



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Ginny Hildebrand, President & CEO

Dear Friends,

We are beginning our 25th year! We trust you like our new look debuting with this issue of FOOD LINES.

Celebrating the progress made to date in alleviating hunger in Arizona offers an opportunity to reflect on the core strengths of the Association of Arizona Food Banks (AAFB). Our success has come from collaboration, partnerships, innovation, and the faithful support of generous, creative friends like you.

Consider just a few high points of 25 years -

Our Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project (ASGP), began in 1993 to bring donated and purchased food from in and beyond the state to Arizona food banks. Built on collaboration to serve our members and share the load, quite literally, the Project handled 40.4 pounds of product last year!

The food bank network has grown to include our five regional food bank members, collectively reaching every county in Arizona today and delivering food to pantries, after school programs, shelters, and other services at nearly 1700 sites.

AAFB’s voice has brought legislative success in Arizona and at the federal level. Among the many successes - the state legislature established a line item in their budget in 1986 to assist food banks and coordinate their activities to maximize service. In 1993 they passed the Charitable Crop Contribution Bill to benefit Arizona growers who donate to food banks and other non profits. Congress passed the Hunger Prevention Act in 1988 making a discretionary USDA program that brings commodities to the states permanent.

In the last two years AAFB purchased 15 refrigerated seagoing containers. In collaboration with our member food banks they were placed throughout the state in areas of great need. This innovative approach has increased the capacity to accept, safely store and distribute fresh and frozen product received from the regional food banks.

Although the successes of the past make us proud, today we are concentrating on a serious new challenge. The recession has devastated many Arizona families. The numbers are hard to contemplate: 1,172,000 Arizonans living in poverty (\$22,050 annual income for a family of four); 894,000 Arizonans--the most ever--receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (formerly Food Stamps); 9.1% unemployment in August, with a loss of 198,000 jobs within just the July, 2008-July, 2009 period. Food banks distributed over 42% more food in the first two quarters of 2009 vs. 2008, and saw demand for emergency food boxes, a three day supply of food, increase by 23%.

Behind the numbers are real families, many of our neighbors, struggling to get by during this crisis. AAFB and the food bank network are doing yeoman’s work, despite state budget cuts and with experts telling us there are most likely more cuts coming. What can you do? As you read this FOOD LINES please consider making a contribution today. With your help more of the need can be met. In the meantime AAFB will keep on serving our food banks and speaking on behalf of hungry people.

Sincerely,

Ginny Hildebrand
President and CEO

- 25 Years: Looking Back Through the Photo Album
- Bashas' and Western Refining Help Out AAFB
- Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project Year in Review

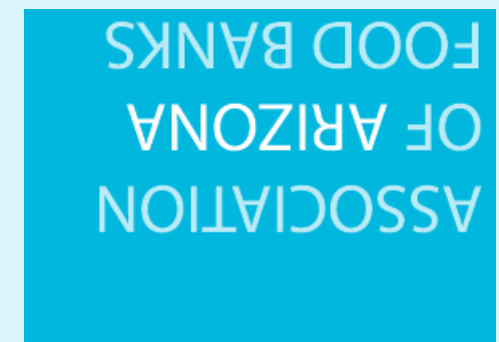
IN THIS ISSUE OF FOOD LINES



Celebrating 25 Years



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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, AAFB 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. 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, 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.

2009-10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Board Chair: Bill Carnegie
Community Food Bank
- Vice Chair: Mary Jo Swartz, MSW
Retired AZ Dept. of Economic Security
- Secretary / Treasurer: Sharon Pierson, BS
Desert Mission Food Bank
- Angela Bellan, MA
Retired School & Hospital Administrator
- Douglas Bobo
Retired City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation
- Bob Evans
United Food Bank
- Jonathan James, JD
Perkins, Coie, Brown & Bain, P.A.
- Bill Nord
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- Karilee Ramaley, JD
Salt River Project
- Susan Riedel, MBA
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- David Schwake
Litchfield Elementary School District
- Jo Ellen Serey
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- Terry Shannon, MBA
St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance
- Ronna Sue Stubbs,
Yuma Community Food Bank

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Business Manager
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MIS Specialist
- Barry Winters
MIS Specialist

OUR MEMBER FOOD BANKS

- Community Food Bank, Tucson
www.communityfoodbank.org
- Desert Mission Food Bank, Phoenix
www.jcl.com/foodbank
- St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance, Phoenix
www.firstfoodbank.org
- United Food Bank, Mesa
www.unitedfoodbank.org
- Yuma Community Food Bank, Yuma
www.yumafoodbank.org

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

- Feeding America
www.feedingamerica.org
- Arizona Self Help
www.arizonaselfhelp.org
- Community Information & Referral
www.cir.org
- Valley of the Sun United Way
www.vsuw.org

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH AAFB

Stay current on state and federal activities by sending an email with “Subscribe to the AAFB Advocacy Team” in the subject line to Ginny Hildebrand at ghildebrand@azfoodbanks.org.

