



January 2022 Newsletter

A Year In Review

Executive Director's Letter

As I reflect on the past year, I want to thank our amazing donors, volunteers, staff and Board for hanging in there with me as I learned the ropes as the new Executive Director. It was a very busy year as we implemented new programs while executing a restructuring of the organization.

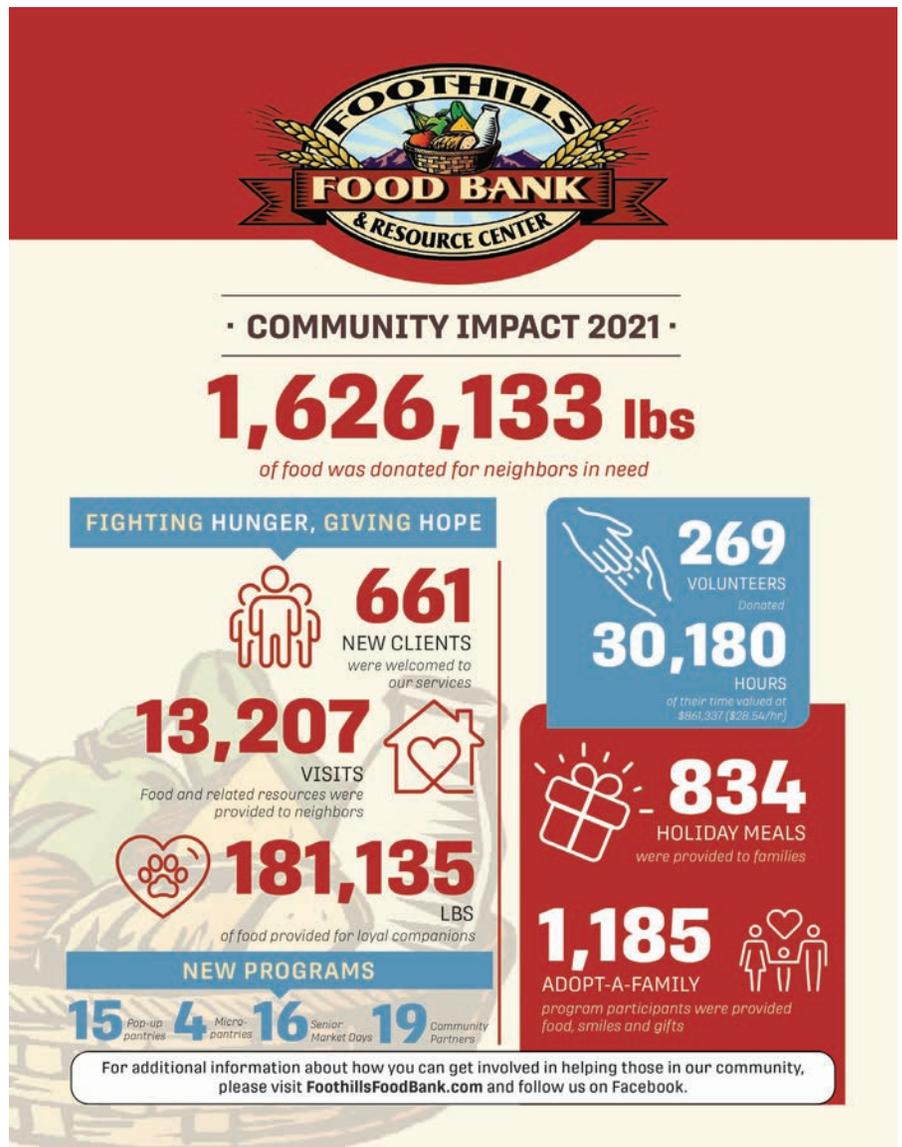
We started 2021 by analyzing the available data and socioeconomic trends which showed us that, while the need was still great, fewer clients were able to come to our on-site pantries. The contributing factors to this are: fear of COVID exposure; rising costs of housing forcing folks to move farther away from their servicing center; higher gas prices; lack of transportation; etc. With this insight, we realized that we needed to meet our clients in their neighborhoods. This led us to new programming, such as:

- Installing micro-pantries in schools and libraries,
- Providing mobile food vans at churches and community agencies,
- Food sharing with 19 like-minded partner organizations, and
- Senior Market Day.

With these creative programs, we can more efficiently provide food services to more neighbors within our 200-square-mile service area and feel well-positioned to enter 2022. *To learn more about our mission and successes in 2021, please check out our 2021 Annual Report, coming soon.*

The Board of Directors and I thank you for supporting the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center in meeting the needs of our clients and supporting our community. Happy New Year!

Leigh



Community Events Support the Food Bank

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.

Hours of Operation

Cave Creek:

Senior Market Day,

Monday – 10:00AM to noon

Tuesday thru Friday – 9:00AM to noon

Tuesday and Thursday evenings –
5:30PM to 7:00PM

Black Canyon City:

Tuesday and Thursday – 7:30 to 11AM

Address

Cave Creek:

6038 E. Hidden Valley Drive
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Black Canyon City:

34550 Old Black Canyon Highway
Black Canyon City, AZ 85324

PO BOX

PO Box 715
Carefree, AZ 85377

Phone

Cave Creek: (480) 488-1145
Black Canyon City: (623) 374-9441

Email

info@foothillsfoodbank.com

Website

www.foothillsfoodbank.com

**We are a 501c3
charitable organization.**



The **Grab & Give** program, sponsored by the Sprouts food stores' Healthy Communities Foundation, is dedicated to "sharing goodness, together." This terrific program just entered its 7th year and donated over 3,624 pounds of food to the Food Bank.



Empty Bowls is celebrating its 21st anniversary, and the recent event raised \$25,344 for the Food Bank. Each year, participants select a handmade bowl created by local artists and students of the Sonoran Arts League. The event concludes World Hunger Day to highlight the critical importance of access to education, healthcare and technology in ending hunger. A special Thank You to artist Carole Perry for years of coordinating this important project.



The latest **Shred-A-Thon** event raised \$10,129 to support the Food Bank. Over 175 cars drove through and donated 1,600 pounds of food, four truckloads of clothing and housewares for Gold Mine thrift store and a truckload of used books for the Foothills Library. Participants were also able to safely dispose of six tons of documents for shredding, 100 pounds of expired pharmaceuticals and loads of old electronic devices. A big thank you to our sponsors, **United Healthcare, Hayden Electric and Farmers Insurance.**



Our Lady of Joy Ladies' Guild hosted their annual holiday bazaar and collected 553 pounds of food and \$232 in cash and sold \$1,427 worth of Empty Bowls to support the Food Bank. Former Food Bank Executive Director Pam DiPietro volunteers to continue to promote our services at local events.



Christ Church of the Valley, Anthem Campus, delivered 1,200 pounds of food including turkeys and hams plus \$1,000 in donations to our Black Canyon location.

Grateful for our Community



Sonoran Middle School's National Junior Honor Society collected 1,777 pounds of food during their November 15th food drive. These talented 7th and 8th graders collected, counted and sorted donations. They each volunteer 25 hours of service each semester while maintaining a 93% average in class!



The **Anthem Rotary Club's** Thanksgiving food drive netted 2,740 pounds of food including 26 turkeys and \$455 in monetary donations.



Hercules Industries tracked down the first Jennie-O birds of the season and donated 100 turkeys to feed our neighbors in need.



Annunciation Catholic School's "Vibrant Vinnies" donated food to fill 300 fixins' bags. The bags were donated by American Family Insurance Lori Laswick Agency.



Lone Mountain Community hosted two food drives and collected 1,525 pounds of food.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

The **Adopt-A-Family** program celebrated 19 years of spreading joy during the holidays, this year serving 450 families totaling 1,185 individuals. The breakdown included 184 Black Canyon City families and 266 Cave Creek families.

Two drive-thru parties provided a safe, efficient and festive way for families to pick up gift cards and new family games donated by our generous community. Each registered family member received a \$50 gift card and each family also received a bag of books, a box of holiday food, hygiene items and a gift from Santa. Clients were treated to live music and a balloon artist.



Thank You to the Food Bank staff and volunteers who signed up clients for the program and gave their time to make this event extra special. Also, big thanks to our drive-thru hosts Community Medical Center in Black Canyon City and the Holland Center in Scottsdale. The Holland Center also donated our printing and allowed us to hold the week-long donor drop-off at their facility. In addition to gift cards, our individual and group donors contributed 1,156 family games. Events sponsored by:



Kids Need to Read donated 1,373 books valued at \$46,532.



Desert Hills Presbyterian Church donated 600 holiday food boxes valued at \$4,734.



The Carefree Vineyard Church bible study group provided three gift cards and 70 games.



The Boulders Ladies Golf Club donated 191 gift cards, 24 games and almost \$10,000 in monetary support. Ho, ho, ho!



Anthem Country Club donated 37 gift cards and 100 games!



Anthem Giving Circle donated 18 gift cards and 73 games!



Spreading Holiday Cheer

Groups Who Donated 25 or More Gift Cards:

Anthem County Club; Boulders Ladies Golf Club; Cross of Christ Church; Desert Foothills Lutheran Church; Kiwanis Club of Carefree; Light of the Desert Church

Groups Who Donated 25 or More Games:

Anthem Country Club; Anthem Giving Circle; Boulders Ladies Golf Club; Carefree Vineyard Church; Cross of Christ Church; Kiwanis Club of Carefree; Light of the Desert Church; Prudential; Snip Salon; Willis Engineering Co.



Thank you to our partners at **Rural Metro Fire Department** who, for the 8th year, collected thousands of toys outside the Cave Creek Walmart store to benefit the Food Bank's clients. Donors dropped off toys, bikes, games, gift cards and put cash in the "Fireman Boot" totaling \$8,000. With their help, both food banks hosted a Santa's Workshop so clients could shop for toys and gifts for their families.



Toys were also shared with our member partners and Hope Kids, Children's Hospital and the San Carlos Apache Reservation. **Rural Metro sure knows how to light up the holidays!**

St. Gabriel's Church again provided 218 beautiful toy and treat-filled stockings. Santa got to hold one of our newest clients and received a hand-written thank you note and pack of crackers from Alan.



Paying It Forward

Volunteer Profile



Meet the Duffey family! Mike, a retired air traffic controller, Alina, a fitness instructor, and their children Nathan, Danny and Jakob. Mike, Alina and Danny volunteer weekly in the warehouse. The other children help out on special projects and volunteer when school is out.

The family moved here from Chicago a year ago to enjoy the sunshine and outdoor adventures. They believe in giving back, helping others, treating all with respect and kindness and leading by example. Mike and Alina have educated their children about food insecurity and the challenges many clients face when their expenses leave little money left over to buy food. For the Duffeys, supporting the Food Bank's efforts to rescue food and provide resources to families in the community is a family affair!

Board Member Profile



Chuck Weirauch's commitment to the Food Bank has spanned 16 years, during which he has volunteered to do virtually every job – from sorting, packing, stocking shelves and refrigerators, checking in clients, driving and unloading trucks to serving as our Board President. Chuck has also hired staff and recruited other Board members and friends to volunteer.

As a Board member, he has devoted nine years to building a team to position the Food Bank in the community, expanding our services and service area, creating community partnerships, driving process improvements and leading by example as a hands-on volunteer and loyal donor.

Along with wife Veronica, they are great examples on how one family can make a difference. We wish him well in his retirement.

Donor Profile



John Murphy has volunteered at the Food Bank for over 21 years. After retiring from Motorola, he saw an ad recruiting local volunteers and wanted to help. He did food pickups and coordinated the Food Bank's van drivers for five years. He now coordinates the Fall and Spring food drives for St. Gabriel's Church and a neighborhood community food drive with five HOAs.

Maryann Murphy has volunteered for ten years and coordinates the holiday stocking program with the ladies at St. Gabriel's WINGS group. So far, they have donated over 1,000 stockings to our young clients.

These proud donors also participate in our Empty Bowls and Taste of Carefree events, and enjoy the flexibility that being a volunteer offers. Being a donor and volunteer helps meet social, physical and moral needs for them. They have made many friends, motivated others to get involved, and learned to appreciate everything they have.

The couple are both originally from New York and met while attending college at ASU. They have been married for 52 years and have three children and three grandchildren. A big Thank You to the Magnificent Murphies!

New at the Food Bank



Each Monday, the Cave Creek Food Bank hosts **Senior Market Day**, where neighbors over age 55 are invited to a food share program running from August until December. Easy-to-prepare, healthy boxed meals are available along with fresh produce and baked goods. 30 – 32 seniors attend weekly.



The **Ambassador Program** has been created to increase our visibility in the community and spread the word about the Food Bank's services and mission. Special volunteers are issued blue shirts and empowered to represent the Food Bank at special events.

200 Plus Club – Volunteers who contribute 200 hours of volunteer time are now given a special green T-shirt to acknowledge and celebrate their commitment to the Food Bank.



A spectacular **new shade awning** has been installed over the loading dock for the Food Bank warehouse. Thank you to volunteer donors Abe, Mike and John and others who donated funds to purchase this significant improvement.



Instead of doing a Fall food drive, the **Elders Fund at Scottsdale Bible Church** is donating \$10,000 to the Food Bank. The church has also made an arrangement with Ryan Companies to use their parking lot and have asked them to make a monetary contribution directly to the Food Bank.



Thanks for the generosity of **Andrew and Gail Cannella** and their 1,000 Walmart gift cards, 500 turkeys and 500 hams to make the holiday special for Food Bank clients. We are grateful for their continued support.



Good Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church dropped off their generous annual gift of \$10,000 to support the Food Bank's mission.



The K-Kids Club at Lone Mountain Elementary School sponsored a food drive with the theme of "Veggie November" that brought in 1,034 pounds of food. Students had a competition to bring in the most canned vegetables. The winner was Mrs. Perko's 4th grade class, who earned a Drumstick ice cream party.



St. Gabriel's annual food drive collected 5,427 pounds of food, \$4,152 for the Food Bank and \$1,275 for St. Edward's. They also distributed over \$1,000 worth of gift cards. This was the largest food drive for the organization since 2004.

The 2nd Annual Turkeypalooza music festival hosted by Janey's Coffee House raised over \$2,000. Eight artists played music and all of the raffle proceeds were donated to the Food Bank for Thanksgiving.

Cactus Shadows High School National Honor Society collected 1,565 pounds of food. The club inspires a sense of community by helping neighbors in need.

American Legion Post 107 in Cave Creek donated \$1,000.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Anthem donated 1,620 pounds of fixin's bags and 90 \$25 gift cards for the holidays.

2021 Board of Directors

- President** – Charles Laurenti
- Vice President** – Lory Olsson
- Secretary** – Terry Dowd
- Treasurer** – Glenn Ford
- Directors** – Chuck Weirauch
Darrilyn Adams
Jill Hieb
Joe McCabe
Myong Covert
Elaine Adrian

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2021 Charitable Donation Form

The Charitable Tax Credit helps the Foothills Food Bank continue its mission. Support the food bank and reduce your Arizona tax bill with a tax credit of up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples. This year the state is requiring donors to use a code when making a donation. The new **Qualified Charitable Organization Code for the Foothills Food Bank & Resource Center on your Arizona income tax returns is 20514**. For more information, visit www.azdor.gov, click on Tax Credits, Contributions to QCOs and QFCOs or call **1-800-843-7196**. Thank you!

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 _____