



# Winter 2020 Newsletter

## The Foothills Food Bank — A Source of Hope and Help

### What a Year!

2020 was an extraordinary year for the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center. The Covid-19 pandemic increased the need for our services at the same time as requiring changes to our normal procedures in order to keep clients, staff and volunteers safe. Instead of entering the facility to shop for their weekly and monthly food, clients have been served by waiting outside for their supplies to be assembled and then driving in to pick them up. Similarly, our annual Adopt-A-Family holiday events, which in the past have included large indoor parties when clients collected their gifts, were transformed into festive drive-through events. Despite the challenges, the Food Bank has been able to successfully and safely continue its mission of fighting hunger and providing hope to thousands of members of our communities. ***This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to expressing gratitude to everyone who has stepped up to make this happen.***

### Welcome our New Executive Director



**Leigh Zydonik**  
**Executive Director**

Please join us in welcoming Leigh Zydonik, our new Executive Director of the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center. Leigh started her position on November 16th and has shadowed outgoing Executive Director Pam DiPietro to get a feel for the job and the important role the Food Bank serves in our community.

Prior to joining the Food Bank staff, Leigh served as Executive Director for the Center for Civic Engagement at the University of Findlay in Ohio. The Center for Civic Engagement supports a network of community partners seeking collaborative solutions to complex social problems that affect residents across their region.

Leigh received her B.S. degree from Bowling Green State University and M.S. from the University of Dayton. In addition to her role as director of the CCE, Leigh also taught business classes at the University of Findlay.

Leigh's first priorities in her new position include:

- updating processes, procedures and safety protocols;
- meeting with community partners to define new opportunities for collaboration;
- assessing client needs to alleviate obstacles, gaps and barriers, and;
- developing a 5-year strategic plan.

Leigh is the proud mother of two grown sons, Reed and Bryce, and a chocolate lab, named Levee. She and her husband Ron enjoy being outdoors, DIY projects, and cooking.



# Grateful for Our Community Partners

## Mission

*The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center provides food, referral information and financial assistance to individuals and families in need within our service area.*

### Hours of Operation

#### Cave Creek:

Monday thru Friday – 9AM to noon  
Tuesday and Thursday evenings – 5:30PM to 7:00PM

#### Black Canyon City:

Tuesday and Thursday – 8AM to 11AM

### Mailing Address

#### Cave Creek:

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

#### Black Canyon City:

34550 Old Black Canyon Highway  
Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

### PO BOX

PO Box 715  
Carefree, AZ 85377

### Phone

Cave Creek: (480) 488-1145  
Black Canyon City: (623) 374-9441

### Fax

Cave Creek: (480) 488-9008  
Black Canyon City: (623) 374-9434

### Email

[info@foothillsfoodbank.com](mailto:info@foothillsfoodbank.com)

### Website

[Foothillsfoodbank.com](http://Foothillsfoodbank.com)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/FoothillsFoodBank](https://facebook.com/FoothillsFoodBank)

### Twitter

[222.twitter.com/foothillsfood](https://222.twitter.com/foothillsfood)

We are a  
501C3 charitable organization.

## Scottsdale Bible Church

Scottsdale Bible Church is a community of Christ followers striving to display and be marked by unwavering faith and unconditional love. They are currently meeting online and in person. Nearly 3,000 SBC members are involved in service opportunities within the church and local ministry partners. Local volunteer opportunities include supporting non-profits addressing hunger, foster care, poverty and homelessness, medical needs, senior and veterans' services and more.



The Food Bank has greatly benefitted from the generosity of SBC's North Campus church. For the past 10 years, annual food drives have generated between 1,514 lbs. to 7,241 lbs. of donated food. This year's drive at Thanksgiving generated 3,131 lbs.



The first drive was a peanut and jelly competition for the children attending the vacation bible school program. It has now expanded to a weekly collection during their drives encouraging the donation of items on the Food Bank wish list. Many thanks to our wonderful partners at Scottsdale Bible Church for their continued support!

## Anthem Giving Circle

The concept behind the Anthem Giving Circle is that its members give their time, energy and donations to help fill the needs of families in our community. This small but mighty group helps the Food Bank to assemble snack packs to distribute to schools and "fixins" boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and also conducts monthly food drives.



This year, Anthem Giving Circle provided \$900 in VISA gift cards and 43 family games to our Adopt-A-Family program. We are a proud beneficiary of their charitable nature.

