



THE BIG SCOOP

Newsletter

Fall 2022

You Can Help Spread Joy in our Community



The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center seeks donors to help brighten the holidays for children, families, and seniors in the north Phoenix foothills community as part of the food bank's 20th annual holiday gift program. Last year more than 1185 people enjoyed holiday gifts through the Adopt-A-Family program.

According to the Adopt-a-Family committee of volunteers, donations of \$50 Walmart or Visa gift cards along with donations of new board games, adult brainteaser books (large print) and new throw blankets or small lap blankets to keep our seniors warm this winter, would be greatly appreciated.

Donors can register to adopt a family through November 30, 2022 at www.foothillsfoodbank.com

All gift cards and gifts must be dropped off at the Holland Center between December 4 and December 8. The Holland Community Center is located at 34250 N. 60th Street, Scottsdale. Registered donors will receive an email with delivery details.



LIFE STORIES

EDDIE'S STORY

Homelessness is exploding in Arizona due to a housing crisis and the increasing cost of living. Over the last two years, Maricopa County has been hit hard with a 35 percent increase* in homelessness. Our neighbor, Eddie, has experienced this firsthand and began coming to the food bank while making his home in the desert.

"The dominos started to fall for Eddie, and he couldn't find his way out," Robin Kilbane, client and resource manager said. "According to Eddie it was stressful, scary, and completely over-whelming."

This is where your support helped change a life.

Robin and the team at the food bank helped Eddie with food, thrift store vouchers, tents, and blankets to make his life just a little more tolerable. When ready to make a change, Eddie came to us again and was provided the help he needed not only with food, but resources. Robin secured housing that also provided daily meals. "At his new transitional home, it was mandatory that Eddie get a job, which he quickly did," Robin concluded.

Eddie is enjoying his new landscaping job, his new roommate and he shared with Robin that he is the "happiest he has been in years."

Your donations make it possible for the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center to provide neighbors like Eddie with resources, food, and a dose of kindness and compassion.

**Associated Press report, 3/14/2022
Eddie's real name has been changed to protect his privacy.*





A Note from Leigh

Sadly, we have learned that when prices go up, so does food insecurity. Looking at our records, we can confirm the lesson. Since January of this year, the Foothills Food Bank has seen a 51% increase in visits year-over-year. No one is predicting that prices on gas and rent will drop significantly before year-end, so I begin this message first and foremost with a note of sincere appreciation for your continued support. It is because of people like you who contribute your time, talents, and money in such ways that we can continue to help feed our neighbors.

As we continue to work through the demand for food, we also want to share with you a few new programs that we believe will help our neighbors cope. At the food bank, we take a holistic approach, understanding that food insecurity is just the tip of the iceberg for those in crisis. With that in mind, we have begun offering financial literacy classes and stress reduction support groups that we believe will provide those in our community with skills, direction, and hope. These opportunities are being presented by local professionals and scholarships through the food bank are available. Check out our website or call the office for details.

And as the temperature dips below 100, we know that Christmas can't be too far away! Please read up on our 2022 Adopt-a-Family gift program and consider getting involved.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to end hunger. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together next.

Leigh Zydonik

Executive Director

P.S. As the year comes to a close, please consider using your Arizona Tax Credit to help even more neighbors! Details are on our website.



Our Volunteering Power Couple

Julie & Dave Writz

Julie and Dave Writz' journey with the Foothills Food Bank began a few years ago when Julie saw an ad seeking volunteers.

"From my first day at the food bank, I met wonderful people who I now call my friends," Julie said. "Everyone is so welcoming, and the atmosphere is very fun." The positive spirit of the people she works shoulder to shoulder with quickly solidified her commitment to the Foothills Food Bank.

Julie is a third-generation volunteer, and she proudly continues her families' legacy. "I believe that volunteering is important and something we continue as a family."

And speaking of family, Julie drafted Dave, and the couple have become active volunteers at the food bank. Julie currently schedules all volunteers, performs grant research, and handles donor appreciation along with special projects such as the annual shred-a-thon. Dave has shared his IT skills to bring the food bank into the twenty first century. In addition to writing and developing a program to track inventory and designing, writing and programming a management dashboard that reports key metrics, he also wrote software programs that automate processes that once took hundreds of hours a year to complete. It's easy to see that Dave is tackling challenges using technology to improve food bank processes every day.

Dave and Julie have been married 28 years. Dave is retired but continues to work as a consultant and after Julie sold her business she began volunteering at Banner Hospital, Ryan House, and HopeKids, in addition to the Foothills Food Bank, all supporting children and families.

Julie and Dave find it gratifying knowing that they are making a difference.

Welcome New Board Members!

The board of directors of the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center offer high-level strategy, expertise, oversight, and accountability to the Food Bank. Supporting our efforts are two new community members who have joined our board of directors. Welcome Brian Uebel, pastor, My Crossroads Christian Fellowship, and Dan O'Keeffe, retired physician.



Counseling Services in the Community

Help is Available

The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center is offering unique, custom designed seminars and support groups to help community members navigate life's challenges. These events focus on topics like financial literacy and dealing with stress and are presented in partnership with area experts.

"We aim to promote positive lifestyles and provide tools to cope with life's hiccups," Robin Kilbane, client and resource manager, said.

"The classes are offered locally, and scholarships are available. We want to provide resources to improve your life through knowledge."

Event details are on our website and include:

- Resetting Your Life support group
- Financial Literacy
- Managing Stress in a Stressful World support group

Contact Robin at (480) 488-1145 for details on these and future opportunities.

THANK YOU!

Our thanks to the Sonoran Arts League and our talented and dedicated volunteers who presented Empty Bowls Big heARTs at Harold's Corral, in mid October.

"We were pleased to have once again partnered with the Sonoran Arts League," said Foothills Food Bank Executive Director Leigh Zydonik. "Proceeds from the event go towards keeping our foodbank shelves stocked and raising awareness about hunger and food insecurity in our community."

Bowls were made by artists & volunteers.

A final tally of funds raised was not available at press time.

Foothills Food Bank volunteers gave a little more by volunteering to make bowls for the Empty Bowls Big heARTs fundraiser. Pictured from left to right Robin Cullins-Vasant, Nancy Wincott, Betty Green, Deborah Wales, Amy Jo Smith, Meredith Blake, Joanie Blake, and closest to camera on right, Sandy Cordle.



**Don't miss our next great event:
Shred-A-Thon, Coming January 7, 2023!**

FOOD SHARING HOURS

Cave Creek Food Bank

6038 E Hidden Valley Dr, Cave Creek
480.488.1145

Senior Market Day

Monday.....9:00am - Noon

Food Sharing

Tuesday - Friday.....9:00am - Noon

Thursday Evening....5:30pm - 7:00pm

Black Canyon City Community Pantry

34550 Old Black Canyon Hwy, Black Canyon City
623.374.9441

Food Sharing and Social Cafe

Tues., Wed. & Thur.....9:00am - Noon

New River Community Pantry at My Crossroads Christian Fellowship

42425 N New River Rd, New River
623.465.9461

Food Sharing

Every Friday.....11:30am - 1:30pm



51%

INCREASE IN VISITS

To the Food Bank over 2021.

*That's 13,533 visits
year to date.*

**As of 10/5/22*



HERE'S THE SCOOP



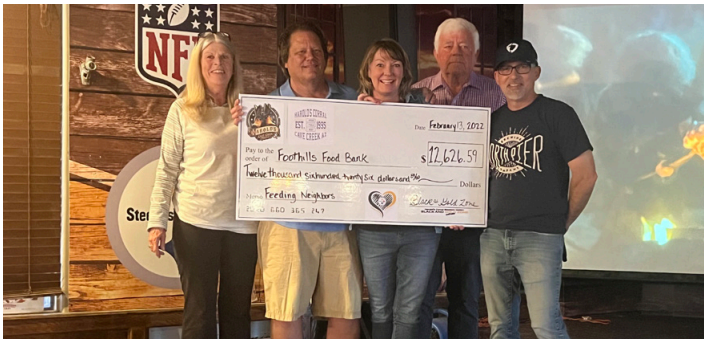
Target Giving Circle Donates more than \$10,000

Thanks to our wonderful community who voted, the Target Giving Circle granted us a \$10,139 donation. Earning this donation took the effort of many of our neighbors and friends who voted on the Target website. Our thanks to everyone who took the time to show us their love. This generous Target Giving Circle donation will allow us to reach more elderly neighbors, veterans and families who need our services.



Community Gives Students a Boost

Canon Elementary students in Black Canyon City celebrated back-to-school with the Foothills Food Bank in August. Each of the students who attended the event received a backpack, school supplies, books and reading buddies. And after a summer of fun, many students needed a little trim and were provided free haircuts provided by Helene from Snip Salon & Gallery. Books and stuffed animals were provided by Kids Need to Read and love, heavy lifting and financial support from Anthem Giving Circle and youth from Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. To our sponsors and donors, thank you.



Harold's Corral Donates Nearly \$13,000

Presenting the check to Foothills Food Bank Executive Director Leigh Zydonik, (center) are (left to right) Marie Vale, Jimmy Johnson, Bill Vale and Danny Piacquadio.

Harold's Corral has been a long-time supporter of the food bank, last year donating nearly \$13,000 from their weekly Black & Gold raffle held during Steelers football games. It is because of the kindness and generosity of Harold's and their Steelers Nation that allows us to support neighbors and feed those in need.

Food Drive Heroes

Those who organize and participate in food drives in the community do so without any expectation of fame. To all our food drive heroes, we say thank you. During the last few months, we have received donations from the Terravita Community; Cross of Christ Church, Anthem; Winfield Home Owners Association; SVDP-Our Lady of Joy Catholic Church; North Valley Jewish Community Church; Pinnacle Peak Country Club; Boulder Creek High School; Annunciation Catholic School; SVDP-St. Gabriel's Catholic Church; Cactus Shadows High School; Desert Foothills Family YMCA; Desert Winds HOA; Legend Trail Community Association; DC Ranch Community Council and Edward Jones, Tramonto office. Because of your support, we are ending food insecurity one neighbor at a time.



VIP Snack Bag Donation

Leigh Zydonik, Foothills Food Bank executive director and our Facilities Associate Mike Howington, happily received the donation.

Thanks to our friends at General Mills who donated a pallet full of snack bags for distribution to local students. Representing General Mills, Jennifer (center in photo), delivered 300 amazing snack bags adorned with positive messages and stuffed with General Mills' snacks.

WELCOME LAUREN COBB

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center is excited to introduce Lauren Cobb, community engagement manager.

"I am so excited to be a part of the Foothills Food Bank family," Lauren said, "I'm proud to be a part of an organization that is going above and beyond to not only fulfill the community's need for food, but also working to provide extra resources for the overall needs a person or family might encounter."

Lauren will be working in the community building partnerships, managing special events and sharing her expertise. Lauren comes to the Foothills Food Bank after more than five years at St. Mary's Food Bank.

"We are excited to have Lauren join our already outstanding team," Leigh Zydonik, executive director, said. "With Lauren's understanding of the food bank network and her empathy and compassion for our neighbors, she will be a huge asset to our organization and community."



The Gift of Giving

Gift donations are a great alternative to a traditional holiday gift and this year the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center is offering beautifully designed, hand-crafted greeting cards to allow you to easily give a donation in honor, or remembrance, of a loved one. With your gift donation to the food bank, you will be helping Foothills Food Bank feed children, seniors, veterans, and other neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

With a donation to the food bank of at least \$26, we will sign, seal, and deliver (via first-class mail) your holiday card that expresses your warm thoughts and will communicate that a monetary gift you made in celebration of your recipient.

These holiday cards are guaranteed to help the community while reducing your stress and shortening your shopping list! **Deadline to order: December 15, 2022**

Complete our on-line donation form at **FoothillsFoodbank.com** to make a gift and send your card.



Tel: 602-774-2354

www.phximpactcenter.org / www.facebook.com/phximpactcenter / info@phximpactcenter.org

Fed Tax ID: 47-5485798

Foothills Food Bank
6038 E Hidden Valley Dr.
Cave Creek, AZ. 85331
8th. August, 2022

Hi FFB Team,

I searched and searched for a "Thank You" card that could adequately express our heartfelt gratitude for your support of the PIC Food Pantry but found none. So I had to pen this. It's from the heart.

"The impact of your delivery of various grocery items to the Phoenix Impact Center Food Pantry to feed the marginalized and poor among us has left us speechless. I recall a 5 year old boy...he probably had not seen so much variety in his life. I went teary. You all made a difference making this kid so happy because you all gave. We were simply the extension of your hands."

...and the extension of your hands. I wish I could have put this on video for you all to see. It's priceless!

My sincere prayers for you all is that The God of Heaven meet you all at your individual crossroads of life.

All of us at the PIC Food Pantry truly thank you all.

Peter Tomeri
(For the team at PIC Food Pantry)

The Phoenix Impact Center is just one of many organizations we partner with to help distribute food and supplies to those neighbors who need a hand.



6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

ECRWSS
Postal Customer



HOURS & INFORMATION

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's: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Email:

Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

foothillsfoodbank.com

f /foothillsfoodbank

ig /foothillsfoodbank

Leadership Team:

Jim Hemenway, Driver & Warehouse Assoc

Julie Writz, Scheduler

Lauren Cobb, Comm. Engagement Mgr.

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director

Lou Argyros, Fleet & Facilities Manager

Lynn Ballou, Data Analyst

Michelle Reyes, Operations Manager/

Donor Relations

Mike Howington, Facilities Assoc.

Robin Kilbane, Client & Resource Mgr.

Tom Kilwein, Logistics Coordinator

Black Canyon City

Nancy Wiederhold, Warehouse Associate

New River

Sharon Bykerk, Warehouse Associate



GIVE NOW.

**And use your AZ Tax
Credit. You decide
how your tax
dollars are spent.**

Together we can do a lot. And with your
Arizona Tax Credit, it costs you nothing.

Foothills Food Bank AZ Charitable Tax Credit ID: 20514



**FIGHTING HUNGER,
EMPOWERING NEIGHBORS
IN NEED, GIVING HOPE.**



2022 Charitable Donation Form

Your gift makes a huge difference in the lives of children, families, single people, veterans, and seniors experiencing food insecurity and financial difficulties. Your donation stays in our community and provides support to our neighbors.

Foothills Food Bank is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and may qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. Our Charitable Tax Credit ID is 20514. You may also donate online at foothillsfoodbank.com/donate

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 _____

Please mail this form to: Foothills Food Bank, 6038 E. Hidden Valley E. Hidden Valley Drive, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

OUR 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.