



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

nourishing NEWS

communityfoodbank.org

APRIL 2022



“Taking care of our community comes first.”

How your support is serving kids and families at the Pascua Yaqui Resource Center

Ten years ago, Richey Elementary School was shut down as a cost-saving measure. It was a small neighborhood school that primarily served kids from the Pascua Yaqui tribe, and its closure left a hole in the Pascua Yaqui community.

Today, the former Richey School is the Pascua Yaqui Resource Center.

“The school was a focal point for the neighborhood,” says Hector Mata, Resource Coordinator for the center. “It has history. We had to preserve that community space.”

The Pascua Yaqui Resource Center now distributes food assistance twice a week, serving households in the neighborhood known as Old Pascua Village, one of the first Yaqui settlements in Arizona. The community center also hosts adult education classes and community events, and includes a free lending library.

With your support, we’re able to provide



the pantry staples and fresh produce that feed families in Old Pascua, and families are able to come together, access community resources, and share a healthy meal.

Healthy kids, healthy families, and healthy communities that come together to build something new—that’s what you make possible. *Thank you!* 🌱

New Beginnings

A Message from our Interim CEO



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

As we continue our search for the next leader of the Community Food Bank, I am honored to serve as your interim CEO. And at such an exciting time! The spring season brings many exciting changes, returns, and re-openings.

With your support, we have seen our Gabrielle Giffords Resource Center in Tucson return to indoor, in-person food distribution. Our Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market, which adapted again and again to meet community needs during the pandemic, has returned to an in-person market with live music and local vendors. And after a long hiatus to keep our community healthy, our Caridad Community Kitchen has welcomed back a new class of culinary students.

New gardens are growing. New events are on the horizon. Many of our neighbors continue to need our services, and we know we'll be here for them—because we have you on our side.

You have been here with us, making our work possible, through difficult times. There are families just down the street from you, right now, sharing a meal because of your generosity. Thank you.

I hope you'll keep reading to see what else your support has made possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Frantz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beth Frantz, Interim CEO

upcoming EVENTS

*Support our community
and the Community Food
Bank at these events!*

APRIL 24TH & MAY 1ST

**Food Drive Sundays at
the Pima County Fair**

*Get free admission before
noon when you bring three
cans of food to donate!*

MAY 14TH

**Stamp Out Hunger
Food Drive**

*The biggest food drive of the year is
back! Leave your food donations by
your mailbox.*

JUNE 4TH-17TH

**Canstruction Tucson:
Build for Hunger**

*A fun and unique competition to
build structures out of cans of food!
Structures will be on display at Park
Place Mall, and canned food is then
donated to our community.*

LEARN MORE AT:
communityfoodbank.org/events

“This school, these people—
this has been life-changing.”

Class 31 graduates from Caridad Community Kitchen's culinary training program

“I thought I’d be laying asphalt for the rest of my life,” says Anthony. “Or digging holes. Not that there’s anything wrong with that. But to be here, wearing a white coat, working with these people, speaking in front of you all. I never thought I deserved it.”

Anthony graduated from Caridad Community Kitchen’s culinary training program in 2019, with Class 29. He had served time in prison and was working to get his life back on track when he saw a flyer for the training program at the library.

Today, he works at Caridad, preparing meals for our community alongside the people who helped him get here. And when the students of Class 31 completed the 10-week program in March, Anthony spoke at their graduation.



Class 31 graduates Valerie, Lori, Amanda, Julie, and CeeCee celebrate with Caridad Chefs Jamie and Izzy.

“You’re part of this family now,” he told the graduates. “You’re always welcome here.”

Five students graduated with Class 31, the first class back in the kitchen after the pandemic. Students completed nearly 2,000 hours of training, prepared over 100,000 meals for our community, and completed internships to prepare for careers both in and out of the kitchen.

All five graduates have already been hired at local restaurants and have successful careers ahead of them.

“This place changes your life,” Anthony told the crowd at graduation, and all five graduates beside him nodded in agreement, tears in their eyes. “Thank you.” 🌿



Thank you for your generosity this Arizona Gives Day!
You helped us raise over \$128,000 to end hunger and build brighter futures for southern Arizona.

Teens grow leadership skills in the garden

Your gifts are building bright futures in Nogales



Teens left the garden with seed kits prepared by our Farm & Garden Team, and all the excitement and knowledge they need to start growing together.

A partnership with Mariposa Community Health Center is growing great things in Nogales!

Teens from Mariposa's Youth Program have been a welcome presence at our community garden in Nogales, volunteering long hours to get garden beds ready for the growing season. And for three days in March, the group was joined by our own Garden Leader Lilia for workshops about composting, soil preparation, and water harvesting.

Mariposa's Teen Health Facilitators—teens trained to lead conversations about community health with their peers—spent days cleaning up the garden and working with the group.