## KNIX Million Meal Crusade

For the Thanksgiving holiday, the Food Bank received over 200 complete meals through St. Vincent de Paul and their partnership with the 102.5 KNIX Million Meal Crusade at participating Albertsons and Safeway stores. Customers could donate cans, cash or "turkey bucks" to feed needy families across the entire valley. The meals consisted of a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, cranberries and rolls.

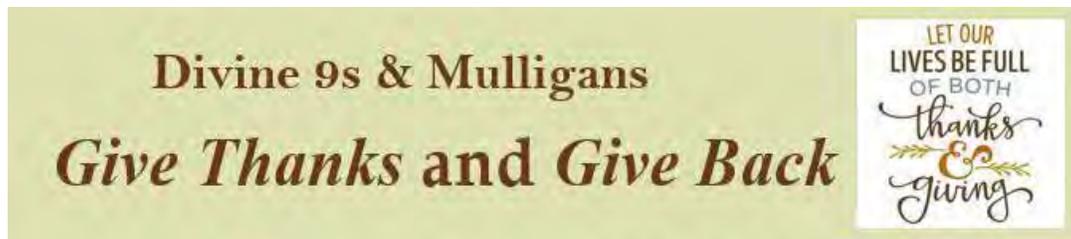


# Community Strong

## Boulders Golf Community

During this pandemic, clever fundraising is a must. Our friends, The Divine 9's and Mulligans golf groups at The Boulders, had a solution to reach out to their members with a virtual fundraiser called "Boulders Give Thanks and Give Back" to support three local charities whose clients' needs were greater than ever. Starting in October, members could drop off checks at the Boulders pro shop or go online to donate directly to the charity organizations.

Foothills Food Bank received \$14,225 in checks plus online donations to support our mission. In addition, our Adopt-A-Family program received 179 \$50 Walmart or VISA gift cards from our generous supporters at the Boulders, an increase of 51 from last year. Their continued support makes a meaningful impact in our community and we are forever grateful.



## Desert Foothills Lutheran Church

Desert Foothills Lutheran Church has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Foothills Food Bank for the past 20 years with both food drives and monetary donations. In 2020, while challenged by not being able to worship together, the congregation still managed to donate close to 1,000 pounds of food and fill an entire SUV with 155 pounds of diapers and baby wipes during their annual diaper drive. At Thanksgiving, their young members decorated boxes like turkeys and filled them with collected canned goods and personal notes to provide other children with a happy Thanksgiving dinner.

The church has also been a staunch supporter of the Food Bank's annual Adopt-A-Family client holiday program.

Every December, DFCLC holds an Angel Tree and Christmas by Candlelight event that are dedicated to the Food Bank's efforts to help families in our community have a joyous holiday. This year, they came through in a big way by collecting over \$2,000 in gift cards and cash to make Adopt-A-Family a success.

We are thankful for such good partners in our mission as the Desert Foothills Lutheran Church!



# Spreading Holiday Cheer

## Adopt-A-Family 2020

Planning a holiday celebration during a pandemic was certainly a challenge. Nevertheless, our 18th year of Adopt-A-Family was once again a big success. Our group and individual donors made the holidays bright for 444 registered Food Bank clients totaling 1,222 individuals. Instead of wrapped gifts, we asked donors to donate gift cards and new family games. Each person received a \$50 gift card and each family received playing cards, a food treat, a new family game and a bag of books. The gift cards provided family members the flexibility to buy Christmas gifts, pay a bill, purchase a haircut or enjoy a family outing. Families who signed up late were easily accommodated by the generosity of our donors.

A very special thank you to Food Bank staff and volunteers who signed up clients for the program and friends and volunteers who helped host two festive drive-through client parties, one in Black Canyon City and one at the Holland Center.



- **Universal Solar America** made a \$5,000 donation to Adopt-A-Family this year to help us provide each client with a gift card. John Bereckis, the company's CEO and founder, is proud to support the Food Bank's efforts to provide food, resources and financial assistance to families in need. Earlier this fall, John also donated 5,000 masks to the Food Bank for staff and client protection.



- **What a donation!** Kids Need to Read supplied us with over 500 "Families Need to Read" bags filled with new books and activities for all ages and hours of fun, a donation valued at \$28,683. Each family bag included a flyer that pointed out the importance of spending quality time together with tips on building reading skills and inspiring imagination. We are grateful for our partnership with the Kids Need to Read organization and look forward to expanding their reading outreach efforts to more families via our Snack Pack program for children.



