



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

nourishing NEWS



communityfoodbank.org

AUGUST 2022

Summer Surge

*Demand for food up
20% over last year*

“This is the longest line I’ve seen in a while,” says Patricia, who is visiting the Community Food Bank on a warm summer morning. She has five children at home and is feeling the crunch of rising food and gas prices.

Lorraine and Isaac pick up food for themselves and her mother, who can’t make it out because her knee pain has flared up today. “Prices are too high,” says Isaac, “My disability check is not making it.” Mike works full-time, yet his paycheck doesn’t cover his basic expenses anymore. He’s making his third visit to the Community Food Bank.

Mary has two grandchildren at home. “They never fill up,” she says. Ben and Amelia say they’ve learned how to make two meals out of one so the food lasts. They say the high gas prices haven’t affected them. “I know it’s hard for people who do a lot of driving. We don’t go anywhere. We stay home and hope we don’t catch the new strain of COVID.”

High temperatures. High prices.

Your support adds some hope to the mix...for a better season ahead. ■



Transitions

A Message from our Interim CEO



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Your steady support gives us confidence as we deal with growing demand for food across the five counties we serve. *Thank you!*

This summer marks a change for us as we confidently turn over our produce rescue work in Nogales to our partner, the Arizona Food Bank Network (AzFBN). This coalition is made up of five regional food banks in Arizona—including the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona—and nearly 1,000 food pantries and agencies. The transition means as of July 1, AzFBN began handling the transportation of donated fruits and vegetables from the Nogales hub to food banks across the country. We know they will do that work well, as we focus our energies in southern Arizona. We will continue to supply fresh fruits and vegetables to the people we serve in our area.

Our search for the next CEO of the Community Food Bank is in its final stages. We have several qualified candidates interviewing, and finalists will answer questions from a wide range of community members, including staff and volunteers of the Community Food Bank. We hope to announce our new CEO in our next newsletter to you in October!

Thank you again for all your support makes possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Frantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Beth Frantz, Interim CEO



Do you have a budding artist in the family?

We're now accepting children's artwork to feature in our 2023 calendar! Your child can draw, paint, or color art focused on hunger, health, and community.

- Use white 8.5" x 11" paper in a landscape (horizontal) orientation
- Include the child's full name, age, school and a mailing address on the back of the picture
- Mail by September 30, 2022 to:

Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
Attn: Marketing Dept.
3003 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, AZ 85713

Find more information at communityfoodbank.org/calendar

It's time to lace up your sneakers!

HungerWalk is back in person

After two years as a virtual event, we will gather again in person on Saturday, September 10th to enjoy HungerWalk together! Meet us at Sam Lena Park in the Kino Sports Complex in Tucson, or at Historic Canoa Ranch in Green Valley.

Can't make it that day? Or do you prefer to walk at your own place and time? You can still participate and register as a virtual walker. Find out more and sign up at www.communityfoodbank.org/hungerwalk.

Share your photos with us on September 10th and use the hashtag #HungerWalk2022.

HungerWalk means more when you come together with friends or family as a team.

Here's how Gaeton made a team last year:

“There's a park next door to where I live and people walk there in the morning. I got some of them to donate and invited them to walk also. I put the word out to neighbors and friends. I invited my daughter and wife. I have sons in other states, and they sent donations. I got permission from the Pima Chapter of Korean War Veterans for their participation, since I'm a member. They made donations. It turned out to be fun for everyone! I walked two miles and it was a pleasure to walk for such a great cause.”

Gaeton's team raised \$725! ■



Summer Breakfasts Wrapping Up

More than 9,000 breakfasts distributed



Walk in the Valencia Public Library and you see a table of food welcoming you.

Among the offerings; snacks and apple juice, a bag of breakfast cereal, a carton of shelf-stable milk.

Summer breakfasts offer a popular way to help get food to children home for the summer; the libraries offer a convenient way to access that food. Ten public libraries and several other sites have offered the food this summer for families glad to get help in these times of rising prices.

On Fridays, families can also pick up a weekend food package containing items like beans, pancake mix, and tortillas.

Thanks to a Nourishing Neighbors grant from the Albertsons Companies

Foundation, the breakfasts have been available since school got out earlier this summer.

Now as students return to class, many schools will re-open their pantries and offer fresh produce along with pantry staples like peanut butter and canned goods to parents dropping off their kids.

“The summer months are one of the most vulnerable times for children and families in our area. Children don’t have guaranteed access to the free breakfast and lunch programs at school. Summer breakfasts and school pantries offer a safety net for children and family,” says Linda Kraemer, Family Health and Advocacy Manager at the Community Food Bank. 🟡

“I know you!”

Friends meet again on the volunteer line

It put a smile on their faces—and ours—when Eugene and John ran into each other volunteering at our warehouse. The two have a lot in common—they were co-workers back in 2015, they both served in the Air Force with the same types of aircraft, but they had not seen each other in years. Until they showed up to volunteer on the same morning! Eugene was with a group of Geico employees; John works from home, and comes in about once a month to help out. He was thrilled to talk to Eugene again. “I don’t get to see people like I used to.”



Email volunteer@communityfoodbank.org to sign up for a shift with us—and see who you meet! 🟡

“It’s so fun to run into an old friend!”



Your support makes it possible for us to distribute fresh, locally-grown food. In July, we received **120,000 pounds of red potatoes** grown in Cochise County. These came straight from the grower, packed in 2,000 pound totes. Once again, we turned to our fearless volunteers to get the job done—turning a sea of potatoes into 15-pound bags that a family can use.



Many thanks to all who left a bag of food by their mailbox in May. The National Association of Letter Carriers Drive brought in more than **200,000 pounds of food**—a critical supply for us to distribute to partner agencies throughout the summer.



And thank you to the four fabulous competing teams who created amazing Construction food structures and donated **10,000 pounds of food!**

Demand for Meals Grows at Caridad Community Kitchen

All are welcome for the free Grab & Go meals offered at Caridad Community Kitchen each weekday afternoon. And many have come.

The kitchen just set a record serving 352 meals in two hours in late May.

The meals are simple and come in bags as many people being served are experiencing homelessness. One bag contains three water bottles—one frozen to keep the others cold. Ice is also distributed. The second bag has a sandwich, burrito, snack, and fruit. Caridad also provides individual sized hygiene items for guests, along with small bags of pet food.

Before the pandemic, Caridad distributed these meals for two days a week, one hour each afternoon. But the kitchen ramped up its hours and now serves the meals five days a week, two hours each day.

Community Programs Manager Megan Black says, “Like many food bank sites, we have seen an increase in community members in need. We feel grateful that we can do our small part to meet the growing need for meals in our neighborhood. We hope that all who come to Caridad for a meal feel welcomed and nourished.”

Free Grab & Go meals are offered from 2-4pm at Caridad Community Kitchen, 845 N. Main Avenue, Monday through Friday. 🍌



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communityfoodbank.org

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.

