



Association  
of Arizona  
Food Banks

# A • R • I • Z • O • N • A FOOD LINES

MARCH 2009

## BUDGET CUTS PUT PRESSURE ON FOOD BANKS

As a result of a \$1.6 billion deficit facing the Arizona Legislature this year, the Department of Economic Security announced \$153 million in budgetary reductions, including \$167,600 for food bank related programs. Other cuts impacting thousands of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens, many of whom already use the services food banks provide, include:

- Eliminating general assistance, affecting 1,500 disabled Arizonans.
- Reducing Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance grants from an average of \$263 to \$210 per month for 38,500 cases.
- Eliminating independent living supports for 450 senior Arizonans.
- Reducing foster families' reimbursement from \$910 to \$728 per child, per month, impacting 4,500 children.
- Reducing an undetermined amount for shelter for domestic violence victims.
- Reducing homeless shelter contracts, decreasing capacity by 1,100 individuals.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus package will help with an estimated \$1.9 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in Arizona, a significant source of food for food banks. It also contains increases for WIC, unemployment benefits, and SNAP benefits. While welcome, the stimulus is insufficient to meet increased demand or compensate for DES cuts. The immediate impact will be shouldered by food banks and the agencies they serve.

Please make [www.azfoodbanks.org](http://www.azfoodbanks.org) a regular destination for continuing updates.

## JOIN THE AAFB ADVOCACY TEAM

With the aforementioned challenges facing us, now is the time to join the AAFB Advocacy Team! Stay current on activities at the state and federal level and learn how you can make a difference by sending an email with "Subscribe to AAFB Advocacy Team" in the subject line to [ghildebrand@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:ghildebrand@azfoodbanks.org).

## Dear Friends,

As you know, these are very tough times for so many Arizona families: losing their jobs, homes, sense of security, and for many, hope for the future. The Association cannot alleviate all the suffering this perilous recession brings to thousands of households, but we can redouble our efforts with your support, to deliver food to food banks and speak on behalf of Arizonans in need.

Nearly 743,000 Arizonans now receive SNAP assistance (Food Stamps), the highest number in state history, with an average benefit of \$1.21 per meal, per person. Unemployment is at 7% and rising, with the average unemployment benefit providing only \$220 per week. Foreclosures in Arizona are the third highest in the nation, prompting President Obama to announce his mortgage relief plan in our state. Given these conditions, member food banks experienced a 47.9% increase in demand for emergency food assistance in the last quarter of 2008 compared to 2007. To date, AAFB has been able to purchase more food than usual to supplement the donated food, thanks to individuals, foundations and businesses that responded generously during the holidays. Economic predictions say this recession will persist, so the question now is how can AAFB, the food banks and the community keep addressing this growing need?

Under direction from the Arizona Legislature to reduce their budget, the Department of Economic Security is reducing their current contract with AAFB. As a result, we have discontinued a program which introduces, with a free voucher, 7,000+ households per year to a cooperative buying program to help move them forward on the path to

food security. AAFB has also cancelled our annual anti-hunger conference (not held at a plush resort!) that welcomes 1 5 0 - 3 0 0

food providers and advocates from around the state for an update on best practices, trends in food banking and practical solutions to shared problems. Finally and most critically, \$61,000 used for food purchases was cut, leaving us with little time to seek alternative funding needed by the food banks to purchase food for the remainder of this fiscal year (March-June).

AAFB will not neglect our important public policy work, advocating at the state and federal levels for effective and accessible nutrition programs. However, the extraordinary immediate need and that predicted for the foreseeable future present a considerable challenge. You and other friends of AAFB can have significant impact with your financial support and your voice, educating friends, colleagues at work, your faith community, and civic groups about the growing need and our opportunity to alleviate hunger. Thank you for your generous and continuing support.

Sincerely,

Ginny Hildebrand  
President & CEO





# Association of Arizona Food Banks

*Helping Make Food Banking Better Since 1984*

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## OUR MISSION

To deliver food and quality services to food banks and foster relationships in support of our commitment to eliminate hunger.

Established in 1984, the Association is a support organization serving its five member regional food bank warehouses and a network of nearly 1,700 food pantries and agencies in Arizona. Its vision is achieving a hunger-free Arizona. Major activities include: developing more food resources, promoting nutrition, advocating for public policy changes to help hungry people, fostering cooperation among food banks and networking with government, as well as, local, state and national leaders dedicated to ending hunger and engaging all sectors of society in hunger awareness and sensitivity. The Association of Arizona Food Banks is not a food bank - we help make food banking better.

## OUR MEMBER FOOD BANKS



## HELP US SAVE COSTS

In anticipation of further budget reductions, you can help us tighten our belt by electing to receive **FOOD LINES** in your inbox. While a print version will be available, saving on printing and postage cost will allow us to spend more money on our mission, namely to deliver food to those who need it most! Please email [brian@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:brian@azfoodbanks.org) if you would like to receive future issues via email.

**FOOD LINES** is a quarterly publication of the Association of Arizona Food Banks. It is published in October, December, March, and May. Please address any correspondence to:

Association of Arizona Food Banks  
2100 N. Central Avenue, Suite 230  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1400

Contributing writers and editors: Ginny Hildebrand, Sherry Hostler, Jami Kakinuma, Brian Simpson, Virginia Skinner



# ARIZONA STATEWIDE GLEANING PROJECT

*"A program of the Association of Arizona Food Banks"*

**(602) 528-0740**

## CITRUS GLEANING, A BOUNTIFUL ENDEAVOR

Our citrus season here in Arizona runs from January through late March, sometimes into early April, and many times the trees bear more fruit than their owners can consume. During this time, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, United Food Bank and Yuma Community Food Bank coordinate volunteers to go to donors' properties and glean the excess citrus from their trees. Other donors pick fruit from their own trees and generously donate it to their local food bank.



This citrus is first used by the food banks to distribute to their own network of agencies and clients. Perhaps surprisingly, what is collected is oftentimes far more than what can be distributed and used by Arizona's hungry citizens. This is where the Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project (ASGP) comes in!

ASGP staff, with help from the food banks, set up a distribution schedule to share truckloads of citrus with food banks and

pantries throughout Arizona and all across the Western United States. Some of these out-of-state food banks, when their inventories allow, share truckloads of different excess product with Arizona's food banks, allowing everyone to benefit from a greater quantity and variety of food.

In 2008, ASGP coordinated the delivery of 51 truckloads, or over 1.7 million pounds of citrus, to food banks and pantries in Arizona and throughout the west. This year promises another large and useful harvest.

The biggest help to the food banks in this endeavor are the individuals who pick the citrus themselves and donate it to the food banks. For larger groups who would like to glean the citrus for donation, the food banks can arrange for delivery of key materials used to glean, as well as pick up of the gleaned fruit when the job is done.

To produce the best, most healthy fruit from your citrus trees, they must receive proper care. For information on citrus trees and how to properly care for them, check out [www.citrus-tree-care.com](http://www.citrus-tree-care.com).

ASGP would like to extend a big thank you to the donors, volunteers or "gleaners," and the hard-working staff at our member food banks for doing your part to get this fresh, nutritious fruit to those in need! And if you've got citrus trees still overflowing with fruit, be sure to glean your trees and donate the fruit to your local food bank today!

## AAFB CREDIT CARD DONATION FORM

2100 North Central Ave., #230 Phoenix, AZ 85004

Tel: 800-445-1914 Fax: 602-528-3838

**YES!** I want a hunger free Arizona. Please charge my one time tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.

I would like to be a monthly donor by using my credit card.

I authorize AAFB to make a monthly deduction from my credit card in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on the **5<sup>th</sup>** or **20<sup>th</sup>** (circle one) of the month starting \_\_\_\_\_. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify AAFB in writing that I wish to discontinue the contributions.

Simply check the card type, fill in your card number, expiration date, 3-digit security code from the back of your card, and sign this form. Then just clip and mail in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your donation!

CARD TYPE:  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover/NOVUS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
3-Digit Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Cardholder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone

**Questions?** Please call our Director of Development at (602) 528-3434, ext. 18.

# THE EXPRESS LANE

## CRAVING THE LATEST AND GREATEST?

Want the latest from AAFB, our member food banks and news from around Arizona? Subscribe to the bi-weekly AAFB Email Newsletter today by emailing Brian Simpson at [brian@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:brian@azfoodbanks.org)!

Bookmark the AAFB Event Calendar: [www.azfoodbanks.org/?action=events](http://www.azfoodbanks.org/?action=events)

Check us out on Change: [www.change.org/azfoodbanks](http://www.change.org/azfoodbanks)

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/aafb](http://www.twitter.com/aafb)



## IT'S TAX TIME – DID YOU DONATE TO AAFB IN 2008?

Did you make a donation to the Association of Arizona Food Banks in the 2008 calendar year? If so, the AAFB is recognized as serving the working poor under Arizona law (ARS43-1088.G.2) and if you qualify, you could receive a **FULL TAX CREDIT** of up to \$200 (filing as a single unmarried head of household) or \$400 (married filing joint return) for donating to AAFB. You can also include the donation on your Federal Tax Return.

Visit [www.revenue.state.az.us](http://www.revenue.state.az.us), call 1-800-843-7196 or consult your tax preparer for details. Additionally, if you donated to a public school and a tuition assistance organization, you can receive all three Arizona tax credits. Again, be sure to consult your tax preparer to learn more.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR - TASTE OF THE NATION IN MAY!

Join AAFB and many of the Phoenix area's finest chefs for a delicious evening of epicurean adventure! Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation 2009 features tastings of great food paired with excellent wine, an expansive silent auction and live entertainment. Proceeds benefit AAFB and other hunger fighting organizations, as Share Our Strength is a nationwide organization dedicated to fighting childhood hunger.

**When/Where:** Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Market Street DC Ranch in Scottsdale

Purchase tickets at [www.tastephoenix.org](http://www.tastephoenix.org) and help support AAFB! We hope to see you there!

## SAY HI TO BRIAN!

AAFB welcomed Brian Simpson as Director of Communications in January. Brian comes with experience in both the marketing/communications and non-profit sectors, having most recently served as marketing manager for Ottawa University's adult campuses nationwide. Previously, he worked in media/public relations for two minor league baseball teams. Brian earned his bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Arizona, and his MBA in marketing from Ottawa University. A native Arizonan, Brian brings with him a passion for helping others and, you guessed it, baseball. Reach him at 602-528-3434 ext. 19 or [brian@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:brian@azfoodbanks.org).

## FOOD LINES

a newsletter of **Association of Arizona Food Banks**  
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to: