



THE BIG SCOOP

Newsletter

Fall 2023

Hope Grows as Foothills Food Bank Breaks Ground on New Facility



Under the bright sun and amidst an electrifying atmosphere, the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center celebrated a significant milestone earlier this month in Cave Creek, breaking ground on a new campus, signaling that construction is just around the corner.

Notable attendees included Cave Creek Mayor Bob Morris, Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer, Carefree Mayor John Crane, One AZ Credit Union representatives, dedicated volunteers, community representatives, and the construction team. Senators Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema were also represented. Unfortunately, due to limited parking and challenging terrain, the public could not attend, but a video of the event is available on the Foothills Food Bank YouTube channel.

Mayor Morris highlighted the Town of Cave Creek's vital role in the food bank's future in his remarks. The town offered a unique land lease opportunity, providing a low-cost, long-term lease that includes a permanent solution for the town's Water Services office, which currently resides in trailers on site.

During the ceremony, the first naming sponsor, One AZ Credit Union, stepped forward. Greg Russo, Central Regional President, presented a check symbolizing their commitment and the branding of the One AZ Resource Room within the new building.

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director of Foothills Food Bank, shared, "I can't believe the day has finally come. This new facility will allow us to serve more neighbors and greatly increase our capacity to store and distribute food and provide additional resources. The new campus will allow us to help neighbors with training, financial coaching, self-help programming, and so much more." She added that none of this would be possible without the support and generous donations from the community.

The new food bank campus, situated at Carefree Highway and 41st Street, will encompass 15,000 square feet, effectively doubling food storage capacity.

Breaking ground on new food bank facility are (L to R) Lory Olsson, president, Foothills Food Bank board of directors; Town of Cave Creek Vice Mayor Kathryn Royer; Town of Cave Creek Mayor Bob Morris; Foothills Food Bank Executive Director Leigh Zydonik; Town of Cave Creek Development Services Director, Planning and Zoning, Luke Kautzman; and Carrie Dyrek, Town of Cave Creek City Manager.

Join Us in Making a Difference

Curious about our new campus and the community impact it will bring? Discover more about our expansion plans as we double our warehouse size and serve even more neighbors. Contribute today. We're thrilled that we're already over halfway towards our \$6.5 million goal but have a long way to go. Join us and make a difference. **FoothillsFoodbank.com/faces-of-hope**





A Note From Leigh

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news with you! We are in a phase of incredible growth in the community we serve. A few weeks ago, the groundbreaking ceremony marked a significant milestone on our journey toward ensuring that every family in our service area has enough to eat and access to the support they need for a brighter future.

Together, we're making it happen! Your generosity, along with the support of local businesses and caring individuals, is turning our dream of helping more people into reality. But we have a long road ahead of us, and we hope you will walk beside us and support our mission.

Sometimes, we focus on square footage and statistics, but letters like the one we received from Cooper remind us that every step we take is for children like him, and his family. It's for those who worry about feeding their family tonight. It's about people.

A Note From A Friend

... My brother, sister and I want to thank you all for your hard work. I had treats when I was small but my mom and dad can't afford extras. Thank you for feeding my family and the extra treats. My Nana says that we are special to get these and I agree. Thank you. Cooper

We can't thank you enough for your contributions and belief in our mission. Together, we're significantly impacting many lives.

If you're ready to get involved or want to make a donation, please see the donation form on the back page or read more at foothillsfoodbank.com/face-of-hope.

With heartfelt gratitude and hope,

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight

Two Hearts, One Mission, a Dynamic Duo of Volunteerism

If you've spent time at the food bank, you've probably been lucky enough to cross paths with Mike and Joni. This power couple has played a crucial role at the food bank for over five years, actively engaging in both operations and community outreach. Within the warehouse, they sort and weigh goods, a pivotal component in our process, all while building strong connections with fellow volunteers and each other. Additionally, they've served as ambassadors and participated in various special events.

"Volunteering at the food bank has been a joy for us," said Mike. "We started volunteering together in 1972, where we met many now life-long friends. We always felt such a sense of accomplishment while giving back."

Having enjoyed 52 years of wedded bliss marked by an unwavering commitment to their family, Mike and Joni have always considered volunteering together an important aspect of their relationship.