"I'm tired!" said 16-year-old Alexia,

who started the day with no garden experience. "It makes me think about the people who grow food for us. I take it for granted that I always have food."

By the end of the workshop series, Alexia was texting a friend about what she had learned and how she planned to bring her newfound skills to her own backyard.

"People are going to eat food grown from the soil we just prepared," she said, surveying the clean garden space the group had worked on. "That's cool to think about." 🌱

"I take it for granted that I always have food."

Sowing the Seeds of Change

A new book looks back at what you've made possible

A new book by local author Seth Schindler sets out to tell the story of the Community Food Bank. But what Seth found, in his years of archival research and interviews, is that the story of the food bank is actually the story of you.

“What I discovered is that Tucson is filled with people who care deeply about the plight of the hungry among us,” says Seth. “There’s something special about this community, and its residents who give selflessly for the common good.”

Sowing the Seeds of Change is 176 pages of archival photos, illustrations, memories, and interviews with community members, from our founding members to the volunteers and organizers who continue our work today.

The book is a testament to the power of community, and a thank you to you: the individuals who continue to come together to help others. *Thank you!* 🌱



SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

THE STORY OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



SETH SCHINDLER

Sowing the Seeds of Change: The Story of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona is available now from the University of Arizona Press.

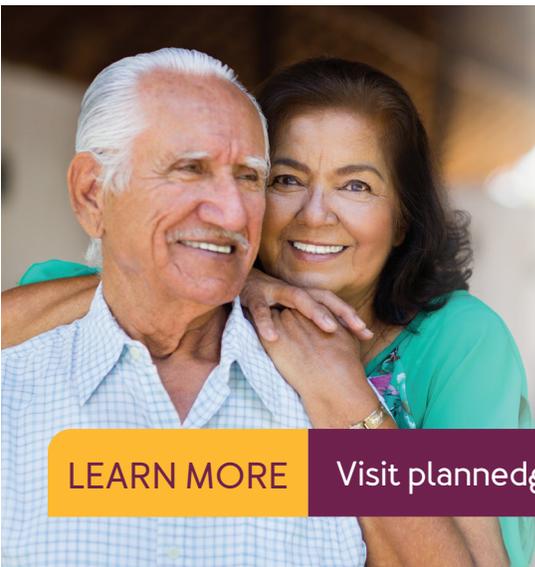
“Find out how one community led a nation by recognizing food insecurity as a systemic problem and went about solving it with respect, dignity and the realization that community action [...] can lead to resilience.” –Janos Wilder, James Beard Award-winning Tucson Chef

Looking for a way to make a gift without spending your cash?

Make an IRA charitable bequest! By designating the Community Food Bank as the beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA funds, you can help us continue our good work and avoid taxing your estate and loved ones.

LEARN MORE

Visit plannedgiving.communityfoodbank.org or call Sio Castillo at (520) 882-3308



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Super Citrus

Community members like you donated over 7,000 pounds of fresh citrus from their own backyard trees! That's fruit that otherwise would have gone to waste. Instead, nutritious citrus was distributed to local kids and families. Thank you for giving back so generously!



Sharing Smiles

Sylvia wrote us this message after picking up food assistance in our newly re-opened Gabrielle Giffords Resource Center: "I thank you for the food but also for your kindness and welcoming. We have been isolating for so long and it's nicer than you realize to see people with a smile."



Back at the Market

After two years of making fresh food accessible as a drive-through market, our Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market is back in-person! With your support, community members can come together to connect, share locally-grown produce, and meet the people who grow our food. *Thank you!*

The biggest food drive of the year is back!

On May 14th, making a difference is as easy as leaving food by your mailbox

For decades, the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has been our biggest food drive of the year, stocking our shelves with much-needed staples for the summer season.



Our goal is 200,000 pounds of donated food to stock our shelves! Can you help?

But for two years now, this annual event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

This year, we are so excited to see the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive return, and more grateful than ever for support from community members like you.

All you have to do is leave a bag of food by your mailbox on Saturday, May 14th—and say a special thanks to your local letter carrier, who will be collecting food all over town!

Your donated food stays right here in our community, and helps feed families who struggle during the difficult summer months. To help us build a healthy, hunger-free community, please consider donating nutritious items like whole grain pasta and cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, and canned proteins like chicken and tuna. 🌱



**COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

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The Community Food Bank receives most of its funding from people like you. Supportive public funding includes: City of Tucson, Pima County, USDA, Community Development Block Grants and Community Service Block Grants/Pima County and City of Tucson; Arizona Department of Economic Security/Social Services Block Grant and Arizona Department of Health Services. Community Food Bank programs provide services to eligible participants without regard to race, color, creed, religion, handicap, age, national origin, sexual orientation, political beliefs or gender.

