Statement

[Tucson, AZ – April 8, 2020]: The Community Food Bank mourns the loss of Punch Woods, former executive director and visionary who was dedicated and passionate in his fight to end hunger.

Charles T. “Punch” Woods led the Community Food Bank for 25 years, retiring in 2003. He oversaw significant growth of the Community Food Bank and had the foresight to spearhead the move to the Food Bank’s current warehouse at 3003 S. Country Club.

Punch Woods had a tremendous sense of caring, a spirited sense of humor and served as a vocal advocate in raising awareness of hunger in southern Arizona.

“Punch worked so hard knowing that people need help today, that it is a disgrace and shame for so many people to be in need of help. His commitment to work toward a more just system guides our work today, as we not only help hungry people today, but work to address the root cause of hunger and poverty for a better tomorrow,” said Michael McDonald, CEO of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Punch’s legacy at the Food Bank includes the Punch Woods Endowment Fund which awards funds to organizations that build strong, sustainable local food systems and ensure access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food to all people at all times.

Punch died early this morning at the age of 82 after a sudden horseback riding accident. He leaves behind his loving wife of 59 years, Casey Woods, three grown daughters, four grandchildren and many community members saddened by this loss. The Woods family is requesting privacy at this time.

The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona was named Food Bank Member of the Year in 2018 by Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks nationwide. Founded in 1976, The Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona provides food for people in need, advocacy and nutrition education throughout southern Arizona including Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. For more information visit www.communityfoodbank.org.

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