

AAFB MEMBER FOOD BANKS:

Collectively serving all 15 counties in Arizona

Community Food Bank, Tucson
www.communityfoodbank.org | 520.622.0525

Desert Mission Food Bank, Phoenix
www.jcl.com/foodbank | 602.870.6060 ext. 1502

St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Phoenix
www.firstfoodbank.org | 602.242.3663

United Food Bank, Mesa
www.unitedfoodbank.org | 480.926.4897

Yuma Community Food Bank, Yuma
www.yumafoodbank.org | 928.343.1243

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Feeding America
www.feedingamerica.org

Arizona Self Help
www.arizonaselfhelp.org

Health-e-Arizona - online SNAP (food stamp) application
www.healthearizona.org

Community Information & Referral
www.cir.org

Valley of the Sun United Way
www.vsuw.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
www.stvincentdepaul.net

Arizona Department of Economic Security
www.azdes.gov

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

Consider 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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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

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• Advocacy & Child Nutrition Reauthorization Updates • Highlights from the Feeding America Unity Summit & Arizona 2010 End Childhood Hunger Conference

IN THIS ISSUE OF FOOD LINES...

GATHERINGS TO FIGHT HUNGER! LEFT: Scene from the main ballroom at the Feeding America Unity 2010 Summit in Austin, TX. RIGHT: AAFB's Ginny Hildebrand leads a workshop at the Arizona 2010 End Childhood Hunger Conference.



Celebrating 25 Years

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ASSOCIATION
OF ARIZONA
FOOD BANKS



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Ginny Hildebrand, President & CEO



Dear Friends,

Summer's coming! Remember the anticipation of this season? School's out! More time to play. Warm weather. The foods of summer brought great colors and tastes to our tables. Homegrown tomatoes, corn on the cob, red and green watermelon slices that dripped with juice while we ate them at backyard picnics. Summer often brought a vacation trip to a familiar spot at the seashore, in the mountains or to a whole new place to discover. We reconnected with relatives and friends we only saw during the summer or holidays.

These pleasures of summer are still here for many of us, but the reality is not so ideal for the 350,000 Arizona children of families living in poverty, many struggling to put food on the table. Yes, school is out. But for most of the children from low-income families who rely on school lunches and live where there is no summer feeding program, a nutritious mainstay is missing.

While the weather is warm in parts of the country, it is just plain unhealthy hot in most of Arizona. The cost of air conditioning, for those who have it, takes more of the family budget. With Arizona unemployment at 9.6% in March and bankruptcies and foreclosures at frightening levels, the reality for many households includes no vacation. No vacation from the struggle to make ends meet, and often no vacation from hunger.

Food banks statewide are familiar with the challenge of each and every summer season. While the National Letter Carriers Food Drive earlier in May helps put food on the shelves, the generous winter holiday donors and food drives are past and the fall start-up is in the distance. The difference this summer? The unprecedented and continuing need generated by the recession calls for far more food to be distributed this summer.

AAFB will be working this "vacation" to bring more donated and purchased food to our member food banks, but we need your help. I often say donated food is not free. Transporting food in our tractor trailers costs between \$5,500-\$6,000 per week. Please consider making a contribution today, using the enclosed envelope. If you have recently given or if your gift is on its way, thank you for your partnership in combating the unacceptable condition of hunger.

In gratitude,

Ginny Hildebrand
President and CEO

ADVOCATING FOR BETTER SCHOOL MEALS

RIGHT: Dr. Jan Poppendieck talks about her new book *Free For All: Fixing School Food in America* at the Downtown Phoenix Public Market on April 26.



THANK YOU: WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo Bank has long been a supporter of Arizona's food banks and AAFB, but their commitment to fighting hunger in Arizona rose to a new level on March 31, 2010, when they awarded AAFB a \$25,000 grant as part of their recent merger with Wachovia. The grant was a part of a broader integration-related charitable effort to provide more than \$1 million to organizations serving people in need, including more than \$60,000 in Arizona. Wells Fargo had the street blocked off and their famous horse-drawn stagecoach on hand to mark the occasion in downtown Phoenix.

In addition, this Summer marks the return of the Wells Fargo Statewide Food Drive, where individuals can drop-off non-perishable food donations at any Wells Fargo branch location in Arizona, with the food going to that community or neighborhood's local food bank. Look for more information on www.azfoodbanks.org.



