

## Where do the quilts in our Community Quilts project go?

-Kay Denny, quilt delivery gal

The CASA adoptions in Yavapai County get the largest amount of quilts from us throughout the year---last year they received 150. That may sound like a lot, but there are a large number of adoptions annually and we want to make sure there are plenty of great choices. At the last joint adoption ceremony, one little boy wanted a dinosaur quilt----and after much scrambling, we found the only one with dinosaurs---and the huge smile on that child's face was so worth it!

There are 2-3 adoptions per week (!!!) and each child gets to pick his or her special quilt from the stash we provide. Along with the individual adoptions each week, there are two combined adoption days. One is in May and the other in November---the November ceremonies are in conjunction with National Adoption Day; this year Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The local ceremonies are 10-2 at the Juvenile Detention Center, 1100 Prescott Lakes Parkway in Prescott.

The courtroom is beautifully decorated with quilts, balloons, stuffed toys, and books. After each individual legal proceeding, the families are invited to join the Judge for pictures. And then, each child picks his or her quilt----it is so much fun to watch them go from quilt to quilt to decide which one they want. They then pick a stuffed toy and book, which have been donated by other agencies.

We, the members, are invited to attend the joint adoption ceremonies. If you decide to attend, please wear your nametag. We are seated in a special place of honor along with the CASA volunteers. This year, they would like to know how many are attending. We will ask for a show of hands at the Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Even though the ceremonies are from 10-2, you don't have to stay for all the adoptions---you could leave between individual adoptions. They usually don't know how many adoptions there are until much closer to the actual day, so the ending time is quite flexible. Please arrive at least by 9:45. You will have to go through security first. And then about five minutes before the proceedings begin, we are escorted into the court.

One of the members last year wanted to come to the ceremonies specifically to see a child pick the quilt she had made. Unfortunately, I had to tell her that might not happen. Her quilt may have already been picked by a child during the weekly

adoptions. And, not all of the quilts in the court on the days of the joint adoption ceremonies are picked. The court is covered in quilts---there may only be a few adoptions, but there are easily 40 quilts out on display. On rare occasion, there are quilts in their stash that don't seem to get picked. If that happens, we swap those with new choices. Those swapped out go to other agencies.

Last month the CASA coordinator asked me if it would be OK if they used some of our quilts to decorate their offices. YES, YES, YES---OF COURSE!

**Please Note:**

At the October 26, 2015 Community Quilts workshop, with permission from the board, a friend of Kay Denny came to interview and film us for a Prescott promotional video. The video is part of a series on Prescott that she is filming entitled "Humans of Prescott."

You may view the video on our MTQG website. Links to it are found on the Home, Community Quilts, Miscellaneous and Links pages!