

## AAFB is Now the Arizona Food Bank Network

Since 1984 the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB) has worked with partners statewide to alleviate hunger in Arizona. While our vision of a hunger-free Arizona remains the same, our mission has expanded as we uncover meaningful work that will make a difference for people experiencing poverty in our state.

In order to more accurately convey our mission, we're changing our name and logo to better match who we are today.

You'll see both logos and names for a while as we get used to our new identity. Our website will remain **www.azfoodbanks.org** but look for a new and improved online experience in the coming year.

It's our hope that you will continue your support of the people and charities that we serve, and we hope that this change makes things a little easier for you because you'll never have to remember whether Arizona or Association comes first in our name!



*is becoming*



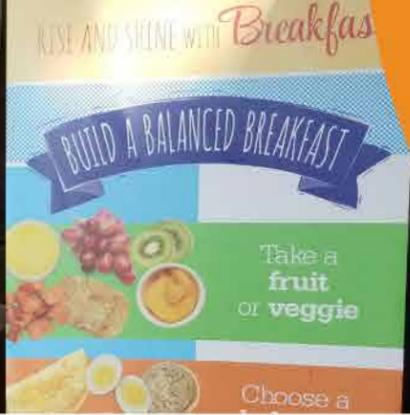
## What would you do? Honeydew edition!

Imagine someone gave you two, or even four honeydew melons. If you've ever had one in the fridge, you know how much space they take. Imagine our surprise when generous donors called our member Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and said they had 40 tractor trailers full of melons that can't be sold. This perfect fruit for warm summer days could go to waste if we didn't act fast.

AAFB worked with food banks, both in our state and across the country, to get 30 loads of the fresh produce everywhere from Arizona to Oregon to Ohio!

This work is only possible because of caring friends like you — thank you for making a difference for food insecure people all over the country.





Thank you to everyone for their help and support. Through the grants and the provision programs (no charging), we were able to reach of lot more of our students at breakfast.

ROBIN RINEHART, FOOD SERVICE MANGER  
ANTELOPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #50



## Breakfast Grants

At AAFB – soon to be AzFBN – one of the most important things we do is connect. Whether it’s connecting food banks with trailers full of produce, or callers to our Hunger Hotline with places that have emergency food boxes, much of our work is focused on making connections that will make a difference for families at risk of hunger in Arizona.

That’s why we’re proud to work with organizations like No Kid Hungry and the Food Research & Action Center to bring more resources to schools that want to do more to feed kids. These organizations provide the funding, and AAFB works with schools and districts across the state to identify need and encourage applications.

In fact, because of this critical work, **42 schools across the state** have received grants totaling more than \$259,000! And that number will rise.

What can a grant like this do? Data shows that breakfast equals success for kids at school. But sometimes breakfast in the cafeteria is tough because of busy family schedules that don’t allow for kids arriving at school early enough to get a meal. That’s what other models, like breakfast in the classroom, or “grab and go” are important. These alternatives also help reduce the stigma that can be associated with getting free breakfast – because everyone gets free breakfast! These grants get schools equipment, like refrigerated breakfast carts, to make alternative breakfast models possible. For example, in Yuma County, the Crane School District had a breakfast problem.

### From Michael Clark, the Director of School Nutrition:

*In the Crane School District, where every meal is free for every student, it was a struggle to get more than about one third of the students to grab free breakfast.*

*So I went to the playground to ask children why they didn’t get breakfast. I got two answers: the morning is the only time they get to play with friends, and they weren’t hungry yet. Families try to get kids to eat something at home in the morning, but sometimes the fight is just not worth it. But*

*parents know that free breakfast is served at school and say, “Go inside and get something to eat.” The child says, “OK” and then runs to the playground! The child skips breakfast, goes to class, gets hungry, gets grumpy, and becomes disruptive. Learning doesn’t happen for that child, and the children around them are impacted, too.*

*To fix this problem, in 2018 Crane Schools received a special grant from No Kid Hungry to begin a pilot Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) program at Pueblo Elementary with preschoolers and a few other classes. The aim of that project was to grow classroom staff support, identify any problems that developed, and create solutions.*

*In early 2019 Crane Schools was awarded another, larger grant from the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). That grant made it possible to implement BIC with a bigger plan to offer it in all Crane Schools. Ronald Reagan Elementary School in Yuma agreed to be the first BIC school. The participation at breakfast was between 24% and 27%. After BIC started, participation increased to 90%, or more than 500 students each day!*

*Even skeptical faculty have said things like, “I thought it was going to be more work for me, that it would take a lot of time, and that it would be messy, but after the first couple days the students all got the hang of it and now it all runs really smooth.” Behavior problems have decreased and instructional time is more productive.*

*BIC is only possible at Crane due to valued community partners, including the Arizona Dairy Council, parents, staff, teachers, and principals. Thank you to all of them and especially the teams at No Kid Hungry and FRAC.*

At AAFB, we’ve known for a long time that working together will be the only way we will see our shared vision of a hunger-free Arizona come to life. Our thanks to the funding partners, schools, food banks and program staff who have worked to improve things for Arizona’s kids!

## Hunger Relief License Plate

Have you seen this license plate when driving around Arizona, or do you even have one yourself? The Hunger Relief license plate costs \$25 (plus postage and handling) and benefits AAFB. **Get yours when you renew your Arizona license plate** and help end hunger one "plate" at a time. A big thanks to everyone who has this special plate. See you on the road!



## Susan's Story

We want to share some of them with you to understand better why hunger still exists in Arizona. This is Susan's story from Dolan Springs, Arizona.

I don't have transportation and I depend on friends to drive me from Dolan Springs into Kingman so that I can pick up a food box at the Kingman Food Bank. It's a 40-minute drive each way, but well worth the trip because at the Food Bank I can pick up eggs, fresh vegetables and fruits, the things I need to be healthy. In Dolan Springs, there are no options to purchase fresh produce. Imagine living in a place where you cannot buy fresh food. I ended up in Dolan Springs, when a friend brought me to the area. At first, I had a job, but I don't anymore. At 54 years of age, there are few job options, but I am trying my best to find a job and move out of this situation.

I am currently on my own, living in a trailer thanks to kind people. I have no electricity and depend on a propane stove to cook. I am fortunate to have a roof over my head, but I feel trapped. I am selling some of my belongings to have a little money in my pocket.

With no income I am eligible for \$196 in SNAP. For the most part I use SNAP to purchase ice to cool down the food I am able to buy and the food I receive from the Kingman Food Bank. Without SNAP and the food box I receive each month, I would go hungry. Right now, I'm just stuck, but I am working hard to change my circumstances.

## Want to Help?

Visit our website and subscribe to our email list. We'll send you legislative action opportunities so that our elected officials and policymakers will hear your voice!

## Contact Us

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## Our Members



COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

