



THE BIG SCOOP

Newsletter

Spring 2023



The Future's So Bright

For 35 years, Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center has worked tirelessly to build a better future for our neighbors in Cave Creek and the North Valley. Our progress has been monumental — but even after all these years, demand continues. Economic insecurity is at epic levels and the need for food and resources continues — the demand has become greater than we can process at our current facility and we are proud to announce our expansion and new location that will allow us to meet the needs of so many more neighbors in our community.

In 2022, we collected 1.7 million pounds of food for neighbors, but that has supported just the tip of our food insecure iceberg. We can, and must, do more.

Our new location will be on Carefree Highway and 42nd Street, thanks in part to a very creative ground lease offered by the Town of Cave Creek. The facility will double the size of our current warehouse, which will not only allow us to feed more people, but also allow us the opportunity to collaborate with other social service organizations to build a better future.

The food bank quietly launched a \$6.5 million dollar campaign in 2022 to help us kick-start the project, and with the support of generous neighbors and marketable assets and resources, the Food Bank has reached over 50 percent of the ambitious goal.

"The demand for food and assistance in our community is exceeding our current capacity," Leigh Zydonik, Foothills Food Bank's executive director explained. "We simply cannot accept and process enough food at our current location and as the need in our community grows, so must we.

"After over three decades of service, it's time to start our next chapter." Groundbreaking is expected to occur this summer.

Here's the Plan

Our plan is to end hunger in our community. To do so, we need to feed more people and identify and provide resources for those in a variety of situations. Our current 200 square mile service area includes over 300,000 residents. According to statistics, up to 40,000 of these residents are not sure where their next meal will come from. To expand our reach into the community and areas in need, we will build a warehouse and workspace where food, programs and resources are accessible. The new location is a three-acre parcel on Carefree Highway just west of Cave Creek Road, at 42nd Street. We will nearly double warehouse storage and triple refrigeration space with planned access for commercial and private vehicle deliveries.

Here's the Timeline

Summer 2022

Initial plans and negotiations began with local authorities.

Fall 2022

Town of Cave Creek approved lease of land at the water ranch in exchange for office space in the new facility.

Early 2023

Program kick-off, Phase I begins

Summer 2023

Groundbreaking

Q3 2024

Phase 1 complete

**Construction dates, schedules and plans are estimates.*

The Future's So Bright Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the new food bank being built?

Carefree Highway between 41st and 44th Streets, across from Dove Valley Golf Course.

Are you maintaining the pantries in Black Canyon City and New River, as well as mobile and micro-pantries?

Yes. The need remains and we will continue to be a distribution point for both pantries and look forward to building partnerships to continue our outreach.



What's changed in our community?

The food bank has experienced a 48 percent increase year-over-year. After conducting in-depth research, as well as reviewing many well-respected reports, we learned the need for food and resources continues throughout our service area, however, food insecurity is most dense near Black Canyon City, New River, Cordes Lakes and Mayer as well as the corridor along the Loop 101/Aqua Fria Freeway east of I-17. The largest increase in neighbors requesting support are those 55 years old and older.

How much money will the food bank have to borrow?

Our goal is to raise \$6.5 million to build the new facility without debt. We are half-way there with generous donations, the sale of the two properties and cash on hand. With your help, and that of the entire community, we will be able to complete the build without debt.

Will you sell the current building in Cave Creek?

Yes, as well as our parking lot across the street. Foothills Food Bank owns both properties.

How will moving impact current beneficiaries?

Some residents within our immediate area may be impacted, but the distance to the new location is five miles closer to the freeway. By moving to a major thoroughfare, we will heighten visibility and make access from areas of highest need easier.

When will the new food bank open?

Construction schedules are still in pencil, but we anticipate Q3, 2024.



Everyone Has a Story. Here's Ours...

Volunteers, donors, neighbors in need - their inspiring stories all feed our purpose. Last year, we are proud to have given a hand up to thousands of our neighbors and we collected almost two-million pounds of food for distribution. Since 1988, it has been our mission to support our entire community, but as the need has grown, so has ours.

Our goal is to end hunger in our service area by making sure no one goes to bed hungry and that everyone is secure in their ability to feed their family. To do so, we need a little room to grow - not only to meet today's need, but the needs of our growing community.

We are raising \$6.5 million to begin the next chapter, debt free, in a new efficient and accessible homebase. This will allow us to provide additional services, training, education. It will also allow us to accept large, money-saving donations and bulk orders while keeping our hundreds of volunteers safe.

Won't you help our neighbors and donate today?

New Food Bank Design will be Welcoming, Flexible, Green

Foothills Food Bank is excited to say goodbye to drab and drafty warehouse jungles of the past with the announcement of a new campus breaking ground later this year. According to food bank Executive Director Leigh Zydonik, "we do more than just provide food, and with the new campus, we can do that, and so much more."

The Foothills Food Bank's new facility will allow the not-for-profit to accept and distribute twice as much food as before, but also to provide warmth and comfort to those seeking support. "The new campus will allow us to help neighbors with training, financial coaching, self-help programming and so much more," she concluded.