- **The North Valley Young Marines** provided traffic control at our Holland Center drive-through client holiday party. The Young Marines are a national program for boys and girls between ages 8-18 that focuses on teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, community service and good citizenship.



- Once again, **the firefighters of the Rural Metro Fire Department** came to the rescue! For the past 7 years, the Fire Department has manned a booth outside Walmart to collect new toys, bikes, family games, gift cards and monetary donations from the community. Because of Covid, this year's drive was smaller with drop-offs at the two fire stations. Nevertheless, John Kraetz, Kevin Eden and their team of firefighters filled the stations with hundreds of toys to support Adopt-A-Family and other charities. The gift cards and family games became part of our drive-through parties, while the toys and bikes were made available to families at each food bank location.



- Donor **Margaret Levit** asked all of her family members to tell her their favorite family games, then purchased one of each to donate to Adopt-A-Family. She wanted to be able to provide all family favorites.

- **Hayden Electric, Inc.** provided 50 safety cones and 25 safety vests to keep our clients and volunteers safe during our drive-through parties this year.
- **Colyar Technology Solutions / EMS LINQ, Inc.** donated \$1,500 to support the Adopt-A-Family client parties and gave an additional \$500 to fund gift cards for clients. We appreciate their continued support.

Thank you to all of our donor groups who contributed 25 or more gift cards:

- Anthem Country Club
- Anthem Giving Circle
- Boulders Golf Club
  - Brilliance LED
- Colyar Technology Solutions / EMS LINQ, Inc.
  - Cross of Christ Church
  - Desert Foothills Lutheran Church
  - Good Shepherd of the Hills Church
    - Kiwanis Club of Carefree
  - Light of the Desert Lutheran Church
    - St. Gabriel's Church

*Thank You!*

The Foothills Food Bank would like to personally thank YOU for participating in the Adopt-A-Family Program!

Your generosity has ensured smiles for hundreds of children, families and seniors this holiday season.

Our community is stronger because of YOU!

*Happy Holidays!*

Visit our website at [www.foothillsfoodbank.com](http://www.foothillsfoodbank.com) to find more ways to get involved.



# Serving Our Community

## Volunteer Profile



Teresa Hicks spent the first 28 years of her life in San Diego. After graduating from the USD Law School and a short stint in Las Vegas, she worked for 25 years as a prosecutor in the Orange County, California District Attorney's office.

Upon her retirement in 2006, she found meaningful volunteer work with the Family Assistance Ministry of her church, eventually becoming the coordinator of their program. Teresa loved the generous hearts of the volunteers and parishioners who supported the program, and she loved finding solutions for the people whom they assisted.

After moving again to be closer to her elderly mother, Teresa joined the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry at her new church and volunteered by sorting and distributing food and helping with various special events and fundraisers. Finally, after moving to Arizona in 2018, she found a new volunteer home at the Foothills Food Bank. Of all the places she has volunteered, she says that she finds our Food Bank to be the most enjoyable because of its excellent staff who never fail to encourage and make people feel valued.

When not sorting food at the Food Bank, Teresa enjoys spending time with her husband Steve and their yellow lab, Sarah, who is a certified Therapy Dog.



## Meet A Board Member

Terry Dowd has been a volunteer at Foothills Food Bank for the past 4 years. She has been a Packer assembling groceries, a Greeter, and a Team Lead meeting with clients to help them select food items and secure any special resources they need. Terry has also headed up our volunteer training and orientation program for the past two and a half years.

Terry joined the FFB Board of Directors in May, 2020 and recently became the Board secretary. Coupled with her compassion for our clients, her hands-on experience as a volunteer will bring a valuable perspective to the Board. She has been a Food Bank Donor, an Adopt-A-Family donor and volunteer, even Santa's helper!

Terry moved to Phoenix from Connecticut in 1999 and retired from Banner Health as a hospital Radiology manager. She is married to Bob and has 2 sons and 4 grandchildren. Terry is a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and records and edits books for the blind and dyslexic for Learning Ally. She also enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, oil painting, knitting and gardening.

## Donor Profile

Amy and Bob are very grateful for their many blessings in life and always strive to help others in a variety of ways, whether it's providing financial support to causes important to them and their friends, donating winter coats for children in need, or simply buying coffee for a police officer who is in line with them at Starbucks. They especially enjoy random acts of kindness given anonymously.



Adopting a family at Christmas is one of their favorite ways to give because it directly affects a family in need. Amy grew up in a charitable household and her mother volunteered and served on the Board of several organizations similar to the Food Bank. She remembers lots of time spent helping to sort food and clothes, pack boxes and organize items for back-to-school drives. Her mother always made Christmas special, and adopting a family for the holidays is one way Amy feels she can share that "special" feeling and pay homage to her mother's memory.

Providing funds to assist with necessities or gifts they thought were out of reach help clients know that the community cares and sends a wave of kindness shared by all involved. Many thanks to Amy and Bob for being such wonderful "Secret Santas"!

"Thank you, thank you, thank you! This means the world to me right now. I needed it so badly."

- Sonja

"Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts. My family is so grateful for the kindness of all involved. Merry Christmas and many blessings to all!"

- Christine

"Because of you, it's a bit easier to pay bills! To put gas in the car! To pay for meds and doctors! To take care of our pets! To have treats! To try food we never had before! To give to others! To have balanced meals! To sleep better at night! To have holidays! Thank you is not enough to say. Still, it's what I have. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Peace and joy this year and every year!"

- Jean

"Thank you for the generous gift cards you gave to our family along with all your generosity throughout the years."

- Anita

## Looking Forward



Once again this past year, we were humbled by the incredible generosity of our donors and the steadfast commitment of our volunteers. Because of this incredible generosity and commitment, we were able to continue to provide for those in need in our communities during a very unusual and difficult year.

In 2020, Foothills Food Bank had more than 17,000 clients visit where we distributed more than 1.1 million pounds of food. In addition, we provided financial aid to more than 720 families. We also took care of their pets with 163,000 pounds of pet food. More than 300 volunteers worked well over 26,000 hours to provide the food and services.

In addition, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we provided meals for almost 900 families which included more than 750 turkeys, hams and other holiday meats as well as gift cards to buy the "fixings" to go with the meats. Our "Adopt a Family" program adopted nearly 450 families at Christmas making sure those children did not go without some kind of Christmas gift.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to say thank you to everyone for their support of Foothills Food Bank in 2020 and look forward to a new year where we once again can provide food and services to those in need in our communities.

- Charles Laurenti, Board President

### Congratulations to Our Staff

Michelle is our new Operations Manager and Robin is our Client and Volunteer Manager.



## Winter 2020 Newsletter

**Everyone needs a helping hand sometimes.**

### 2021 Board of Directors

**President** – Charles Laurenti

**Vice President** – Lory Olsson

**Secretary** – Terry Dowd

**Treasurer** – Glenn Ford

**Directors** – Chuck Weirauch

Darrilyn Adams

Dirk Dijkerman

Jill Hieb

Joe McCabe

**New Members** – Myong Covert

Elaine Adrian

In addition to our wonderful staff and volunteers who work daily to help us fulfill our mission, we are blessed with a Board of Directors dedicated to helping us do so in the most effective and efficient way possible. They volunteer their time to support the staff, develop new programs and procedures and help us grow to serve our growing community. Many thanks to them for their time and dedication.

### Shop Smile at Amazon

If you shop at Amazon.com, you can help the Food Bank by choosing us as your Smile charity. It's easy, it costs you nothing and everything you buy sends 0.5% of the purchase price to us. In 2020, that added up to \$1,943 to support the Food Bank! To register, simply visit Smile. Amazon.com and select the Foothills Food Bank as your charitable organization. Then shop at Smile and continue giving at no cost to you!

### Safety Alert

To keep everyone safe, clients and donors are not allowed in the Food Bank buildings until further notice. Masks must be worn when dropping off a donation outside and when picking up food. Thanks to everyone for your continued compliance!

## 2021 Charitable Donation Form

The Charitable Tax Credit helps the Foothills Food Bank continue its mission. Support the food bank and reduce your Arizona tax bill with a tax credit of up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples. This year the state is requiring donors to use a code when making a donation. The new **Qualified Charitable Organization Code for the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center on your Arizona income tax returns is 20514**. For more information, visit [www.azdor.gov](http://www.azdor.gov), click on Tax Credits, Contributions to QCOs and QFCOs or call **1-800-843-7196**. Thank you!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make check payable to **Foothills Food Bank.**)

**Or**

Please charge my VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (3 digits on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_