Their journey began in elementary school and blossomed after graduation. Mike spent 38 years of his career as a hydraulic sales manager, which followed a decade in retail. Joni thrived for 35 years in residential real estate in Ohio after ten years in residential apartment management.

Moving to Cave Creek in 2017 brought them closer to family, filling their lives with happiness. "I love working with Joni and Mike," said Doc Langworthy, Food Bank Operations Manager. "They are not only committed and dependable volunteers, but they are just fun to be around."

Mike and Joni's story underscores the power of love, commitment, and community service. Together, they are making a meaningful difference and inspiring others with their unity and service that knows no bounds.



HUNGER HEROES



LET'S DO THIS

35 Years of Caring

A generous donor will match gifts made up to \$100,000 through November 30.

The challenge match is available to all volunteers, past and present, as well as their families and friends. Be a hunger hero and donate today.

Donations can be made online at foothillsfoodbank.com/faces-of-hope; via US Mail; or by calling the office at 480-488-1145. Must be received by 11/30/23 to be matched. AZ State Tax Credit available on amount



National Charity League Makes Huge Impact at Food Bank

Since 2016, the National Charity League has stood as an unwavering pillar of support for Foothills Food Bank. The thousands of dedicated volunteer hours contributed by this nonprofit have greatly strengthened our initiatives.

NCL volunteers pack essential items, ranging from pantry staples to often-overlooked necessities like pet food and toiletries. These thoughtful additions make a world of difference in the lives of those we serve.

Mother-daughter team, Wendy (left) and Charlotte, pictured here, donate their Saturdays to lend a helping hand. Wendy not only actively participates as a warehouse packer, but she also takes charge of organizing fellow NCL volunteers.

Thank you, National Charity League, for being shining examples of the true spirit of community engagement and compassionate giving. You demonstrate every week how small acts of kindness can create a lasting impact on the lives of many.

In the News

Introducing Our Blog

In addition, we're proud to introduce our Executive Director's blog. This platform will offer you deeper insights, heartwarming stories, and timely updates about our food bank's mission and its impact on our community. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with us on a more personal level.

Embrace the Future: Go Digital with The Big Scoop!

Tired of paper shuffling and waiting for snail mail? Great news! Sign up for *The Big Scoop* newsletter (yes, the one you're reading now!) and have it delivered to your email inbox. This simple switch can make a significant impact, saving trees and supporting the food bank financially.

If you're not ready to part with the paper version, don't worry. We'll continue sending you a traditional paper copy. It's your choice!



An amazing groundbreaking gift!

One AZ Credit Union delivered an amazing groundbreaking gift! A donation of \$60,000 for the OneAZ Resource Room and Financial Literacy program. Thank you, OneAZ Credit Union.



“This partnership is about more than just food and transportation; it’s about nurturing the spirits of the elderly and vulnerable within the community.”

Compassion in Action

Foothills Caring Corps Deliver a Dose of Kindness

A unique partnership has emerged between the Foothills Caring Corps and Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center, as together they focus on giving a helping hand to the elderly, mobility-challenged, and those in need. It’s a story of compassion in action.

Foothills Caring Corps’ mission has always been to promote independence and enhance the quality of life for seniors and adults with disabling conditions. Their primary programs help with the challenges of transportation, nutrition, and social isolation.

“We provide services, but our focus is on caring,” said Brent Downs, Foothills Caring Corps’ Executive Director. “Our team of volunteers deliver meals, and provide other services, but what they give of themselves is so much more than that. The conversation a neighbor has with one of our volunteers may be the only conversation they have all day – and we are honored to provide that friendly voice.”

For individuals facing difficulties in accessing transportation, Foothills Caring Corps provides non-urgent medical transportation and shopping assistance to neighbors in a 250+ square mile service area. On select Mondays, they provide transportation to those who would like to visit the Foothills Food Bank’s Senior Market, fostering connections along with groceries. Additionally, they deliver customized food boxes from the Foothills Food Bank to those in need but who are isolated or experience mobility challenges. Volunteers at the food bank pack the boxes for these clients in smaller quantities that the neighbors can handle easily, based on their dietary requirements.

Downs has spent his career in community service and is enthusiastic about collaborating with the food bank. Food Bank Executive Director, Leigh Zydonik, said her team has seamlessly integrated their mission with Foothills Caring Corps, creating a synergy that benefits the community’s most vulnerable neighbors.

