



Winter 2005 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 **6,436** blankets to various agencies that assist seriously ill and traumatized children during the months of October 2004 through October 2005.

Total deliveries from inception to date :

24,511!

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A Grand Year for AZ Blankets for Kids

grand - (**gränd**) *adj.* 1. Large and impressive in size, scope, or extent; magnificent 2. Rich and sumptuous; splendid 3. Wonderful or very pleasing : *n. pl. slang* one thousand



A Grand Goal Met by Las Palmas Grand

Las Palmas Grand made over 1,000 blankets for AZB4K in 2005! This is double their goal of 500 blankets last year. These ladies are truly incredible. They work from home; they work from their community ballroom; but mostly, they work from their hearts. I had the pleasure of joining them for one of their quilting bees (held the 3rd Thursday of each month).

I walked into a big, bright room full of the whirl of sewing machines, the snip of scissors, and the shhoop of rotary cutters. I was greeted by smiling faces who found me a spot to work in the thick of things. Everything was so organized! Each set of tables had a space for cutting and a warm iron was always nearby. They cut their own kits from bolts of fabric lined up nicely on their storage racks. Many of the ladies were sewing binding onto the quilts, which finishes

them beautifully. Everybody has their favorite tasks in quilt-making and it all comes together to create 1,000 gorgeous quilts in one year! Did I mention that this group is made up of little more than 25 women? It amazes me how so few can do so much.

The photo above was taken on November 17th, after a morning of sewing and lunchtime of eating a "winners" meal. Once again the ladies were challenged to make this goal by a few of their husbands. For the second year now, those betting men have been cooking up a delicious celebration luncheon for all the ladies in the group. Your yummy lunch and support throughout the year is so appreciated. Thanks so much!

And thank you, ladies, for wrapping 1,000 of Azie's children in warmth, beauty and love.

Agave Quilter's *Grand* Total



(Right) Phyllis Akins, AZB4K President, presents (Left) Betti Clarke and Betty Manovsky, Agave Quilters, with a certificate of appreciation for their 1,000th blanket donation.

On Wednesday, November 2nd, we gave special thanks to the Agave Quilters of Sun Lakes for donating over 1,000 blankets to AZB4K. Phyllis Akins presented Betti Clarke (guild President) and Betty Manovsky with a certificate of appreciation.

Betty Manovsky, the driving force behind the community service projects of the guild, called the name of each volunteer and presented them with a carnation. Special thanks were also given to Carol Manovsky (Betty's daughter) for color coordinating the donated fabrics; Elizabeth Barton, who tied the majority of the quilts; and Helen Green, whose flying crochet hook created several blankets, baby socks and hats each month.

This is exactly the kind of group that we at AZB4K rely on to fill the requests of our agencies. If you think that you're only one person and can't make a difference, just look at what people can do when they get together for a good cause. Every year the generosity and compassion of our volunteers grows more than we thought it could. And every year the need for these blankets grows too.

Thank you Agave Quilters for a truly **grand** contribution!

A *Grand* Getaway

Right: Natalie, Kittie, Karen, Susan, Nancy, Carol and Sylvia with a pile of preemie blankets completed at camp.

Below: Sewing in the sun at AZB4K's Quilting Getaway 2005.



Campers ranged in age from 26 to 73. One camper celebrated her birthday during the weekend. The getaway was held from August 19-21 at Emmanuel Pines in Prescott. It's always the perfect time of year to escape the heat in the city and go to higher, cooler country.

Kittie and Natalie, with Cutting Edge Quiltworks, were our gracious hosts. Several demonstrations and techniques were shared with campers. Many ladies brought UFOs (unfinished objects) to complete. The only strict schedule was the call to mealtimes. Everyone raved about the food again this year.

Preemie blankets were a big focus. Over 145 preemie blankets were finished during the long weekend at camp. Most importantly, our volunteers got together, had fun, shared knowledge, and spent the weekend doing what they love.

A *Grand* Time Is Had by All at the Fall Bee



Left: Betty Riffil (middle) and family at the Fall Bee. Betty works for South Mesa Child Protective Services and spoke to us about the children she comforts with our blankets.

Below: Elissa Blabac and her Aunt Lynda Schuler. Elissa attended her first quilting bee and also bought the winning ticket for our raffle quilt.

On October 15 we met at Chandler Police Department for our Fall Bee. By the end of the day, 380 blankets had been counted and bagged by the distribution committee. Approximately 65 of those blankets were completed at the Bee. One special raffle quilt went home with first-time Bee attendee Elissa Blabac. Congratulations! And thanks for serging for us!

Betty Riffil joined us from South Mesa Child Protective Services. During a mid-morning break she spoke to us about the effect our blankets have on the children she serves. She explained that our blankets are given to children brought in by investigators. The blankets go with the child to a shelter until the abuse is investigated and it "gives them something to hang onto, something that is theirs."

She told us the story of a young girl who received one of our blankets. She would cling to the blanket constantly and was later adopted by a wonderful couple. Betty took a stroller, baby doll, and carriage to the girl as a gift at her adoption. Later, when the family prepared to move out of state, the girl chose her favorite items to keep. There were two; her gift from Betty and her blanket from AZB4K. After all the use a blanket like that gets, Betty explained, "they become frayed with love."



Desert Club Awards a *Grand* Grant

Founded in 1946, Desert Club is a non-profit women's service organization providing scholastic scholarships to students living in the East Valley and community grants to non-profit organizations serving women and children.

Currently Desert Club has 45 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 applied for a grant in 2005 and received \$1,000. Thank you Desert Club for all the good that you do in our community! We can warm lots of children with your generous grant.

View Newsletters Online and In Color

Did you know our newsletter is available to view (in color) 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.

Help us reduce postage costs and let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via the U.S. postal service.

Also, if your name or address has changed, let us know and we'll update our records. Send an e-mail to info@azblankets4kids.com or call our hotline at (480) 283-8746.

Blanket Drop-off Locations:

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 Bee

7549 W. Cactus Rd..
Peoria (623) 334-9359

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

**Many thanks to
these shops for all
their support!**

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Winter Blanket Bee
Sunland Springs Village
11214 E. Laguna Azul Cr., Mesa
E. of Signal Butte Rd. on Baseline
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 11, 2006

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 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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED