



# IMPACT REPORT

2022



**“ Our Mission is to provide food, referral information and financial assistance to individuals and families in need within our service area.”**

## **A Message from Leigh Zydonik,**

*Executive Director*

As we wrap up 2022, I offer my sincere appreciation to all our volunteers, donors, sponsors, partners, and community members who supported the Foothills Food Bank and ultimately, the neighbors we serve. None of what we do is possible without your support, contributions, and donations.

Thanks to our dedicated team, food drive organizers and participants, volunteers, and rescue partners, we were able to collect and distribute 1,753,294 pounds of produce, meat, fish, dairy, bakery items and non-perishable food in 2022. And while doing so, launched new programs such as financial preparedness, to help neighbors prepare for tomorrow. Our Senior Market was visited more than 1800 times by neighbors who are 55 years of age and older. And there is so much more that we can do and so many neighbors who can benefit from your generosity. The challenge is real and as we prepare for our thirty-fifth year as a cornerstone of the community, I'm grateful for the support and hopeful that we can get one step closer to no one going to bed hungry.

A lot will change in 2023, not the least that our community will continue to face the challenges of food insecurity. I am hopeful, however, that we can continue our path to end hunger in our neighborhood and that the plans we are making will broaden our reach into our community in a way that has not been feasible in recent history.

The future is bright thanks to your continued support.



Executive Director



## **A Message from Lory Olsson,**

*President of the Board*

As we enter the New Year, I find myself filled with two emotions when I think of the work we are doing at Foothills Food Bank (FFB): gratitude and hope. I am grateful to the FFB staff, our many talented volunteers, and our very generous donors for helping us to build and maintain a standard of quality that is unmatched in the Valley in providing food and services for our neighbors going through tough times. We do this without judgment, outside of politics, and in the spirit of offering a hand up, not a handout.

I am hopeful as I look at our ability to embrace change, raise funding and adapt our operations so we can prepare for a more secure future in the proposed new facility. Through the hard work of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and board of directors, we have successfully developed partnerships that should ensure that Foothills Food Bank not only continues its current mission, but also is positioned to reach more folks in need for at least the next fifty years: a legacy we can all be proud of and embrace.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have pitched in to make these efforts possible. In a world that sometimes seems to have gone a little crazy and with YOUR help, we've built something at Foothills Food Bank that will endure. We look forward to the continued partnerships and a 2023 filled with hope and possibility!



President of the Board

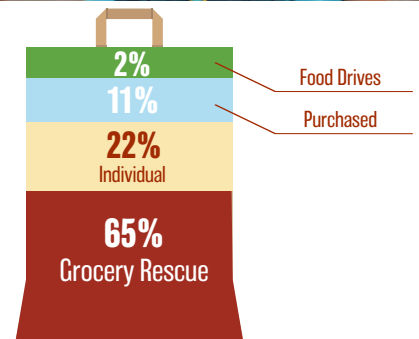


**1,753,294**

Total pounds of food collected for distribution

**10% INCREASE**

**OUR  
FOOD COMES  
FROM**



**18,305**  
CLIENT VISITS

**50% INCREASE IN  
CLIENT VISITS**



**910**

NEW CLIENT HOUSEHOLDS

**29% INCREASE**

**245**

VOLUNTEERS  
DONATED

**31,303**

HOURS

**A VALUE OF  
\$1,078,154**



**52**

COMMUNITY FOOD  
DRIVES



**28,008** LBS

Kid-friendly, pre-packed meals for weekends were provided, with other choices at micro pantries, within three school districts.



**1,810**

Senior Market visits by those 55 years of age and older.

## A Note from a Neighbor



### Nancy writes...

"I think you should make it a mission to teach other food banks how to run a farmers market program like yours. Since having access to more fruits and vegetables my health has improved dramatically. I am getting perfect blood tests and have stopped taking most medications (all while under doctor's care). You are such a blessing. Thank you so much for offering healthy foods. You are a shining example of what a food bank should be."



## Board of Directors

Lory Olsson, President  
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 Joe McCabe, Vice President  
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Lauren Cobb, Community Engagement Manager  
 Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director  
 Lou Argyros, Facility/Fleet Manager  
 Michelle Reyes, Operations & Donor Relations Manager  
 Mike Howington, Facilities Associate  
 Robin Kilbane, Client & Resource Manager  
 Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator  
 Tom Kilwein, Driver Scheduler

## Cave Creek

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive  
 Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
 (480) 488-1145

## Senior Market Day

Monday: 9am - Noon

## Food Sharing

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - Noon  
 Thursday: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

## Donation drop off hours

Monday - Friday: 8am - 2pm

## Black Canyon City

34550 S. Black Canyon Hwy  
 Black Canyon City, AZ 85324  
 (623) 374-9441

## Food Sharing & Social Cafe

Tues., Wed., Thurs: 9:00am - Noon

## New River Community Pantry

42425 N. New River Rd  
 Phoenix, AZ 85086  
 (623) 465-9461

## Food Sharing

Friday: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Front page photo: George Baxter,  
 Foothills Food Bank Volunteer

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

## We Earned Gold!

Nationally recognized Leah's Pantry has approved the Foothills Food Bank as the first gold certified pantry in the state of Arizona. Leah's Pantry provides tools and training to support changes that will help deliver dignity-based, trauma-informed, and client-centered food assistance services.

*Left: Sandy Cordle, Denise Wright, Janice Shimokubo, Michelle Reyes*



## Back to School Jamboree

More than 50 Canon Elementary students in Black Canyon City got a back-to-school boost from the Foothills Food Bank in the fall. Each of the students received backpacks, school supplies, and books. Many students also took advantage of a free hair-cut. Our generous donors and volunteers made it all possible.

## Senior Market is a Hit

Senior Market continues to be a favorite in the community. 2022 saw more than 1800 market visits in Cave Creek.



## The Seal of Transparency

We're excited to share that the Foothills Food Bank has earned a Gold Seal of Transparency with GuideStar! GuideStar lists, and ranks, information on every nonprofit registered with the IRS as tax exempt. Continue to support our work with trust and confidence.