According to Downs, this partnership is about more than just food and transportation; it’s about nurturing the spirits of the elderly and vulnerable within the community; something Downs refers to as “a lifeline of compassion.”

“We are thankful for our partnership with Brent and the Foothills Caring Corps team,” Zydonik said. “Together we are making our neighborhood a better place for all.”

Photo caption: Food bank dedicated packers Sharon and Denise cheerfully packing for neighbors who receive deliveries with the assistance of Foothills Caring Corps volunteers.



Back-To-School Jamborees A Point of Pride

The Foothills Food Bank's Back-to-School Jamborees are a point of pride, thanks to a generous community who played a vital role in bringing smiles to the faces of kids and parents alike.

"We are excited to report that we received and distributed 375 backpacks to local area students," Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator, said. "These weren't just backpacks; they were symbols of hope, excitement, and readiness for the new school year, and each was stuffed with school supplies and goodies."

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers from The Anthem Giving Circle, Kiwanis of Greater Anthem and food bank warehouse volunteers from all locations, kids left with smiles on their faces and backpacks on their shoulders. Amazing donations came from Kiewit-Fann, Anthem Rotary Club and the Kids Need to Read organization who provided new books to all in attendance.

"With heartfelt gratitude, we thank everyone for their generosity, kindness, and unwavering belief in our mission," Bykerk concluded.

Bringing the Spirit of Christmas to Families

It's time to rev-up your holiday spirit and prepare for our heartwarming and much-anticipated annual event – the Foothills Food Bank's Adopt-A-Family program. As part of our generous community, we are asking you to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

A Gift of Smiles and Hope

The heart of the Adopt-A-Family program lies in the generosity of our donors who go above and beyond to ensure that adults, children, seniors, and veterans in our community have a brighter season. The event provides a combination of essentials and joy – food, toys, clothing, and, most importantly, an abundance of love and Christmas spirit.

Building on Last Year's Success

In 2022, our amazing community rallied together, allowing us to bring joy to more than 1100 families. "As we embark on this year's Adopt-A-Family program, we are filled with excitement and gratitude," said Adopt-A-Family coordinator and food bank Community Engagement Manager, Lauren Cobb. "While the calendar may say fall, the spirit of Christmas is very much alive in our hearts, and we invite everyone to be part of this journey."

If you would like to get involved and extend the magic of Christmas even further, please check out foothillsfoodbank.com/adopt-a-family for the wish list of gifts and details of giving. If you favor on-line shopping (don't we all!) our holiday list is set up for easy shopping and delivery, thanks to Amazon. If you have questions, Lauren can help at laurenc@foothillsfoodbank.com.

Adopt-A-Family program reminds us that there is unity and compassion within our community, for our neighbors who count on us even more during the holidays.

Register by: November 30, 2023

Gift Drop-Off Deadline to the Holland Center beginning December 4, 2023

Amazon link for Gifts:

www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/M174IS73M26N





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: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Email:

Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

foothillsfoodbank.com

f /foothillsfoodbank

/foothillsfoodbank

/foothillsfoodbank

Leadership Team:

Doc Langworthy, Operations Manager
Julie Writz, Scheduler
Lauren Cobb, Community Outreach Manager
Leigh Zydorik, Executive Director
Lou Argyros, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Lynn Ballou, Data Analyst
Michelle Reyes, Donor & Volunteer Relations Manager
Mike Borut, Driver, Warehouse Associate
Mike Howington, Facilities Assoc.
Mouris Salmar, Driver, Warehouse Associate
Robin Kilbane, Client & Resource Mgr.
Sharon Bykerk, Site Coordinator



Your Money, Your Choice Discover Arizona's Best Kept Secret

Tax credits mean every dollar you donate to the Foothills Food Bank is a dollar off your state income tax. Owe \$841 to Arizona? Donate \$841 to the food bank and your tax bill vanishes. Your \$841 stays right here in our community!

Donate before it's too late and claim your 2023 dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Foothills Food Bank is a qualified charitable organization (QCO) with ID #20514.

Visit the Arizona Dept of Revenue website for details.
azdor.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-qcos-and-qfcs

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.

See our new YouTube Channel: Foothills Food Bank