Subscribe to the bi-weekly AAFB Email Newsletter by emailing Brian Simpson at brian@azfoodbanks.org.

Bookmark the AAFB Event Calendar:
www.azfoodbanks.org/?action=events

Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/aafb

Become a fan on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/azfoodbanks

Check us out on Change:
www.change.org/azfoodbanks

HELP US SAVE COSTS

Help us tighten our belt by receiving FOOD LINES in your inbox. While a print version will be available, saving on printing and postage costs will allow us to spend more money on our mission! Email brian@azfoodbanks.org to receive future issues in your inbox.

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Helping to fuel the nation's economy.



ABOVE: Ginny Hildebrand with Western Refining's Kevin Goode, Marjo Berry, Joyce Blackburn, and Matt Yoder. BELOW: Refugees and volunteers work plots at the new Asbury Community Garden.



WESTERN REFINING LENDS A HELPING HAND TO ASGP

For the second straight year, Western Refining is helping deliver food to Arizona's food banks. This year, Western Refining is donating \$25,000 worth of diesel fuel to AAFB to operate several tractor-trailer semi-trucks as part of the Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project. "This generous donation will keep our tractor-trailers running for six months, in and beyond Arizona, to secure and transport donated and purchased food to Arizona food banks," said Ginny Hildebrand, president and CEO of AAFB.

ASBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Former AAFB board member Kelli Donley works extensively with refugee families as the executive director of Tempe-based Community Outreach and Advocacy for Refugees. So when she realized many refugee families struggle with hunger, she helped create the Asbury Community Garden on the grounds of Asbury United Methodist Church in Phoenix. Refugee families selected for the garden receive their own plot to grow their own organic vegetables and fruit, and eventually they will build coops to raise chickens.

BASHAS' HELPS COMMUNITY AND AAFB

As they have many times in the past, and in spite of their recent financial challenges, Bashas' has again come through as a tremendous community partner. On September 17, 2009, Bashas' presented AAFB with a check for \$25,278 to help Arizona households in need as part of their Back-to-School "Fill Up the School Bus" event. As part of the event, Bashas' and members of the local Chandler Heights neighborhood filled up an entire school bus full of food and delivered it to United Food Bank in Mesa.

ABOVE: AAFB's Ginny Hildebrand receives a donation from Bashas' senior VP Edward "Trey" Basha III. BELOW: New board member Karilee Ramaley.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

AAFB is pleased to welcome Karilee Ramaley, a senior attorney for the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District, advising them on regulatory compliance and policy development, environmental, health and safety, natural resources, power plant and transmission line siting, natural gas transportation, and tribal issues. Karilee earned her BS, MS and JD from the University of Arizona, and knowing of the devastating results of hunger, has volunteered for many years for hunger-related causes.

We Want YOU to Help Fill Food Bank Shelves!

Your group of 10-40 willing helpers can participate in hands-on service to Arizona's food banks! Help repackage pasta, beans or other dry foods from bulk bins into family size packages for food banks to distribute to families in need. Your friends, church group, work colleagues, or youth group may soon be known as the Bean Baggers or Pasta Packers!

- **WHEN:** Weekdays or evenings, Saturday daytime – just two hours of work can bring great results!
- **WHERE:** The Mesa Cannery, 235 S. El Dorado Circle, Mesa (Loop 101 and Broadway) has generously offered its facility for the benefit of the food banks. Occasional or regularly scheduled groups are needed.
- **HOW:** Call Kathy or Bob McNelly at 480-839-4694 or 480-695-3552 to schedule a time.

Hunger Action Month: Did You Participate?

Every September, Hunger Action Month calls upon communities nationwide to take action by giving up something small through the "Give A Little, Feed A Lot" campaign. By identifying those small things, like a cup of coffee, you can then calculate how the value of those items would translate into meals, and donate that amount to your local food bank. AAFB encourages everyone to participate by attending local food banks events, donating time, money or your voice. While Hunger Action Month has passed for 2009, you can always learn more at www.hungeractionmonth.org.