LEFT: AAFB's Ginny Hildebrand accepts the donation while board member Bill Nord looks on. **RIGHT:** The Wells Fargo stagecoach pulls up to commemorate the festivities.

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By Jami Kakinuma, Gleaning Operations Administrative Manager

The Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project (ASGP) has been all about collaboration since it began in 1993, working with numerous and diverse partners such as food banks, both in-state and out-of-state, other state associations, Feeding America, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Corrections, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Shamrock Foods, Duncan Family Farms, and many others.

As a result, in the spring of 2008, ASGP was invited to be one of the original members of the Dare 2 Share Southwest Group. This group of food resource personnel has since grown to include 15 members from Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. Membership also includes representatives from AAFB members St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Community Food Bank, United Food Bank, and Yuma Community Food Bank.

The Group is united in trust and works collaboratively to accomplish what cannot be done alone. We maximize our collective food resourcing knowledge and experience, our supply chain relationships and our inventory surpluses for the benefit of all members regardless of size and distribution capabilities.

Besides monthly conference calls, the Group meets annually face-to-face. The first of these meetings was held at St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix in 2008; the second at Care and Share Food Bank in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 2009. This year's meeting was held at Roadrunner Food Bank's new facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 22-23. Meeting face-to-face allows for many opportunities to share expertise, knowledge and experiences.

Diane Letson, Director of New Product Sourcing for Feeding America gave a presentation on local food sourcing and its future, and discussed Feeding America's plan to assist their food bank members with more funding for more food sourcing. Jim MacPhearson, the food industry liaison at the Tarrant Area Food Bank in Texas presented on why food banks should form Food Advocacy Councils, giving details on how to set them up and the benefits his food bank has seen. ASGP also presented on our operations and services, helping out-of-state food bankers become much more knowledgeable about us.

All food bank members of the Dare 2 Share Southwest Group are part of the Walmart Distribution program through Feeding America, which was launched late last year. Rolando Rodriguez, Regional Vice President for Walmart, alongside six of his district and store managers, gave a presentation about Walmart's philosophies, philanthropies and employee programs.

The Group then honored and thanked Rolando and his co-workers with a slide presentation showing how the Walmart Distribution Program (which had only been active the last three months in 2009) had contributed over 12.9 million pounds of product from Walmart stores to the Group's food banks. This award mirrored an award Walmart and Sam's Club received at the Feeding America Unity Summit in Austin, where they were honored as the 2010 Donor of the Year by contributing more than 100 million pounds of food into the entire Feeding America network.



ABOVE: Rolando Rodriguez of Walmart holds his award, surrounded by members of the Dare 2 Share Southwest Group at Roadrunner Food Bank in Albuquerque, NM.



WE'VE GOT YOUR CONFERENCE RECAPS COVERED

THE FEEDING AMERICA UNITY SUMMIT 2010

Don't call it a conference! On April 6-9, 2010, Feeding America held their annual network gathering, dubbed the "Unity 2010 Summit," outside of scenic Austin, Texas. Bringing together 450+ executive staff representing more than 80% of the Feeding America network nationwide, the Summit provided ample learning and networking opportunities for its participants. This year's highlights included presentations on the recently released Hunger in America study, "the Gap"--shorthand for the unmet need that food banks and government programs haven't yet reached--and processes to increase food bank capacity and efficiency. Numerous small-group workshops allowed attendees to dive deeper into specific areas of interest such as SNAP outreach, leveraging technology, and food donation solicitation strategies, all while facilitating idea-sharing and collaboration. Ginny Hildebrand and Brian Simpson represented AAFB.

THE 2010 ARIZONA END CHILDHOOD HUNGER CONFERENCE

On Friday, April 23, the Arizona 2010 End Childhood Hunger Conference was held at the Desert Springs Community Church in Goodyear, and over 150 representatives from food banks, the faith community, schools, non-profits, and government agencies attended. Keynote addresses came courtesy of Lisa Piño, USDA deputy director of SNAP (food stamps), and Ellen Teller of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a public policy advocacy group in Washington, DC. Together, they covered current topics such as Child Nutrition Reauthorization and the impacts of the recession, and took questions from the audience. Ginny Hildebrand and United Food Bank CEO Bob Evans co-presented interactive workshops on Arizona's fragile safety net and after-school feeding programs respectively.

