



THE BIG SCOOP

Newsletter

Summer 2023



Providing Hope for 35 Years: Food Bank Expands

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Foothills Food Bank this month, we cannot help but reflect on its humble beginnings and the support received from the community. Looking ahead, we are filled with anticipation and enthusiasm as we enter the next phase of growth, which involves expanding and relocating the food bank to a new campus at Carefree Highway and 41st Street.

With over 300,000 neighbors in our service area and a population shifting north, the demand for food and resources has surged by over 45 percent compared to last year. Simply put, our current space is inadequate to safely receive, process, store, and distribute food to meet this growing demand.

With our lease signed and construction consultants in place, our committed staff and board members are now considering the specific requirements of the new facility. We're collaborating closely with engineers to optimize every inch of the new warehouse and resource center, ensuring it effectively serves our community, neighbors, and staff.

We invite you to join us put an end to hunger and create lasting change in our community. One of our primary goals is to provide resources that help our neighbors break free from the cycle of poverty and build brighter futures for themselves, and their children. By supporting our programs, you can help provide financial literacy events, resume building workshops, mental health resource, and so much more. Together, we can empower individuals to build a better future.

We have set a lofty goal, but we have already surpassed the halfway mark! To learn more about how you can get involved, please visit our website at FoothillsFoodBank.com/faces-of-hope or contact us at 480/488-1145. Together, let's build a brighter future for all.

On the future site of the food bank are (front, l to r) Lauren Cobb, Community Outreach Mgr; Leigh Zydonik, Exec. Director; Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator. Back, Doc Langworthy, Operations Mgr; Michelle Reyes, Donor & Volunteer Relations Mgr.; Lou Argyros, Fleet & Facilities Mgr; Robin Kilbane, Client & Resource Mgr.

Empty Bowls Gets Fun New Look for 2023 Gala

Mark your Calendars for October 14, 2023!

The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center is excited to announce that the 2023 Empty Bowls fundraising gala has been reimagined and will be the "must attend" event of the fall!

In this twenty-fourth year, Empty Bowls, Full heARTS, will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 2pm – 6pm, at the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion in Carefree, Arizona. This year's extravaganza will feature the traditional bowl fundraiser and auction event, but will also feature live music, a wine garden featuring local vineyards, a raffle and many more surprises.

Mark your calendars and bookmark our website for more details-this is one event you won't want to miss!

Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger while providing artists and community supporters with a way to make a difference by making bowls that are used as a serving dish. At this event, a partnership between the Foothills Food Bank and Sonoran Arts League, guests also keep the bowls they purchase.

Get Involved! The Sonoran Arts League will host workshops for anyone interested in making bowls for the fundraiser. Check out our website for workshop details. Workshops will be held in July and August.

Christmas in July Adopt A Family Program for a Brighter Season Kicks Off

Get ready for the most wonderful time of the year! While some are enjoying time at the beach or pool, we're decking the halls and planning our 21st annual Adopt-A-Family event.

Our Adopt-A-Family donors bring a smile to adults, children, seniors, and veterans by providing food, toys, clothing and a lot of Christmas spirit. It's an opportunity for our community to reach out and lift those who are less fortunate.

According to Lauren Cobb, community outreach manager, our generous community support allowed us to bring joy to 1140 families in 2022.

If you'd like to get a jump on your holiday, details can be found at foothillsfoodbank.com/get-involved.



The Foothills Food Bank is 35 years old and Going Strong

It's hard to believe that what started as a small volunteer organization three and a half decades ago has grown into an integral part of our community, touching the lives of countless individuals and families in need. This journey is a testament to the support we receive from all of you.

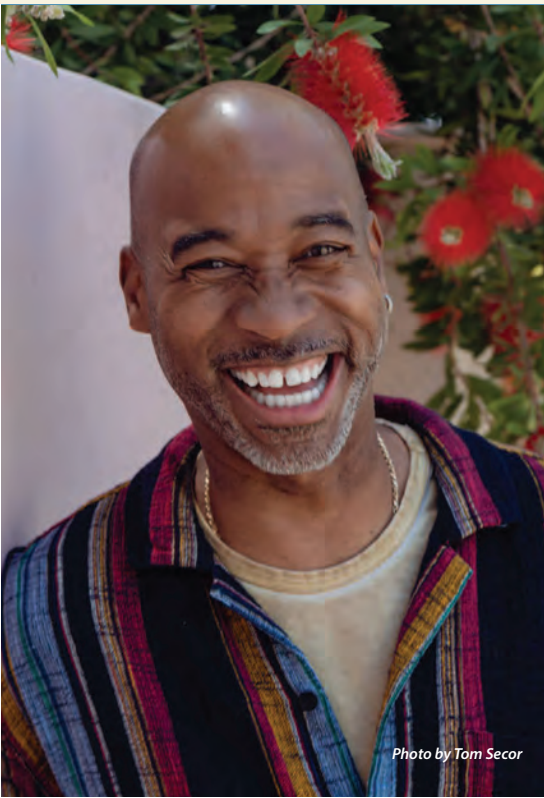
When we first started, we served fewer than 150 individuals per month, offering a helping hand to those facing hunger. But as our community grew, so did our resolve to make a difference. Last year alone, we had the privilege of serving more than 3700 individuals a month, ensuring that no one in our community goes to bed hungry.

