



# Azie's Blanket Coverage

May 2018 Edition

Covering Metro Phoenix, Arizona

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**Total deliveries from  
inception to date:**

**112,625**

## This Is It! The Last One! Our Final Newsletter

The headline is true. This is our final newsletter. But we like to think of it as a new beginning. We've been publishing a newsletter twice a year for the last several years. Over those years we've encouraged everyone to "go green" and receive their newsletter notification via e-mail. Our next evolution removes all printing and postage from the equation, but it allows us to communicate with you as events occur, rather than months later. It also invites you to become active participants in our news.

If you have a Facebook account, please search for AZ Blankets 4 Kids (below right), and Like our page. This will allow you to see our posts in your Newsfeed. You can also visit us online at our website ([www.azblankets4kids.com](http://www.azblankets4kids.com)) and see all the great things we're up to.

When you visit either location, we invite you to share your stories with us in Comments or via e-mail ([info@azblankets4kids.com](mailto:info@azblankets4kids.com)).

- Have you made blankets for our kids?
- Have you used any of our patterns or have a favorite of your own?
- Do you sew with a group you'd like to brag about?
- Did you attend one of our events and want to share your photos?
- Do you know a child who has received one of our blankets?

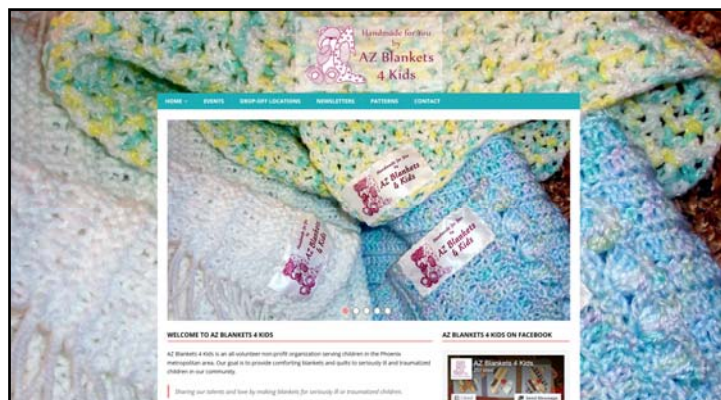
Please share your stories and photos with us, so we can share them with other volunteers and visitors. Your stories may inspire them to become volunteers, or make a donation that helps us continue our mission to provide comforting blankets to seriously ill and traumatized children in our community.

See you all soon on the information super highway! Send your friends our way too!



**Above:** Search for "AZ Blankets 4 Kids" on Facebook. **Like** our page so you see updates in your Newsfeed.

**Left:** Find us online at [www.azblankets4kids.com](http://www.azblankets4kids.com) and see all the fun stuff we have planned.



## AZ Blankets 4 Kids - Behind the Scenes - How It Works

As an AZ Blankets 4 Kids volunteer, you may have donated blankets or attended one of our quilting bees. Have you ever wondered what happens to your donations, or how AZB4K works behind the scenes?

Our Board of around a dozen dedicated volunteers, facilitates the connection between our blanket makers and our blanket recipients. We do not have a physical home base, but we meet four times a year (February, May, August, and November) to talk business and coordinate with our team. Our basic structure consists of the following:

- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Communications: news, social media, website, e-mail, phone line, volunteer records/roster
- Bee Coordination and Quilt Kitting
- Distribution: picking up blankets from drop-off locations and events and delivering to our recipient

In this final newsletter, we celebrate three former board members: Nancy Gilman, Karen Johnston, and Gloria Wood. As we thank them for their time and dedication, we look to our existing and new volunteers, for people who might like to give their time and talents in ways other than blanket making.

Some of our Board positions require computer knowledge, including word processing, spreadsheets, WordPress (for website), and MailChimp (for e-mail campaigns). Some positions require travel time throughout the Valley, from drop-off locations/events/meetings to recipient agencies. Some positions require organizational skills, joyful energy and a smile.

If you possess any of these super powers and would like to be an AZB4K hero in a new way, please contact us, visit with current board members, attend one of our business meetings, or all of the above! We always welcome fresh ideas and new eyes to our organization.

### Kelli's Kinetics



Happy summertime, beautiful people! My name is Kelli Nemec, and I have the absolute privilege of being President of AZ Blankets 4 Kids.

As the temperature rises, I think it's a perfect excuse to stay inside, crank up the air conditioning (and the music), make blankets, and DANCE! We tried something new at our most recent bee at Sunland Springs Village. You could call it a movement break, or bend and stretch time, but I'm choosing to call it a dance party! Sure, it's only one song, but that just means we have to fit a whole lot of party into a short amount of time. I have faith in you! I know you can do it! And if you'd like to join me and wave your arms in the air like you just don't care... come to a future bee. I promise, there will be dancing!

All kidding aside, take care of your bodies as you quilt or stitch the summer days away. Take regular breaks to get that blood flowing. If you get in the zone, take a break whenever you change a bobbin. I set a timer on my phone to remind me to move every 30 minutes. Now I don't mean to nag, but every time you get up and move... drink some water. If you're feeling extra dangerous, add some electrolytes to that water!

Your body will thank you!



Before you learned to walk, run, talk, or anything else... you danced. It wasn't something you had to be taught, or something you had to copy from someone else. You just did it.

There is no right way to dance or move your body. What works for someone else, may not work for you. You just have to do it your way, and when you do... it's magical.

- Misty Tripoli (bodygroove.com)

## Children's Bereavement Camp - Banner Hospice - Gilbert, AZ

We recently added a new blanket recipient agency to our lineup. It is a children's bereavement camp, sponsored by Banner Hospice, in Gilbert, AZ.

Their mission is to provide emotional support to grieving children referred from hospice staff, volunteer workers, and the community at large. They serve children (ages 6-18 years) who are referred because they show difficulty adjusting to the death of a family member. The camp is held just outside of Payson, Arizona and is open to the entire community.

The camp meets three times per year. AZ Blankets 4 Kids board member, Janet Thompson, gifts her time at these camps as well. She was able to share the photo below that shows the first delivery of blankets to the camp.

They provide a healing event to help those at camp feel comfortable, relaxed and to understand they are not alone. Children and parents participate in activities that inform, educate and provide opportunities to talk about very difficult aspects of loss.

They have helped families who have experienced losses such as grandparents who died from an illness, or sudden accidental deaths of parents or siblings.

For more information, please call (480) 657-1167. You can also find more information online at [www.bannerhealth.com/services/hospice/support](http://www.bannerhealth.com/services/hospice/support).

We welcome them to the AZB4K family and hope to wrap these kids in comfort and love.



*A Quilt Will Warm Your Body  
And Comfort Your Soul*

## Weavers Needle Bee

It was a beautiful day at Weavers Needle RV Resort, this past January 12th. This bee is one of our BIG bees! We typically have a packed house of around 100 guests. And boy do these volunteers know how to get things done! We sew, press, layer, spray and tie at this location. Our sprayers can be seen in the lower left photo, under a shade tent, and ready to stick stuff together!



Our beautiful door prize basket went home with a happy Debi Solomich (below). Margaret Craft is fanning herself with her lucky winnings from the 50/50 drawing. AZB4K President, Kelli Nemec, took home the pretty pinwheel raffle blanket.

This bee is known for the incredible snack and salad spread our hosts provide. You can see our breakfast beauties smiling below. There were photos of the salad potluck, but they wouldn't fit in one frame.

This bee welcomed 129 donated blankets at the door and completed a phenomenal 77 more blankets during the day. As impressive as these numbers are, they don't include all the blankets that were layered, sprayed, or nudged along in the process in countless ways. Well done!





