



THE BIG SCOOP

Newsletter

Spring 2024



From top left across: Event committee members include (top, l to r) Sue Zechmann, De Ette Scheetz, Mary Kay Marvin, Sandra Racz, Marie Moretti, Susan Casella, Kelly Root, Kathie McCabe. Bottom row: Sherry Schwallie, co-chairs Sunny Chico & Linda Howes and Diane Peterson.

Pretty in Pink, 2024 Mirabel Women's Luncheon Raises the Bar

The Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center has been serving its clients for more than three decades. For a third of those years, the women of Mirabel, a private, residential community in Scottsdale, have come together to support the work of the staff and volunteers who make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people they serve.

The Mirabel Women's Foothills Food Bank luncheon has become a highly anticipated event. Now in its twelfth year, the 2024 luncheon raised more than \$239,000, topping last year's donations by 15 percent. This year's Barbie-themed event dazzled attendees with its pink décor and delectable stiletto-shaped desserts, making it an undeniable hit.

Mirabel Women's Food Bank Committee Co-chairs Linda Howes and Sunny Chico were thrilled with the outcome of the event. "The committee had so much fun with this year's theme," said Linda. "Better than a movie, the real Mirabel women dazzled in pink and graciously opened their hearts and wallets for luncheon and raffle tickets and silent auction items."

"And the generosity of our Mirabel Community is amazing," Sunny added. "Not only do they support our annual event, many donate their time to the food bank. Mirabel members Jill Muth and Joe McCabe serve on the board of directors and others in our community volunteer by stocking food or driving vans to pick up food for distribution."

Mirabel women are proud of their alliance with the Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center. Through its annual fundraising luncheon more than \$1,200,000 has been raised. Knowing an impactful difference is made in people's lives keeps the Mirabel Women coming back each year.

New Stop for Mobile Foodshare

Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center's Mobile Foodshare program has expanded, partnering with St. Luke Catholic Church near 7th Avenue and the Loop 101 in the north valley. This collaboration addresses a crucial need in our community by bringing essential food resources closer to those who need them.

Lauren Cobb, the Director of Programs for the food bank, explained, "Our collaboration with St. Luke enables us to extend our reach within the community and provide vital support. For many individuals, accessing a traditional food bank can be challenging, so we're bringing the resources closer to them."

For information, contact St. Luke Catholic Church at (623) 582-0561.



New Food Bank Campus Naming Rights Announced

The Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center proudly announces a unique designation and naming rights to a local group that has supported the food bank for more than 12 years. The food bank's guest-choice mini-market, to be housed on the new campus on Carefree Highway, will be known as the **Mirabel Marketplace**, thanks to a naming rights sponsorship granted to Mirabel Women Community-Driven Committee from the private residential community of Mirabel in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director of Foothills Food Bank, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Mirabel Women's committee for their unwavering support. Their journey began with donations of snack packs for school-aged children in the community who needed food on weekends and vacation periods but has evolved into so much more.

"The group's 2024 luncheon raised more than \$239,000, bringing the total donated over the years to more than \$1,200,000," Zydonik concluded. "We are so appreciative and humbled by their efforts on our behalf."

This is the second naming opportunity announced, with OneAZ Credit Union being the first organization to stake sponsorship.

Together, the Community of Mirabel Women and OneAZ Credit Union are laying the groundwork for a brighter future for our community.

Gratitude in Action

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill

A great time was had by all our volunteers in attendance at the annual volunteer appreciation party hosted at Harold's Corral restaurant in Cave Creek. "The dedication of our volunteers fuels our mission, and together, they make everything we do at the food bank possible," Leigh Zydonik, executive director, said. "Thank you, all, for being the heart of our community and for giving so generously of your time and energy."



Photo by Tom Secor

Matching Donation Challenge Exceeded

The Hunger Heroes Volunteer Campaign soared to success, exceeding all expectations! Late last winter, an anonymous donor generously matched donations made by all volunteers and their families, up to \$100,000. Foothills Food Bank Hunger Heroes not only accepted the challenge but surpassed it, raising \$18,000 more than expected, totaling \$218,000 for the capital campaign. A huge thank you to the matching donor and everyone who helped exceed our goal!



All Bets On Charity

While fundraisers often involve cocktail parties and 5K runs, it was time to shuffle up and deal at the Poker Party with a Purpose, where players went all in for the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center. Thanks to the generous support of Riggs Company, the stakes were high and the spirits even higher as players tried their luck at the tables. Congratulations to all the players who proved that when it comes to supporting a good cause, every hand counts! Huge thanks to all the donors, auction participants, Riggs Company, and everyone who joined in on the fun. It was truly a winning hand for charity!



Photo by Tom Secor

Neighborhood Pride Pushes Food Bank Past Goal

For the second year running, our community's generosity has surpassed all expectations! During the second annual Purge Your Pantry food drive, the food bank achieved an incredible milestone. Setting a goal of collecting 44,000 pounds of food in 44 days, our neighbors went above and beyond, donating 46,247 pounds. This broke all previous records for a single-event collection. Lauren Cobb, Director of Programs, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support. She added that this achievement helps stock the pantry for the summer months when donations typically decline and needs increase.

Hope & Health Fest Reaches Into Community

The annual Hope & Health Fest provided opportunities for Black Canyon City residents to improve their lives and learn about professional services in the community. Health tips, screenings and services were provided by Yavapai County Public Health Department; Anthem Giving Circle; Daisy Mountain Fire & Medical; Kiwanis of Greater Anthem; Vitalant Blood Services; Restoring Vitality; Catholic Charities Community Services; Katelyn Glover; Nation's Finest; and Hair by Brie Weiss.

Welcome to the Team!

We are pleased to welcome Volunteer Coordinator Rhonda Noble, to the Foothills Food Bank team. With more than 26 years of volunteer leadership experience, our new volunteer coordinator brings a wealth of expertise supported by a Certified Volunteer Administrator professional certification. A proud mother of five daughters and grandmother to seven grandchildren, she and her husband, Jim, have called Cave Creek home for 18 years. Embracing hobbies like cross-stitch, writing and gardening, she's also a passionate advocate for veterans and community service. Eager to hear your stories and support the food bank mission, Rhonda looks forward to serving the more than 300 current volunteers at the food bank, and the chance to expand opportunities for new volunteers.



Photo by Tom Secor

Welcome Rhonda Noble, CVA

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Supports Food Bank Mission



Thanks to a \$400,000 grant from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the food bank is one giant step closer to reaching its' capital campaign goal.

"We are extremely grateful to Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for recognizing the potential impact of a more efficient facility, which will allow us to feed more people in our community," said Lory Olsson, President of the Board of Directors at Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center. "The commitment of Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust to support nonprofits like ours, which serve the most vulnerable, gives us all hope for a better tomorrow."

In the past two years, Foothills Food Bank has seen a significant increase in client volume, jumping over 41% above pre-COVID rates. The food bank serves a 200-square-mile area, primarily in Maricopa County.

"Piper Trust commends the collaborative approach that Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center has activated so they can reach more of our food-insecure neighbors. The forthcoming comprehensive program center and warehouse will be such an asset for our community and particularly its targeted support for youth and older adult populations," said Steve Zabalski, president and CEO of Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

NBC News Features Community Food Drive

NBC News in Phoenix recently helped the food bank shine light on the increasing demand for summer food assistance in our community through a live on-air broadcast. Reporter Colleen Sikora shared the importance of the Foothills Food Bank "Purge Your Pantry 2024" community food drive directly from the food bank warehouse. The broadcast saw enthusiastic support from local scout troops, including troop and pack 603 and 531, and Girl Scout troop 4442, who processed donations on-air and donated Girl Scout cookies during a break.

Pictured here are (far left) Sikora alongside food bank Program Manager Lauren Cobb, Operations Manager Doc Langworthy and Board President, Lory Olson.





Compassion Packs Fill Needs, Spread Kindness

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Carefree recently celebrated the two-year mark of spreading love through their Compassion Packs. Beginning in 2022, they began donating bags filled with hygiene items, and a sprinkle of kindness. The food bank distributes these packs to neighbors in need. These packs are made possible through donations from the church members. Starting with 50 packs a month, the team has reached 100 packs per month as they cross the two-year mark. This month, they received extra help in packing the bags from students at True North Academy, pictured here. Dawne Pender, second from left, displays a Hunger Hero award of appreciation, presented by Leigh Zydonik, food bank executive director.

A Party with a Purpose

A recent Party with a Purpose fundraiser turned to the kitchen to appeal to donors' hearts and tastebuds. Ticket holders were treated to an international cooking demo featuring cookbook author Alamelu Vairavan. Ticket sales benefitted the capital campaign. Thanks to fundraising event hostess and volunteer, Linda McCabe, and location host, Desert Foothills Library.



Construction on Schedule

"We are excited to share that construction of the new food bank campus is on schedule," said Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director, Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center. "As the footings are poured and walls begin to go up in the next few weeks, the dream of feeding and serving more people in our community is coming closer to a reality," she added.

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

Fundraising events continue and the food bank has received substantial grants from Virginia G. Piper Trust, St. Mary's Food Bank and a naming sponsorship from One AZ Credit Union.

Read more about the campus and make your donation at [FoothillsFoodbank.com/faces-of-hope](https://www.foothillsfoodbank.com/faces-of-hope). In-kind donations are also welcome. Contact Leigh at (480) 488-1145 if you have products or services you would like to donate.



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
Wednesday: 3:00pm - 6:00pm

New River Community Pantry

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

Food Sharing

Friday: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Mobile Food Share at St. Luke Catholic Church

19644 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix
fourth Wednesday of month, call
(623) 582-0561 for details and hours.

Email:

Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

foothillsfoodbank.com

f /foothillsfoodbank

IG /foothillsfoodbank

YT /foothillsfoodbank

Leadership Team:

Andy Anderson, Warehouse Associate
Doc Langworthy, Logistics & Development
Director

Julie Writz, Scheduler

Lauren Cobb, Program Director

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director

Lou Argyros, Facilities & Fleet Manager

Lynn Ballou, Data Analyst

Michelle Reyes, Operations Manager

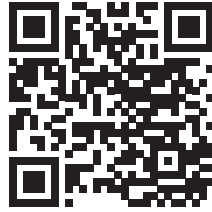
Mike Borut, Driver/Warehouse Associate

Mike Howington, Facilities Associate

Mouris Salmar, Driver/Warehouse Associate

Rhonda Noble, Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Bykerk, Community Engagement
Manager



Go Paperless in 2024

Sign up today to get The Big Scoop delivered to your email inbox. Go to FoothillsFoodBank.com, Get In Touch to join the paperless bandwagon!

FOR ELECTRONIC VERSION

Scan QR code to join the paperless bandwagon!

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 PURPOSE

To uplift individuals and families experiencing food insecurity by providing reliable, nutritious food and other resources to support a brighter future, while empowering them towards a path of self-sufficiency.

See our new YouTube Channel: [Foothills Food Bank](#)