This remarkable growth has led us to an exciting new chapter. We are thrilled to be breaking ground on an expanded facility that will not only enable us to store and distribute more food safely, but also provide additional resources and services to address the root causes of hunger.

None of this would have been possible without your incredible support. Your donations, volunteer hours, and unwavering belief in our mission have sustained us through the years. With your continued support, we will build a stronger, more resilient community that stands united against hunger.

With gratitude and optimism,

Leigh



Welcome!

We are excited to welcome new operations manager, Doc Langworthy, to the Foothills Food Bank.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate to be part of the Foothills Food Bank team," Langworthy expressed. "I am eager to contribute to the team's efforts in furthering their 35-year legacy of exceptional customer service while optimizing operations."

Being part of an organization with a mission that has such a profound impact is personally significant to Langworthy, who hails from the Pacific Northwest. He embraced the timing of starting a new career in the Valley of the Sun, coinciding with a week of triple-digit summer temperatures.

"I've heard about the dry heat and haboobs," Doc remarked with a grin, "but I've also learned that rain is really big news around here."

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director, commended Doc's extensive business background, emphasizing his expertise in logistics and project management as invaluable assets to the food bank's operations.

Together We Did It!

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the food bank achieved a remarkable milestone in May celebrating the 35th year of service. Setting a target of collecting 35,000 pounds of food to represent 35 years in the community, neighbors went above and beyond by donating 38,401 pounds, breaking all previous food bank records for a single-event collection. Community Engagement and Event Manager, Lauren Cobb, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support. This achievement not only celebrated the food bank's anniversary but also prepared the pantry for what is typically a dry spell for donations. Thank you all for your support!

Photo Caption: Celebrating the record-breaking food drive are (front row, left to right) Foothills Food Bank Operations Manager Doc Langworthy, Executive Director Leigh Zydonik, Community Engagement and Event Manager Lauren Cobb and back row former food bank executive director (2002-2020) Pam DiPietro, Donor and Volunteer Relations Manager Michelle Reyes, volunteers Michele Ameigh, Patti Keating, Jim Bridgewater, Janice Shimokubo, Gary Wincott, and far right, Board Member Jill Muth.



Church Community Joins Forces to Empower Neighbors, Give Hope

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church initiated a humble project last May, providing cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items in individual bags to food bank neighbors.

A year later, their efforts have evolved into a program where they collect donations from their congregation and assemble 75 bags each month. These *CompassionPacks* are filled with essentials like laundry soap, paper towels, dish detergent, and hand sanitizer, distributed to neighbors by the food bank.

According to Dawne Pender, Desert Hills Presbyterian Church volunteer, "We have a great team that works well together, and we all enjoy helping in any way we can."

The church's impactful contribution has been acknowledged by Executive Director, Leigh Zydonik, who expressed gratitude for their support, stating, "We are so blessed to have the support of Desert Hills Presbyterian Church. What started out as a small project has blossomed into a blessing for our neighbors who not only receive a little help, but they also get a little hope."

Photo Caption: Desert Hills Presbyterian Church Pop Up Pantry volunteers include (left to right) Beverly Everest, Dawne Pender, Martha Weber, Sandy Carson, Rhonda Bohner, and Marcia Fishman flanked by Foothills Food Bank Ops Manager Doc Langworthy.



Volunteer Appreciation Week: Fun Times with a dose of Gratitude and Thanks

National Volunteer Week provided the food bank with an opportunity to have some fun and acknowledge the profound impact our volunteers make every day. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of more than 305 volunteers who work tirelessly to support our community. Together, they are the driving force behind building a stronger community - and they always do it with a smile.

Without that invaluable support, our mission to alleviate hunger and provide essential resources would not be possible. We are deeply grateful for our volunteer's dedication and commitment to making the world a better place.

Thank you, Foothills Food Bank volunteers, for your extraordinary contributions. Together, we are transforming lives and fostering a more compassionate and caring society.

I lost my husband before the pandemic. I'm retired and can't work due to health issues so I relied on his income. When he passed, my heart broke, my health declined, I lost hope. Foothills Food Bank was the light I needed. I'm so thankful for the senior pantry program. Thanks to the nutritious options, my health improved dramatically. This community they've built has helped me not feel so alone anymore."

- Greta C. Neighbor





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
Tuesday: 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

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

New River Community Pantry

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

Food Sharing

Friday: 10:00am - Noon

Email:

Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

foothillsfoodbank.com

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Leadership Team:

Doc Langworthy, Operations Manager
Julie Writz, Scheduler
Lauren Cobb, Community Outreach Manager
Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director
Lou Argyros, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Lynn Ballou, Data Analyst
Michelle Reyes, Donor & Volunteer Relations Manager
Mike Howington, Facilities Assoc.
Robin Kilbane, Client & Resource Mgr.

Black Canyon City & New River

Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator
Mike Borut, Driver, Warehouse Associate
Mouris Salmar, Driver, Warehouse Associate



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.