**Right:** Door Prize basket goes to marvelous Mable Smith

**Below:** Lovely Lois Gross wins our \$25 gift certificate to Mulqueens



We met up with 52 quilting friends on Saturday, January 27 at the bright and cheerful Community Room of Holiday Village.

This location is always popular with our volunteers who love pizza. Lunch is never the most important part of our day, but where there is pizza... there are happy volunteers!

A whopping 196 blankets were donated at the door, while 35 were completed at the bee. Wonderful work, everyone!

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## Palmas del Sol Bee

On Monday, February 19, a small group of quilting friends gathered at Palmas del Sol in Mesa.

It was a breezy day, so we warmed up with a variety of delicious soups from a table full of crock pots. Yum!

These Scrap Happy Quilters meet regularly, and they invite you to join them! You will find them every Monday of the month (except the 2nd Monday), at 6209 E. McKellips Rd. (just east of Recker).

Lois Brown (upper left) was the beautiful door prize basket winner of the day. Our baskets are lovingly created by our talented Letty Fowell, who stuffs them full of quilty goodness!

Their Garden Twist Quilt (upper right) was made by members of the group, as their 2018 raffle quilt. They look forward to seeing you at their next sewing day.



## Thank You, Gloria Wood

Gloria Wood has served in several positions on our Board over the years. She's been a bee co-ordinator, a publisher of our newsletter, Vice President and President. These only speak to the work she performed as a Board member.

Each Board member also finds their niche at our quilting bees. Gloria has found hers at the binding station. She has cut countless strips of 2.5" fabric and matched them up with a quilt to provide just the right finishing touch. She also transports and stores those binding supplies between events.

The best thing about serving on our Board is that you become part of a family of friends. You are all working toward the same goal of providing comforting blankets to seriously

ill and traumatized kids in our community, but you're also there for each other when life throws its curve balls.

We're so grateful for all Gloria has given to this organization, and we look forward to more good times and great work together in the future.



## Thank You, Karen Johnston

Like Gloria, Karen Johnston has filled many roles with AZB4K, for many years. She started by sharing her sharp accounting skills as Treasurer, then served multiple years as our President.



Karen has a confident, bold, take-charge personality. We could always count on her to greet volunteers and visitors at a bee, assess their skills and initiative, and have them busy at work in no time.

She was equally comfortable explaining our blanket-making process to a Girl Scout Troop or an expert quilter. She never tired of explaining and demonstrating our process for binding a quilt (especially the tricky part of joining the ends).

She fostered great relationships with organizations like the F-Troop Gold Wing motorcycle group (photo below). The group raised funds to benefit AZB4K. Karen was also a valued resource to help donors understand how they could take advantage of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, which benefits AZB4K as well as our donors. You can still seek Karen's good advice during tax season, at H&R Block.



We offer our heartfelt thanks to Karen for sharing her time and talents with us.

Thank you for the smiles and the laughter.

Thank you for the good times and the good work.



## La Hacienda Bee

This year, our La Hacienda Bee was held Saturday, March 3rd. This RV Resort is located just north of the Superstition Freeway, off Ironwood Drive. Their spacious auditorium is a perfect place for us to set up with about 65 of our best quilting friends (BQFs).

Our kind hosts, Peg Wier and Hilda Tanner (middle below), always put on an excellent quilting party. Their potluck lunches are always a favorite of our volunteers. Everyone brings a favorite dish to share, and plates are filled with a variety of recipes.

Lunchtime conversation usually becomes a great recipe quest.

Everyone wins at these bees, but three individuals were extra lucky. Charlene Yeiter won our 50/50 cash prize. Carole Willsey (former AZB4K board member) took home the huge door prize basket of goodies, and Mary Kock scored a \$25 gift certificate to a local quilt shop.

Our distribution committee reported 110 blankets donated at the door and 22 completed at the bee.





