



# New Campus Open, Providing Hope and Food

We are excited to celebrate the grand opening of the new Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center campus: a milestone marking a new era of service, compassion, and expanded impact.

Located in Cave Creek, Arizona, this purpose-built campus reflects our deep commitment to meeting the growing needs of families, seniors, veterans, and individuals across 15 zip codes and 200+ square miles in northern Maricopa County. More than just a food bank, it is a hub of hope designed to uplift and empower.

At the heart of our work is the Mirabel Marketplace, a client-choice food pantry, where visitors select items that best match their family's preferences, dietary needs, and cultural traditions. This model is unique in Arizona and helps preserve dignity while ensuring healthy food and choices that truly fits each unique household.

Beyond food distribution, our new Resource Center will offer cooking demonstrations, nutrition education, and life skills classes that foster healthier lifestyles and long-term food security. By addressing the root causes of hunger, we aim to restore stability and build resilience.

The new campus also serves as our main distribution hub, enabling deeper outreach into the service area. With nearly three times the warehouse and cold storage space of our previous facility, we can now accept and process more food and deliver it efficiently to our community partners and those in need.

This project was made possible through the generosity of our community. We extend heartfelt thanks to every donor, local business, and sponsor who believed in our mission and gave so others could thrive. Please stop by and say hi!



## Volunteer With Us!

As we grow, volunteers are urgently needed. Whether a few hours a week or more, your time makes a real difference.

**Visit:**  
[foothillsfoodbank.com/  
get involved](https://foothillsfoodbank.com/get-involved)



**FOOTHILLS**  
**FOOD BANK**  
& RESOURCE CENTER



**1,882,930**

total pounds of food  
collected  
for distribution

That is equivalent to

**1,569,108**

meals provided\*



**29,140**

visits by families to the food bank;  
a 53% increase over 2021.



**1 in 6**

Families are food insecure

## Economic Uncertainty Infusing Concerns in North Valley

As debates over federal nutrition assistance cuts continue in Washington, families across Arizona, especially in areas like the North Valley, are already feeling the weight of rising prices. For many neighbors, decisions about whether to pay for utilities, medication, or groceries are becoming more frequent and more heartbreaking.

At Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center in Cave Creek, Executive Director Leigh Zydonik sees the strain firsthand.

"We're hearing stories from people who've never needed help before," said Zydonik. "When your rent is up, groceries are up, and gas is up, but your income is not, it becomes a daily balancing act. Food is often the first thing to go, and that's where we step in."

Unlike some larger food banks, Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center does not receive federal funding. Shelves are stocked thanks to generous retail rescue partners, local donors, community food drives, and partnerships with local businesses. But as economic pressures mount, the need is growing, and the cost to meet that need is climbing, too.

"While we're not directly impacted by the federal program cuts," Zydonik explains, "our community is. Seniors, our largest demographic, along with working parents, and veterans in our neighborhoods may lose access to other services. That ripple effect comes straight to our door."

The food bank operates on a lean budget, stretching every dollar to serve thousands of people each year with dignity and compassion. But Zydonik says that without increased support, the ability to meet the growing demand may be compromised.

"We can't do this without consistent support," she said. "Food and funds must come in every day. That's the reality. And as the pressure builds on families, we're asking our community to stand with us now more than ever."





Representing the Foothills Food Bank at the ribbon cutting are Michelle Reyes (left) and Pat Marrs, food bank volunteer, at the new Crossroads Cares pantry in Anthem.

## Community Pantry Opens in Anthem

We're thrilled to welcome the Crossroads Cares Food Pantry, which officially opened in May at Crossroads Church in Anthem. This new site extends the reach of Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center, bringing groceries and support even closer to neighbors in need. Crossroads Church is a non-denominational church located in Anthem.

Thanks to the generosity of the Crossroads Church congregation—alongside shelf-stable food provided by Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center—this pantry is a welcoming space where anyone can come for help.

"Collaborations with the likes of Crossroads Church help us deliver food deeper into the community where it is needed most," said Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director of Foothills Food Bank.

For hours and location, please see [FoothillsFoodBank.com](http://FoothillsFoodBank.com).



## Spring Food Drive Surpasses Goal—Thanks to You

This spring, our community came together in a big way—and we're excited to share the results!

Our **Purge Your Pantry** campaign set out with a bold goal: collect 50,000 pounds of food, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies in 50 days to stock our shelves for the summer. Thanks to you, we didn't just meet that goal, we crushed it with a final total of 58,738 pounds collected!

With summer donations typically slowing down, these extra resources will help ensure that children, seniors, and families in our service area have what they need through the hottest months of the year.

"For many residents who leave for the summer, this was a great way to make sure their extra food helps local families," said Lauren Cobb, Resource Director at Foothills Food Bank. "Even those staying in town pitched in by cleaning out their cupboards—every bit made a difference."

Whether you hosted a food drive, donated goods, or shared the campaign, we thank you. Your generosity keeps our shelves full and hope alive for our neighbors in need.

## Welcome to the Team



Photo by Tom Secor

We're excited to welcome Barb Shehan as our new Executive Assistant and Events Coordinator. Born and raised in San Jose, California, Barb was a collegiate lacrosse player at Chico State and brings a dynamic mix of energy, leadership, and event expertise to the team. Her background includes years as Executive Director of the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association, where she planned major events and managed member communications.

"We are very fortunate to have Barb on our team," said Executive Director Leigh Zydonik. "Her broad-based skill set, professionalism, and strong business acumen are already proving to be a tremendous asset."

Barb and her husband Jason are celebrating 15 years of marriage this month and have two children; Madison (13) and Ryder (11). Since moving to Arizona in 2022, the Shehans have felt right at home. Barb is eager to make a meaningful difference in our community.



# Fighting hunger,

## Grand Opening | June 9, 2025



Cheers to our amazing community for volunteering, sharing, supporting, praying, donating & celebrating. See more smiles at [FoothillsFoodBank.com](https://FoothillsFoodBank.com).





# feeding hope.

**Thank you to our community donors who made our celebrations possible:** Sprouts, Carefree Highway; Safeway, the Summit; Fry's Carefree Highway; Basha's Carefree; North Mountain Brewery; Shamrock Farms; North Scottsdale Rotary; Frites Fries; SK Oil; San Bernardo Ice Cream Company; Lowe's Cave Creek.





# With Gratitude to a Generous Community

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, the new Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center campus is a dream come true. Your donations, encouragement, and belief in our mission made this space possible and we are truly, deeply grateful. Every room, every shelf, and every square foot is a testament to your compassion.

Through our **Faces of Hope** capital campaign, we reached our original fundraising goal. But like many projects in recent years, rising construction costs pushed us beyond our budget. To avoid taking on a mortgage, and to keep every possible dollar going toward food and essential services, we're asking for your help.

Whether it's a one-time donation, a monthly contribution, or even an Arizona Charitable Tax Credit gift, every bit helps us "burn the mortgage" faster. We also offer room and area sponsorships that can offer a meaningful way to make a lasting impact.

For example, OneAZ Credit Union sponsored our Resource Room and Library. Know someone who loves to cook? You can name our new demonstration kitchen in their honor! Have a friend who's always hot? Why not name a walk-in freezer after them? We can get very creative! Bricks and benches are also available.

No gift is too small and no kindness goes unnoticed. Every donation helps us stay focused on what matters most: serving neighbors in need with dignity and care.

Thank you for walking alongside us then, now, and into the future.

**Learn more or donate at [foothillsfoodbank.com](https://foothillsfoodbank.com), or call Leigh at (480) 488-1145 to discuss sponsorships.**

## Back-to-School Already? Yes—And We Need Your Help!

It may feel early, but students in the North Valley head back to the classroom in late July, long before the traditional post Labor Day start of many years gone by. This means the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center's annual School Supply Drive is already underway! Now through July 11, we're collecting backpacks, markers, paper and all types of school supplies for distribution in our service area. In 2024, we provided over 650 packed backpacks—and we expect even more requests this year.

Distribution events are Saturday, July 12 in Cave Creek and Saturday, July 19 in Black Canyon City. An Amazon Wish List makes donating simple. See our QR code to the right.

**Visit [FoothillsFoodBank.com](https://FoothillsFoodBank.com) for complete details.**



**Stay cool and shop online:  
Amazon Wish List available by  
scanning this QR Code**



# Walk With Us Into a Strong Future

At Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center, everything we do is rooted in gratitude and community. We are here because of you, your compassion, your generosity, and your belief in a better future for all.

Our Wall of Gratitude, stands as a heartfelt tribute to those who made this home possible. The first phase of this stunning Arizona sunset mural is now in place, reflecting a vibrant “who’s who” of individuals, families, and organizations who walked beside us during the capital campaign and in the months that followed the opening.

But our journey isn’t finished. The final phase of the wall of gratitude will be completed and celebrated in fall 2025, and we warmly invite you to join our team.

With a donation of \$1000 or more, your name—or the name of someone you wish to honor—will be etched into this meaningful mural, standing alongside those who helped lay the foundation of hope, dignity, and care for our neighbors in need.

This is more than a donation. It’s a statement. A legacy. A shared commitment to building a stronger, more compassionate community together.

We hope you’ll walk with us toward a strong future and let us honor your generosity in the heart of our new home.

Thank you—for all you’ve done, and all you’ll continue to do.

**Learn more or make a lasting gift at [FoothillsFoodBank.com/faces-of-hope/](https://FoothillsFoodBank.com/faces-of-hope/)**



## A Brave First Step Leads to Generational Change

Mark’s journey to the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center began in a moment of personal crisis. He had lost his job, was struggling with his mental health, and was doing his best to raise his young grandson alone. Groceries became a stretch, and every day felt like a mountain to climb. However, everything began to shift when he connected with a community navigator at the food bank.

With compassionate support, Mark received healthy groceries that eased the burden. He also received help replacing critical documents, including his long-lost Social Security card and a valid state ID, which opened doors to additional resources, including assistance with his medications, helping him regain stability and focus.

Today, Mark is healthier and more confident. He is building a stronger future for himself and his grandson. He is learning how to face challenges with resilience and is passing those lessons on to the next generation.

Stories like Mark’s are a simple reminder that when one neighbor finds the strength to move forward, entire families are lifted. This is the power of compassion in action. Thanks to donors and friends like you, hope has a ripple effect that begins with one brave step. Together, we are fighting hunger and feeding hope.



*If you are an adult relative, like a grandparent or person who has a significant relationship with a child, and the Department of Child Safety (DCS) has placed a child in your home, you are a kinship caregiver. The State of Arizona has resources just for you through its Kinship Support program. <https://dcs.az.gov/foster/KinshipSupport>*



PO Box 715  
Carefree, AZ 85377

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer



## HOURS & INFORMATION

### Cave Creek

4250 E. Carefree Highway  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331  
Mailing: PO Box 715, Carefree, AZ 85377  
(480) 488-1145

### Food Sharing

Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 2:00pm  
(480)488-1145 office  
(480) 943-1462 reservations

### Donation drop off hours

Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 2:00pm

### 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

Hosted by My Crossroads Christian  
Fellowship Church  
42425 N. New River Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85086  
(623) 465-9461

### Food Sharing

Friday: 11:00am - 1:00pm

### Salvation Song Ministries Pantry

Hosted by Desert Hills Community Church  
34835 N 7th Street (just north of Carefree  
Hwy), Phoenix  
(623) 581-0627  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 3:00pm-  
6:00pm

### The Care Center Pantry

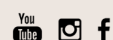
Hosted by Crossroads Church  
42105 N 41st Drive, Anthem  
(623) 466-7964  
Food Sharing  
Sunday - 11:00am - 1:00pm  
Tuesday - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

### St. Luke Catholic Church

Mobile Foodshare  
19644 N. 7th Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85027  
Fourth Wednesday of every month  
3:00pm - 5:00pm

**Email:** Info@foothillsfoodbank.com

**foothillsfoodbank.com**



**Shop our Merchandise store at:**  
www.PixeleyesShop.com/ffb

## Discover Arizona's Unique and Best Kept Money Saving Secret

When you donate to the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, you can get your donation amount back in your state taxes without needing to itemize your return. It's almost like getting free money!

And you don't have to wait to make your tax-credit donation. Do it today and get ahead of the year-end tax rush!

### The maximum credit donation amount for 2025:

*\$495 single, married filing separate or head of household; \$987 married filing joint.*

*Visit the Arizona Department of Revenue website for details.*

*AZDOR.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-qcos-and-qfcs*

## Charitable Donation Form

Because of you, we can make a huge difference in the lives of children, families, single people, veterans, and seniors experiencing food insecurity and financial difficulties. Your gift 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](https://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.**
- ☐ **I'd like to be an ongoing supporter. Please accept my donation noted below and charge my credit/debit card every month until notified to cancel. \$\_\_\_\_\_**

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, PO BOX 715, Carefree, AZ 85377**

## 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