The new food bank campus, to be located on Carefree Highway a mile west of Cave Creek Road, will be a 15,000 square foot facility that will provide more than double the capacity for food storage and freezer and cooling space. This allows room to accept and process more food and will help reduce waste due to increased cooler capacity. The new warehouse will also feature three loading docks including one for personal donations, and two for the food bank's vans, trucks and commercial vehicles.

Resource and training space will allow the food bank to host seminars and educational events, something the existing food bank has never enjoyed. There will also be space for community partners, such as county and state social service providers, who can assist neighbors in obtaining additional resources and a test kitchen for additional events for the community.

As a part of the Town of Cave Creek low-cost lease, the campus will include an office suite for the City Water Department with a separate entrance and parking.

The food bank has also set the bar high to become a green building, designing every aspect to reduce the overall impact of the campus on the natural environment. The plan is to take advantage of solar power options, use of sustainable materials and healthy indoor environmental features.

Community Support Abounds



Steve Cherrier, (far right) and his band of merry pizza volunteers, have donated nearly \$45,000 to the Foothills Food Bank since 2020. A previous pizzeria proprietor, Steve takes orders and prepares homemade pizzas in Rio Verde every Friday night, donating the proceeds to the food bank. He's been donating his pizza funds to charities for more than 20 years as his means of giving back to the community. That's a lot of dough, Pizza Steve! And we appreciate you and every pie you make!

Thanks to Gail and Andrew Cannella, we are scooting around town in our first refrigerated box truck. This new truck will join our small fleet that rescues food from 29 grocery partners and will greatly reduce spoilage - especially in the summer. The Foothills Food Bank food rescue program is one of the largest in the state of Arizona and helps feed families in our community. That new car smell is something we've only dreamed about, and thanks to the generosity of Gail and Andrew, it is a reality!

Photo: Andrew Cannella takes the new vehicle for a spin.



Cox Communications donated \$5000 to the Foothills Food Bank, along with a truckload of food, as they kicked off their expansion of services into Black Canyon City. Pictured along with the Cox team is Leigh Zydonik and Lauren Cobb from the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center and the Honorable James Gregory, Chairman of the Yavapai Board of Supervisors. Photo courtesy of Cox



Neighbor Spotlight Kevin C.

Kevin C has been through a lot in the last few years. After overcoming several medical issues, followed by housing challenges, Kevin became disabled and found himself in need of supplemental fresh food every few weeks to stay healthy. And as prices increased, he found himself needing more resources than he could find on his own. That's when the Foothills Food Bank stepped up to help him find his way.

"At first, I just needed supplemental food, but when my medical issues started, and my circumstances changed, I was so relieved to have friends like Robin at the food bank who were there to offer support. They even helped me find a place to live," Kevin said.

"The kind people there saved my life." It's neighbors like Kevin, who have always been self-sufficient but find themselves unable to handle the pressures of the new economy, that your donations help support through the Foothills Food Bank.

But now back on his feet, Kevin and his dog, Cheese, are enjoying the beautiful Arizona spring weather and looking forward to many more sunsets. "I recommend that anyone who needs help look up the Foothills Food Bank. They will do what they can to help you just like they helped me," he concluded.

If you want to support our efforts in the community, or know someone who needs assistance, please give us a call or read more about us at FoothillsFoodBank.com



Members of the committee include (pictured left to right, front row) Sue Casella, Linda Howes, Sunny Chico, Kathie McCabe. Back Row: Mary Kay Marvin, Charyn Hoffman, Sandra Racz, Jill Muth, Sherry Schwallie, Susan Zechmann, Cindy Zitney.

Cue the music and the confetti!

Foothills Food Bank has a Million Reasons to Give Thanks

The Mirabel Ladies – a special community-driven committee from North Scottsdale – has held an annual fundraiser for 11 years in support of the Foothills Food Bank. Those years of fundraising efforts have culminated in a significant milestone with this year's donation of more than \$207,300. The Mirabel Ladies have surpassed \$1 million in donations to the food bank.

Originally, the group was focused on funding the weekend food program for students and have expanded to help meet additional critical needs in the community.

"We have many kind people living in our community who are very generous," Linda Howes, a six-year committee member and co-chair of this year's event said. "Several members of our community saw the need and started the annual fundraiser that has grown into a luncheon that the ladies look forward to each year," Linda said. "Each member of our committee brings unique skills to the project and together we are unstoppable," she concluded.

Linda's co-chair this year was Sunny Chico.

According to Foothills Food Bank Executive Director, Leigh Zydonik, "the generosity of the Mirabel community is boundless. We are so fortunate to be in a community that is as committed as we are to ending hunger and providing resources. The Mirabel Ladies are truly magical in all they do for us."

Mirabel is a private membership club and community located in North Scottsdale.



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: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Email:

Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

foothillsfoodbank.com

f /foothillsfoodbank

ig /foothillsfoodbank

Leadership Team:

Julie Writz, Scheduler

Lauren Cobb,

Community Engagement Manager

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, Driver Scheduler

Black Canyon City & New River

Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator



Scan the QR code to read more about our future, the new campus and those we support.

2023 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

- ☐ **Please accept my donation to support neighbors experiencing food insecurity.**
- ☐ **I want to leave a legacy. Please accept my capital campaign donation of \$_____ to help build a stronger community for years to come.**

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, 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.