25 Years: Looking Back at the Past



LEFT: KEZ's Marty Manning and former AAFB board president David Introcaso play Hunger Jeopardy.

MIDDLE: Yummy 10th Anniversary Statewide Anti-Hunger Conference cake.

RIGHT: AAFB's Ginny Hildebrand with Pat Andrews, Westside Food Bank volunteer coordinator and volunteer award recipient Pete Maland.

Need a Thoughtful Gift Idea this Holiday Season?

Starting your list of holiday gifts early and struggling to find that thoughtful gift for that special someone? Consider a contribution to AAFB in honor of a special person in your life. It tells them how much you appreciate them and how much you care about Arizona families in need in this tough economy. To donate visit www.azfoodbanks.org or use the envelope enclosed in this issue of FOOD LINES. We will send your honoree an acknowledgement of your thoughtful gift--without the amount listed--and send you an acknowledgement for your records.

Receive a Tax Credit for Your 2009 Donation to AAFB!

Receive a tax credit for your 2009 donation! Under Arizona law (ARS43-1088.G.2), AAFB is recognized as serving the working poor. If you qualify, it is possible to receive a FULL TAX CREDIT of up to \$200 (filing as a single unmarried head of household) or \$400 (married filing joint) for donating to AAFB. Not only can you receive the Arizona tax credit, but you can also include the donation on your Federal Tax Return. Please check details with your tax preparer or financial advisor, visit www.revenue.state.az.us or call 1-800-843-7196. If you donate to a public school or a tuition assistance organization, you can receive all three tax credits. For the 2009 tax year, donations must be received by AAFB no later than December 31, 2009.

Employer Matching Gifts Program

Did you know you may be able to double your gift to AAFB through Matching Gift Programs? Many employers offer to match your gift as a way to encourage their employees and often their retirees to support charitable organizations. While many of our donors access this opportunity, there are probably many more who may not realize this potential. Please ask your human resources office if your company offers this opportunity. By simply filling out the required forms, you can offer a "second helping" of generosity to people who are hungry throughout Arizona.

BY THE NUMBERS:

AAFB member food banks have distributed an average of almost 12 million pounds of food each month over the last six months, an increase of more than 42% over the same time period last year. Demand for emergency food boxes over the same time period is up over 23%.

Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project Year in Review

By Jami Kakinuma

The 2008-2009 fiscal year brought with it many changes and challenges, yet despite these and other conditions, the Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project (ASGP) still coordinated the distribution of more than 40.4 million pounds of food this year to our partners in Arizona and across the country.

Using \$75,958 of State allocated funds and \$253,293 of funds donated by private individuals and foundations, the ASGP purchased and distributed over 1.7 million pounds (included in above total) statewide to all of Arizona's counties.

ASGP is able to accomplish what it does by working closely with our many partners. The following are just a few of our partners who help to make it all happen:

- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office transported more than 13.7 million pounds of food and donated countless bins, caps and pallets.
- Shamrock Foods donated the use of their drivers, trucks and trailers to bring 931,097 pounds of salad items from Yuma to AAFB food banks in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson.
- The Feeding America team, our nationwide partner, helped bring over 3.2 million pounds of food and household products to Arizona.
- Duncan Family Farms remained our biggest supporter in the farming community, donating over 656,692 pounds of fresh produce to Arizona's food banks.
- The Department of Economic Security, whose funding and support makes the ASGP possible in so many ways.
- Our member food banks continued the "chain of distribution" to hungry people.
- Our many out-of-state partners shared food with Arizona, including: Ag Against Hunger, California Emergency Food Link, the Dare to Share Collaborative, Roadrunner Food Bank, Food Lifeline, Rotary First Harvest, and the growing opportunities with Farm to Family of the California Association of Food Banks.

The Project's partners were recognized at our Annual Year End Event luncheon held on August 21, 2009 at St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's new Flagstaff location. Special recognition was given to ASGP drivers Frank Walker and Ted Roman, The Stardust Foundation, Western Refining, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and Dulcinea Farms.

The new year has already begun and our goal is to move even more food in 2010 to help our member food banks meet the increasing demand for food in the coming year. We count on your continued support to help us find new partners willing to rescue fresh produce and put it in the hands of our hungry neighbors. Thank you!



LEFT: ASGP semi-truck driver Frank Walker
RIGHT: ASGP plaque for the Stardust Foundation

BY THE NUMBERS:

ASGP moved 40.4 million pounds of food in 2008-09, upping their grand total to over 767 million pounds since the project started in 1993.



ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA FOOD BANKS