. Thanks to Kittie at Cutting Edge for capturing the moment in photographs.

Ellie found our organization after retiring as a Social Studies teacher at Dobson High School in May of 2000. In January of 2001, Ellie attended a quilting bee for AZ Blankets at Cutting Edge Quiltworks. Previously, Ellie's sewing time was spent on clothing, upholstery and drapery. She had also made costumes for Mesa Community College.

Besides the satisfaction of providing AZ Kids with warm and cozy blankets, Ellie was drawn to the friendship and camaraderie of AZB4K volunteers. She says that our events are always welcoming and full of friendly faces coming together to do good work.

"I was stunned!", she said, when asked about her first reaction upon hearing she had won the raffle quilt. Ellie had purchased the tickets and taken them home to fill out and mail in. She was planning a trip to Australia (which included quilting classes) and mailed



Phyllis Akins (left) presents Ellie Gill (right) with her quilt prize.

the tickets just before she left. She had forgotten about the raffle until she received a phone call informing her she was a winner.

The queen-size quilt top was pieced and donated by AZB4K volunteer Thelma McGaughey, and quilted by Louise Haley. The Circling Swallows pattern is worked in shades of blue on a white background. Many thanks to these two quilters for sharing their time and talents to create this unique and beautiful quilt for us.

Louise Haley - Quilting Artist

Louise Haley (left, with inset of quilting detail from this year's raffle quilt) has provided AZ Blankets with her incredible quilting talents since we began our raffle quilt fund raisers. She has been our quilt artist for three raffles now.

Coming from a family of sewers, both grandmothers especially, Louise grew up in an environment where needlework was plentiful. As a teenager, Louise saw a denim quilt on the cover of a magazine and had to make it. Next were crazy quilts, then quilting classes, and finally a start in hand quilting. She began free-motion quilting on her Bernina sewing machine, then moved into long-arm machine quilting, where she can accommodate larger quilts.

The level of detail in the quilting Louise has done for us is truly incredible. When asked how she comes up with the quilting design she said, "Some of the quilts start talking to me right away. Others are tougher and I ask myself questions about what would work best. I always take ownership of the quilt and make it the way I would want my quilt to be."

Thanks Louise, for making our raffles such a success!



A felicitous selection of fabrics can be found just beyond this welcome sign at the door.

Community Stash Sale at Felicity Fabrics in Anthem

Saturday, May 21st, Felicity Fabrics, in Anthem, hosted a Community Stash Sale in their parking lot. Everyone brought their stash from home to sell and swap with others at the event. Although the weather was in the triple digits, we had a good turnout and made some great new friends. We received 9 blankets, 31 preemies, and one quilt top with back. Toward the end of the event, many generous folks chose to donate their remaining stash to help us make blankets for kids.

Tami (owner) and her staff were more than generous with their time, space, and donations. We hope to see you there soon, as they are also one of our new drop-off locations for blankets. Visit them online at www.felicityfabrics.com.



Tami with a new quilting volunteer who donated the first quilt she made to AZ Blankets for Kids.

Board of Directors News

Our annual Board meeting is held each November. We are always looking for eager volunteers for AZ Blankets, but if you would like to consider being a Board member, please give us a call.

If you are interested in preparing our newsletter or if your talents lean toward scrapbooking, please let us tell you more about expanding your volunteerism to our Board of Directors. Call (480) 283-8746 or e-mail info@azblankets4kids.com

Fall Blanket Bee

Join us for our Fall Blanket Bee on Saturday, October 15, 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.

Community C.A.R.E. Connections, Inc. "Compassion And Respect for Everyone"

On March 15, during our Spring Blanket Bee, Courtney Kutta, V.P. and Co-Founder of Community C.A.R.E. Connections, Inc., explained what AZ Blankets does for their organization and what CCC Inc. does for your community.

Their mission fulfills crucial needs for highly vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, helping them achieve a life of independence. They accomplish this by connecting those in need with those who can help. They focus their attention on women and children, victims of domestic violence, homebound seniors, low-income populations and volunteerism.

Blankets for Community C.A.R.E. Connections, Inc. are placed primarily within two of their programs: Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence (AVDV) and the Medical Volunteer Program (MVP). Children who are victims of domestic violence are often given one of our blankets in a shelter where they have the help and hope to make a new start. One task of the MVP is to provide assistance for teen pregnancy and family planning. Classes for expecting moms who are in financial or emotional crisis receive a "getting started" package which includes one of our blankets.



*Courtney Kutta,
Community C.A.R.E.
Connections, Inc.*

To see how you can help, visit their website at www.4ccc.org or call (480)785-8889.

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!

A Quilter's Oasis

9963 E. Baseline Rd., #105
Mesa (480) 354-4077

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

Friday-Sunday, August 19-21, 2005

AZB4K Quilting Getaway 2005

hosted by Cutting Edge Quiltworks
3 days, 2 nights, 5 meals - only \$100
Call (480) 857-3443 and reserve.

Saturday, October 15, 2005

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.

1st 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.

P. O. Box 11206

Tempe, AZ 85284-0021

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED