



Association  
of Arizona  
Food Banks

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

OCTOBER 2008

## *Focus On: Transitions...the evolution of food banking*



### America's Second Harvest Becomes Feeding America

America's Second Harvest is now Feeding America. The change became effective September 2 and was made, according to the organization, so that the name more clearly conveys their mission of "feeding America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks." It is intended to increase awareness of the organization and the public's understanding of domestic hunger.

Feeding America has also introduced a new compliance contract with food banks that improves the standards expected of all partners. Some of the features of the new compliance contract include:

- Revised inventory control standards;
- New service area standards;
- An improved disciplinary process;
- Requirement of a disaster plan;
- Reduction of food safety risk;
- Tightened Board standards for parent organizations.

The Association enthusiastically welcomes this emphasis on improving standards as food banks address the needs of hungry families. Customers, donors and volunteers are owed no less. The Association is proud that our member food banks that are members or agencies of Feeding America already meet or exceed these benchmarks.

### Williams, AZ says, "This is our food bank!"

On a cool August evening in Williams, AZ, I witnessed a wonderful event as the Williams Food Bank and its community celebrated the opening of their new building complete with a 20' x 8' x 8' foot refrigeration unit. It was one of those events that gives you goose bumps up and down your spine when you realize that what you've been talking about for over 20 years really is happening in communities across our great state.

The "talking about" part is that when we work together – in collaboration – we are more than the sum of our parts. Or put another way, we can do more together than we can alone. And the people from Williams prove that, hands down!

The President of the Williams Chamber of Commerce – Donna Eastman-Liddle said it best, when she spoke at the gathering saying, "A few years ago, when the Chamber was told there would be a new food bank operating in our community, we were not thrilled. But now that we've seen what the Williams Food Bank has brought in the way of resources to our community, we know this was a good business decision. The Williams Food Bank is now one of our best Chamber of Commerce members. And because of the services they make available, we know our people are getting what they need, when they need it. This is OUR FOOD BANK and we're proud of it!"

This project, according to Guy Mikkelsen, Jr. and Angie Mikkelsen, managers of the Williams Food Bank and Williams Senior Apartment Complex, came together when the Foundation for Senior Living gave permission to use a small section of ground at the



Williams Senior Apartment Complex to build a new food bank. Then an anonymous donor gave the funds to construct a new building, the community gave their support with in-kind and monetary donations, and the Governor's Office and the Arizona Legislature (through the Association of Arizona Food Banks and St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance) brought an idea, two years in the making, from "white paper" to reality, of placing the 20 ft. cooler next to the building.

The community has and will continue to come together through volunteers giving of their time and talent to this food bank. Donations of food come regularly from the local Safeway and Bashes' stores. Other donated food is available from St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's Flagstaff location and the Northern Arizona Food Bank. Support comes in double doses from the Chamber of Commerce when there are special needs. This was truly a labor of love by hundreds of people to help their neighbors under the coordinated guidance of the Foundation for Senior Living.

Congratulations, Williams, AZ for being concerned for your neighbors who need a helping hand. You did amazing work!

*Ginny Hildebrand*

Ginny Hildebrand, Executive Director



Association  
of Arizona  
Food Banks

*"Helping  
Make Food  
Banking  
Better Since  
1984"*

1-800-445-1914

2100 North Central Avenue, Suite 230  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-1400

[www.azfoodbanks.org](http://www.azfoodbanks.org)

## OUR MISSION

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

## 2008 - 2009 Board of Directors

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## A Farewell Message

Dear Friends,

For this newsletter I am doing the honors in lieu of Ginny so that I can reflect on my tenure here at the Association of Arizona Food Banks and to say a final farewell. I have been editing this newsletter for twelve years and this will be my final issue.

Having worked at the Association for more than twelve years I have seen many changes in food banking. Changes that have been made due to the economy, legislation and awareness by the food banks that alteration must occur to continue to meet the changing needs of those they serve.

Food banking itself has undergone a dramatic change from its humble beginnings in Phoenix. John van Hengel, founder of St. Mary's Food Bank and America's Second Harvest had no idea what a world changing effect his idea would have or how many people would actually benefit from his simple act of good stewardship.

Many of the food banks that I have dealt with in my time with the Association have gone from being what I would call a "mom and pop" operation to a sophisticated food distribution industry complete with standards, regulations and best practices.

These food banks were once led by people who had more of a social service background and an attitude that bordered on religious mission approach. Today, food banks are being led by people whose background is business oriented with an altruistic attitude.

Food banking was once a one program operation (emergency food boxes). It has become a multiple program operation that attempts to meet people where they are and move them further along the food security ladder towards self-sufficiency.

Food banks continue to be innovative in their approach to doing this. Food banks have established community gardens and job training programs like community kitchens. They have created programs that allow people to have a say in what they receive like the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Market or the Value Food Store.

None of these changes come easy, but it is through the dedicated food bank staff and volunteers that these services continue to be provided, day in and day out. I have been blessed to be a part of this and something tells me that I won't be getting too far removed from it as I move into full-time ministry.

Fred Bates  
Director of Member Services & Administrative Operations

## A Staffing Update from the Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you the newest member of the staff of the Association of Arizona Food Banks, Sara J. Polansky. Sara began her service as the Director of Administrative and Operating Services in late August and comes to us with a history of eight years experience as the Operations and Communications Director for the Health Industry Business Communications Council, an international non-profit association. Sara received her BA in Liberal Studies with honors from Arizona State University and is currently enrolled in ASU's Masters Degree program for Public Administration in Non-Profit Management. In addition to her extensive experience, Sara brings a host of talent, dedication to our mission to end hunger, and an interest in learning about AAFB's role in public policy advocacy.

Sara will be working closely with Fred Bates, our current Director of Member Services and Administrative Operations, as well as myself, to learn about our contacts with you, your organization and our work here at the Association. Fred will be concluding his 12-year AAFB tenure with his departure on October 10<sup>th</sup> to pursue his full-time work in the Ministry.

Please help us welcome Sara to our network by communicating with her at: [sara@azfoodbanks.org](mailto:sara@azfoodbanks.org) or via phone at our general number: 602-528-3434.



# ARIZONA STATEWIDE GLEANING PROJECT

"A program of the Association of Arizona Food Banks"

(602) 528-0740

## Changing Industry Trends Affect Food Banking

By: Jami Kakinuma

I recently attended the 2008 Food Sourcing and Operations Conference presented by Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest) in Chicago. Three of the many workshops I attended were particularly informative, while also being quite disturbing. I wanted to share what I learned to help our food banks, pantries and donors understand the current situation in the food industry. These workshops focused on changes affecting the fresh produce industry, the processed/packaged food industry and the transportation industry.

Joe Swedberg, Vice President of Legislative Affairs for Hormel Foods discussed the factors that are driving food price increases, including the rising global demand of key commodities, sky-high oil prices, the weak U.S. dollar, the high cost of credit and ethanol production. All of these factors working together drove up food costs over 7% in 2008 and it's anticipated to be even higher in 2009.

Jim Olek, Regional Marketing Manager for J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc., one of the largest freight companies in North America, discussed the factors that are driving freight cost increases, including rising diesel fuel prices (up 338% since 2000!), new regulations that the limit drivers "hours of service" and a severe shortage of national "over the road" drivers

which is expected in the coming months and years to get much worse. These factors are not only driving freight cost increases, but causing many trucking companies to go out of business. One thousand trucking fleets (companies with at least five trucks) went out of business in the first quarter of 2008 alone.

Dewight Hall, owner of Columbia Fresh Produce, spoke of the changes affecting the fresh produce industry. The factors that are driving produce cost increases are rising global demand for produce, increased cost of farm land and crop production/harvesting, increased transportation costs and secondary markets buying below market quality produce for processing (i.e. pre-sliced/ chopped packaged produce). The secondary market produce purchasing has already lowered produce donations and is expected to continue to impact donations in a negative trend.

The current downturn in the U.S. economy has significantly increased the demand for food assistance provided by food banks. Then consider the cost impacts on the processed/ packaged food, transportation and produce industries above. These rising costs have made the job of meeting the needs of hungry people tougher than ever before. Now, more than ever, we need to work together to create efficiencies to get the job done, because no one deserves to go to bed hungry.



## Farm Bill Brings Welcome Changes

The recently passed Farm Bill has changed the name of the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), removing a name that carried some stigma, to more accurately reflect that the program supplements but does not fully support a family's food needs. (In Arizona the average grant provides \$1.03 per meal per person). The more significant change is that beginning this month the full amount of day care costs, not the previous capped amount, can be deducted from the income used for eligibility. As a result, families participating in the program may get more money to spend on food, and additional families with higher day care costs will now be able to participate. Both will have more purchasing power.

With this in mind, the Arizona Department of Economic Security reminds us that only 54% of the potentially eligible Arizonans now

participate. With full participation another 52 million dollars a month could be available to spend on food in our state.

Beginning in January, 2009, The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) will offer additional food options, including whole grain breads and cereals, fresh produce and other choices. In addition, participants will be able to purchase existing products, such as soy milk, without a written prescription.

These changes will assist many Arizona families in need. The Association is proud to have joined with other advocates around the country in bringing them about.

To help potentially eligible households learn if they are eligible for these programs, direct them to <http://www.arizonaselfhelp.org> where they can anonymously enter their household information to calculate whether they are eligible for SNAP, or other nutrition assistance programs and at what level. At the end of the 5-10 minute profile entry, in English or Spanish, they receive a personalized print-out of recommended programs with phone numbers to call for assistance, and can also download a SNAP application.



## 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

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Card Number

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Expiration Date

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

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

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

## A Holiday Gift that Gives Twice

**Starting your list of holiday gifts for friends and family?** A contribution to the AAFB in honor of a special person in your life says how much you appreciate them. It also tells them you care about Arizona families in need. To donate visit [www.azfoodbanks.org](http://www.azfoodbanks.org) or use the envelope enclosed in this FOOD LINES. We will send your honoree an acknowledgement of your thoughtful gift, without the amount, and send you an acknowledgement as well.

## Thanks to Stardust Foundation!

In keeping with its mission to invest in Arizona children, youth and families, the Stardust Foundation has provided a \$100,000 grant to our Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project. These funds will help keep our tractor-trailers delivering three to four million pounds food a month to statewide food banks, which in turn assist Arizonans through an extended network of agencies.

## Thanks to McMiles Foundation!

The Association recently received a \$20,000 grant from the McMiles Foundation to support our continuing collaboration and leadership with state and national advocates working for more effective nutrition assistance programs. A major emphasis this year will be on the reauthorization of the federal Child Nutrition Act which includes breakfast/lunch programs in schools or child care facilities, as well as summer meal programs. These meal programs offer a critical supplement and in some cases are the major source of good nutrition for many children and their families in need.

## FOOD LINES

a newsletter of **Association of Arizona Food Banks**  
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*AAFB is funded by donations and is partially funded by the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Office of Community Programs and Innovative Partnerships. Points of view are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Department. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the AAFB must make reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the AAFB must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the AAFB will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. Please contact AAFB at 602-528-3434.*

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