



# IMPACT REPORT

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2023







*Artist's rendering of new food bank campus on Carefree Highway & 41st Street*

**“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*

I am delighted to highlight the impact of our efforts in 2023. With your support, we were able to demonstrate the power of compassion and generosity in our community while addressing an urgent need. In the past year, we provided nearly 789,000 meals to neighbors facing hunger, underscoring both our achievement and the pressing issue we are tackling. Our mission is fueled by the dedicated support of people like you and our entire community, making a real impact on the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey and for making it possible to reach this incredible milestone. Together, we are making a meaningful impact on the lives of our neighbors and in 2024, will look forward to watching our new campus come to life. You can read more about that on our website at [foothillsfoodbank.com/faces of hope](https://foothillsfoodbank.com/faces-of-hope).

*Leigh*

## **A Message from Lory Olsson,** *President of the Board*

As we celebrate the close of our thirty-fifth year as a community food bank, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your continued support and your contributions as we evolve at Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center. Our food bank has become a model of community partnership that is the result of your contributions, and we are deeply grateful.

Most of our clients come to us as a last resort. With your support, we provide these neighbors with food, but also with resources and give them hope that they can cope with whatever crisis has brought them to our door for help.

Our new campus will empower possibilities for a future that enables us to not only respond to the increased demand for food, but also provide resources to those seeking to break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you for continuing the journey with us, and for being an integral part of our mission. This is work worth doing, and we could not do it without you.

*Lory Olsson*



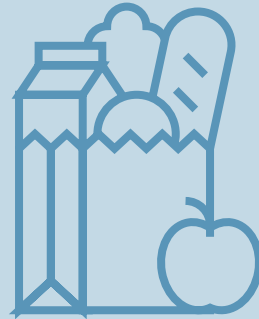
*Celebrating three and a half decades*  
**PROVIDING FOOD, SUPPORT AND HOPE TO OUR COMMUNITY.**



**787,897**  
**MEALS PROVIDED\***

**1,831,914**

Total pounds of food collected  
for distribution



**916**  
New Client Households



**2,225**  
Senior Market Visits  
**23% Increase**



**26,030**  
Client Visits  
**30% Increase**

**8,964**

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



**22%** of households visiting a pantry include children under the age of 18.

**62%** of households visiting a pantry include adults over the age of 55.

**93%** of all cash and non-cash donations are used to provide programs and services that help people facing food insecurity.



**324**

Volunteers donated

**40,351**

hours

a value of

**\$1,283,162\***

**29% Increase**



I just want to say how much we appreciate not just the food bank but the wonderful ladies who volunteer their time and energy to make sure we have a wonderful experience."

~Victoria







### **Cave Creek**

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

### **Black Canyon City**

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

### **New River**

#### **Community Pantry**

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

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## **2023**

### **Board of Directors**

Lory Olsson, President  
Glenn Ford, Treasurer  
Joe McCabe, Vice President  
Terry Dowd, Secretary  
Darrilyn Adams  
James Graber  
Jill Hieb  
Jill Muth  
Dan O'Keeffe  
Frank Terschan  
Brian Uebel

Leigh Zydonik,  
Executive Director

*\*The Foothills Food Bank utilizes Feeding America standards when determining meal equivalencies, and Independent Sector to assign monetary value of volunteer hours.*

## **Food Bank Breaks Ground on Bold Vision to Serve More Neighbors**

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center marked the beginning of a new era when we broke ground in the fall on our new campus, ushering in a promising chapter. Cave Creek Mayor Robert Morris commended Cave Creek's pivotal support, providing a cost-effective land lease with long-term benefits. The new 15,000-square-foot campus, located at Carefree Highway and 41st Street, will double storage capacity and enhance operational efficiency—a critical development that will support the growing demand for services.



## **Generous Community Brings Smiles and Hope**

Our Back-to-School Jamboree and Holiday Adopt-A-Family programs illuminated the year with generosity for our neighbors. In the fall, over 500 backpacks, symbolizing hope, excitement, and readiness, were given to local school-aged children. The Christmas Adopt-A-Family program spread holiday cheer to 1400 neighbors, demonstrating love and empathy. Thanks to the support from our community, we were able to bring smiles and hope to neighbors in need.

## **Community Support Pours into Empty Bowls Event**

Empty Bowls, now in its 35th year, experienced an incredible show of support from our community and local shoppers, transforming it into a resounding success. More than 750 food bank supporters attended the event and helped raise over \$23,000 that will make a huge impact in the fight against hunger. Attendees enjoyed live music, a wine garden and artfully designed empty bowls, each representing the battle against hunger in our community.



## **OneAZ Credit Union's Commitment Fuels Positive Change**

OneAZ Credit Union's Legacy grant to the food bank underscores their commitment to community impact. Brandon Michaels, OneAZ President & CEO, emphasized the importance of addressing food insecurity in the state. The grant will aid in constructing a resource room in the new building and initiate financial education workshops for youth and seniors, addressing a root cause of food insecurity.

*Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director, Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center and Greg Russo, Central Regional President, One AZ Credit Union.*