FEEDING AMERICA WELCOMES AAFB INTO THE FOLD

One highlight of the Unity 2010 Summit was the announcement of the inaugural Feeding America Partner State Associations (PSAs), of which AAFB was one, along with the Texas Food Bank Network and the Federation of Virginia Food Banks. While not official until July 1, this distinctive honor recognizes these three state associations as models worthy of emulation, and indeed all three will serve on a task-force to help shape the relationship between Feeding America and PSAs, while also mentoring other state associations around the country.

UNITED FOOD BANK WAREHOUSE DEDICATION ON MAY 14

As we mentioned in the March issue of FOOD LINES, United Food Bank moved into a new facility and hosted a dedication of their new warehouse on Friday, May 14. AAFB will be sharing photos and stories from the dedication ceremony in the next FOOD LINES issue. The new warehouse nearly doubles United's food storage capacity and will play an instrumental role in allowing them to serve the community.

- **Schedule a Tour:** call 480-926-4897 ext. 212 or send an email to drodgers@unitedfoodbank.org. The new United Food Bank warehouse is located at 245 South Nina Drive in Mesa.

YOUR DONATION TO AAFB IS CRITICAL THIS SUMMER

As Summer draws ever closer, more Arizona families than ever before will struggle to feed their children once school is out. One in five Arizona children goes to bed hungry. Of course, continued unemployment and underemployment, home foreclosures and the lagging economy aren't making things any easier for these families. Your donation to AAFB ensures continued outreach and education, in addition to much needed food, finds them:

- Return the enclosed envelope with your tax-deductible donation today.
- Make a secure online donation anytime at www.azfoodbanks.org.
- Consider monthly giving, or a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. AAFB thanks you!

HICKMAN'S FAMILY FARMS MAKES WONDERFUL EASTER DONATION

Fast becoming a treasured Arizona tradition, Hickman's Family Farms--Arizona's only commercial egg producer--once again donated more than 300,000 eggs to food banks all across Arizona just in time for Easter. The donation will provide food-insecure Arizonans with much needed high-quality protein, which helps kids and adults build muscle strength, helps older adults prevent muscle loss, and may also promote weight management.

ATTENTION GROUPS: YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICES NEEDED

Perfect for work, church or youth groups, your group of 10-40 is needed to help repackage pasta, beans or other dry foods from bulk bins into family size packages for food banks to distribute to families in need.

- **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.

CONTAINER CORRECTION

In the March issue of FOOD LINES, we incorrectly displayed a photo of the Ajo Refrigerated Container in our article on the AAFB Refrigerated Container Project. The Ajo container was actually funded by Community Food Bank using Community Development Block Grants and was not part of the AAFB project. We regret the error, and present you with a photo of a container made possible by the AAFB project:



ADVOCACY: WHY, WHAT & HOW?

AAFB utilizes several strategies to fulfill its commitment to alleviating hunger in Arizona. Chief among them are bringing fresh produce and other foods to our member food banks through our Arizona Statewide Gleaning Project (ASGP) and providing a forum for food bankers to address common challenges and formulate solutions that enhance the statewide food banking network.

Unfortunately, the food bank network alone cannot solve the unacceptable problem of hunger. Therefore, AAFB advocates for more effective, accessible and practical programs and policies regarding food assistance and other services that impact Arizonans living in poverty. At any given time AAFB could be working in Arizona or nationally with administrative staff, policy makers, community leaders, other advocates, food bankers or other service providers to bring desired changes at the state or federal level.

A recent example is the Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) postcard campaign AAFB participated in alongside other anti-hunger advocates that collectively make up the Western Region Anti-Hunger Coalition (WRAHC; learn more at www.wrahc.org/about). As we reported to the media in early April, more than 12,000 people throughout the Western United States—including an estimated 1,400 in Arizona—sent a strong message to Congress to support increased Child Nutrition Reauthorization funding via a coordinated online and postcard mailing campaign.

In future issues of FOOD LINES, we will share other examples of AAFB's advocacy efforts. To follow current advocacy activities send an email with "Subscribe to the AAFB Advocacy Team" in the subject line to Ginny Hildebrand at ghildebrand@azfoodbanks.org.

SPEAKING OF CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION...

Since the last issue of FOOD LINES, progress has been made on Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR)--but is it enough? Remember, CNR covers school breakfasts and lunches, summer meal programs, the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP), the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, and more. On March 24, the Senate Agriculture Committee voted to increase funding for school meals programs by \$4.5 billion over the next ten years (that's \$450 million per year). However, this amount is less than half of President Obama's request of a \$10 billion investment over the next ten years, so AAFB and other advocates are still fighting for increased funding.

Part of this investment covers significant improvements in nutrition quality, a focus of First Lady Michelle Obama and her 'Let's Move' campaign to end childhood obesity. Not only can obesity be an indicator of poverty that interferes with a child's ability to learn at school, but the First Lady also cited a recent study put the health care cost of obesity-related diseases at \$147 billion a year. Even the military has recently weighed in, reporting concerns that many new recruits are "too fat to fight," ironic given the initial School Lunch program was established to ensure the next generation of soldiers received enough to eat growing up in the 1940s.

Some of the increased funding could also support the Weekends Without Hunger Act (H.R. 5012), which was introduced to CNR legislation in mid-April. This would establish a five-year pilot program that would provide commodities to eligible institutions--such as food banks--to provide nutritious food to at-risk children over weekends and during school holidays. This bill helps fill a critical gap by addressing the needs of children outside of normal school hours, and it would ultimately result in new opportunities to acquire federal commodities for backpack programs if passed. The popularity of backpack programs has grown tremendously over the last several years as they have proven to be a convenient, nutritious, cost-effective, and stigma-reducing way to ensure children have enough to eat on weekends.

Most recently, Congressional Representatives are circulating a letter to address the funding shortfall between what has been proposed and what President Obama is seeking. However, as it stands now, unless additional funding sources can be located and included in an amendment to the bill, it will move on to the full Senate for a vote later this spring or early summer. For reference, the USDA estimates the spending on mandatory child nutrition programs for fiscal year 2010, which ends in September, at \$17.1 billion, and estimated spending under current law at \$18.3 billion for fiscal year 2011, totaling \$204 billion in 10 years. President Obama's request for a \$10 billion increase in funding is less than a 5% spending increase over what's spent currently.



NEXT STEPS

AAFB continues to urge Congress to find the \$1 billion a year for 10 years to provide the increases needed to maintain the current CNR programs while improving efficiency, access and quality. The most important thing you can do in support is to continue to let your voice be heard! Talk to your friends and family about the importance of CNR. Make sure your child's school is doing everything it can to reach out to its students who may be struggling with hunger. Log onto www.change.org/azfoodbanks to send your message of support to Congress today!

Your Summer Planner

- **WATER DONATIONS SOUGHT:** With the heat comes the need for water. Please consider making a bottled water donation to one of AAFB's member food banks, or your local homeless shelter, to help support the homeless population and others adversely impact by our extreme heat.
- **TASTE OF THE NATION:** Taste of the Nation Arizona brings together the tops chefs and restaurants in Arizona for an evening of the hottest food and cocktails to benefit St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and AAFB. Visit www.azfoodbanks.org, or sign-up for our bi-weekly email newsletter by sending an email to brian@azfoodbanks.org, for the latest details on when and where Taste of the Nation Arizona will be held this Summer.
- **NEW AAFB WEBSITE:** Keep your eyes peeled for the new-look AAFB website debuting early Summer, the culmination of our 25th anniversary and branding update. The new website promises to offer all the news, information and education you've come to expect in an easier-to-use and more informative and attractive format. Be sure to bookmark www.azfoodbanks.org today!
- **HUNGER IN AMERICA IN DEPTH:** The next issue of FOOD LINES will take a closer look at the Hunger in America study released earlier this year.

AAFB ASKS... DID YOU KNOW?

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**, which falls under the umbrella of CNR, was created to ensure low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

The meals must meet Federal nutritional guidelines and are distributed to children 18 years and younger for free. Meals are typically available for adults too at a nominal charge. SFSP sites are located in urban and rural areas with significant concentrations of low-income children, and could be at schools, churches, daycares, parks, or anywhere else children congregate.

Arizona ranks dead last in the U.S. in SFSP participation, with less than 10% of children who are ideal candidates for SFSP receiving meals. Your help is needed to spread the word about SFSP!

More information, including a listing of SFSP site locations around Arizona, is available online at www.azed.gov/health-safety/cnp/sfp.