



**AZ Blankets
4 Kids**

Azie's Blanket Coverage

Summer 2003 Edition

Phoenix, AZ

And the winner is...

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On March 22 at Zoe's Trunk, we drew for the lucky winner of our Annual Raffle Quilt. Austin Kowalchuk of Chandler can be seen at right pulling the lucky name from the box (with a little help from Grandpa Vito visiting from CA). The patriotic themed raffle quilt, created in a Liberty Star design, was sewn by our own board member and quilt artist, Phyllis Akins and quilted by Louise Haley.



William Merchen is the lucky name Austin pulled from the box. Our winner recently returned from his tour of duty in the Navy where he served aboard the USS Cole. The Cole was hit on October 12, 2000 while refueling at a floating dock in Aden, Yemen. Seventeen sailors were killed and 39 wounded.

The raffle quilt was presented to Will on April 8 at a meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 320 in Rapid City, So. Dakota. Approximately 25 people were in

attendance, including Will's parents and grandparents. His grandmother, Jane Merchen, presented the quilt. He was thrilled! He admired the quilt for its beauty, craftsmanship, and especially the patriotic design. He plans to hang the quilt in his home where he and his wife can enjoy it and keep it safe from the sticky fingers of their two small children.

Many thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets. We appreciate your support!

Blanket Delivery Update

Thank you, volunteers! Your commitment of time and talent has made it possible for AZ Blankets 4 Kids to distribute 2,810 Blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October through June. Total deliveries from inception to date: 11,604!

AZ Blankets 4 Kids Welcomes New Recipient Agencies

Our list of recipient agencies has grown to 36, including these new additions: Aid to Adoption AASK, Community Care Connections, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Indians for Wellness, New Life Center, Sunnyslope Elementary Head Start, ASU East YMCA Pre-

school, and Youngtown Police Dept. If you know of a non-profit organization serving seriously ill or traumatized children that you would like us to contact, please call the blanket line at (480) 283-8746 or email us at info@azblankets4kids.com.

Blanket Guidelines

We have developed the following blanket guidelines based on feedback from our recipient agencies.

Materials

100% cotton fabrics in child-friendly patterns and colors. For knitted or crocheted blankets, please use washable acrylic yarns.

Construction

All blankets should be machine quilted or tied every four to six inches with a square knot (except Premies). These blankets are well-used and need to be durable and washable. If tied, agencies request that we use pearl cotton or embroidery thread as opposed to yarn.

Visit our website at www.azblankets4kids.com for pattern ideas or use your own.

Sizes

Premies 16" x 16" to 18" x 18" Blankets must have flannel backing, no batting and minimal quilting. Either stitch from corner to corner in an X or stitch 2" from edges on all four sides. *Do not tie.*

Infant 36" x 36" or larger

Toddler 36" by 44" (one yard of fabric)

Child 36" by 44" or larger

Teens 40" x 60" or larger

We often receive requests for more blankets suitable for boys or in gender neutral colors and patterns, particularly in the Teen size. Thank you for keeping our teenaged recipients in mind!

Winter Blanket Bee at Matta's Restaurant

On March 29th our Winter Blanket Bee was held at Matta's Restaurant in Mesa. The Matta family opened their restaurant banquet facility to our volunteers for the day. All who attended enjoyed their hospitality and many wonderful blankets were completed as a result. A total of 286 blankets were collected or completed at the bee, of which 212 were immediately distributed to our recipient agencies.

Please join us in expressing our appreciation to the Matta family for hosting the Winter Blanket Bee.

Plan to join us for these upcoming Blanket Bee events:

June 14 Palmas del Sol
East, Apache Junction
8 am to 5 pm (directions p. 4)

Oct. 18 Chandler Police
Dept. Community Room
9 am to 3 pm



Agency Spotlight: Williams Community School

You can help! Williams Community School collects General Mills Boxtops for Education to raise funds for much needed supplies. Watch for these coupons on many of your favorite grocery items. Clip and send c/o Elaine Hair, Williams School, 7004 E. Union Ave., Mesa, AZ 85212



Williams Community School, formerly East Valley School, opened in 1990 as the valley's first alternative high school to serve at-risk youth. Five years later, it expanded to include alternative junior high students, and in 1999 the elementary school opened to help meet the needs of children from homeless and transitional families. Day care and pre-school programs are also available to enable teen parents to complete their education.

Many of its students, because of their transitional lifestyles, move frequently. The advantage of Williams Community School is that the children of homeless families do not have to change schools as their families move around the East Valley. The school provides transportation, medical & dental assistance, clothing and food for its homeless families thanks to donations, volunteers and community outreach programs.