## Thank You, Nancy Gilman

If you attend any of our events, you'll recognize this smiling face. It happens to belong to one of our favorite people. This former AZB4K board member is the lovely Nancy Gilman.

We are ever grateful for her time as secretary, on the board. She keeps busy with the sewing group from Las Palmas Grand, in addition to other charitable sewing endeavors. She is a talented quilter and sewist. Her commissioned and bespoke pieces are

proof of her creativity and attention to detail.

Nancy has remained a dedicated volunteer for AZB4K. She continues as our official Welcome Woman at our bees. (Hmm, maybe a super hero cape is in order?) Juggling all the raffle and lunch tickets; getting updated information from visitors; and directing them to their work stations for the day, can get intense.

Thank you, Nancy, for your time, your kindness, and your smiles!



## Queen Valley Bee

We joined the Queen Valley Sharing Circle for a special work day on Monday, March 12th, where they hosted a delicious luncheon.

Over 20 people shared the day with our five board members. Thank you so much for the 40+ quilts you sent with us! You are amazing, and we are so grateful!



## Sunland Springs Village Bee



Our most recent shindig found us at sunny Sunland Spring Village on Saturday, April 7th. We had a full house of 79 volunteers.

The heat didn't deter our dedicated sprayers from working hard (below left). And see table after table of busy bees, stitching away at their machines (left). Our own lucky Linda Christensen took the fabulous fabric prize, while Jenny Clemenshaw scored the 50/50 fortune. Sue Burdett of La Hacienda won the beautiful pink basket (far below right), while Beth Wittock of Sunland Springs Village gets to go shopping at a local quilt shop on us (far below left).

This bee boasted a great freebie table. Who doesn't need more fabric?! Am I right?!

We tried something new at this event, and it seems to be a hit! We had a couple of dance parties! They were only one song long, but they got us up and moving! Thanks to everyone who came out to play!



## JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

11 - Weavers Needle - 250 S. Tomahawk Road,  
Apache Junction  
26 - Holiday Village - 701 S. Dobson Road,  
Mesa

## FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

7 - Arizonian RV Resort - 15976 US Highway 60,  
Gold Canyon  
23 - LaHacienda RV Resort - 1797 W. 28th Avenue,  
Apache Junction

## MARCH 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

23 - Fountain of the Sun - 540 S. 80th Street,  
Mesa

## APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

6 - Sunland Springs Village - 2240 Springwood Blvd.,  
Mesa

## MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## JUNE 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

8 - Las Palmas Grand, 2550 S. Ellsworth Road,  
Mesa

## Blanket Drop-off Locations:

### 35th Ave. Sew & Vac

4939 W. Ray Rd., #27  
Chandler (480) 961-7363

### A Quilter's Oasis

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

### Bernina Connection

4219 E Indian School Rd  
Phoenix (602) 553-8350

### Cutting Edge Quiltworks

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

### Mad B's Quilt & Sew

7415 E. Southern Ave., #108  
Mesa (480) 964-8914

### Modern Quilting

4649 E. Cactus Rd.  
Phoenix (602) 710-1771

### Mulqueen Sew & Vac

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

### Mulqueen Sew & Vac

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

### Sun Valley Quilts

9857 W. Bell Rd.  
Sun City (623) 972-2091

When you visit these shops,  
please thank them for being  
a drop-off location for  
AZ Blankets 4 Kids.

We appreciate the time and  
space they give us to make  
those important connections  
between us, our volunteers  
and donors, and our blanket  
recipients.

## Ongoing Events

### 3rd Thursday each month from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Las Palmas Grand - Ballroom  
2550 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa

### 1st Thursday each month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Peace by Piece  
Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church  
1565 E. Warner Rd., Tempe

### Mondays (except the 2nd) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Palmas del Sol  
Scrap Happy Quilters  
6209 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa

**AZ Blankets 4 Kids, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 13385**  
**Mesa, AZ 85216-3385**