



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

# nourishing **NEWS**

[communityfoodbank.org](http://communityfoodbank.org)

NOVEMBER 2022

## New CEO, Malea Chavez, to Lead Community Food Bank

Our Board of Directors has hired Malea Chavez to be the new Chief Executive Officer of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

Chavez returns to Tucson where she graduated from Cholla High School. She has extensive experience in leading non-profits and most recently served as Executive Director of The Women's Building, a women-led community space in San Francisco that advocates self-determination, gender equality, and social justice.

"Ms. Chavez grew up in Tucson and has a deeply rooted connection to our southern Arizona community. Her breadth of experience in advocacy, passion for addressing poverty at its roots, and phenomenal leadership skills are exactly the qualities that the CEO Search Committee and the Board of Directors were looking for in the next leader of the Community Food Bank," says Lauryn Bianco, Immediate Past Chair of the Community Food Bank Board of Directors. Chavez was selected after a national search, which drew 400 candidates after former CEO Michael McDonald announced his resignation last December.



*Continued on next page*

“I am honored to join the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona,” says Chavez. “Tucson is my home and I am happy to return to the beautiful desert. I have a deep and long-standing commitment to improving food security and strengthening communities. I look forward to deepening our work throughout the Southwest and providing more access to our services. I am also excited to work with the dedicated and committed staff, volunteers, and partners of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.”

Chavez has a law degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. She graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice Studies. Her first day at the Community Food Bank was October 25th.

In announcing the hire, Bianco also extended thanks to Beth Frantz, who served as the Interim President and CEO of the Community Food Bank for the last ten months. “We could not have conducted the search for a new leader as thoroughly without Beth at the helm,” says Bianco. “We look forward to our continued work together as she moves back into the role of Chief Financial and Administrative Officer.” ■

*“I am honored to join the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona,” says Chavez. “Tucson is my home and I am happy to return to the beautiful desert. I have a deep and long-standing commitment to improving food security and strengthening communities.”*

# upcoming EVENTS

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

## NOVEMBER 29 Giving Tuesday

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday—a day set aside to make the world a better place.

Your donation to the Community Food Bank not only helps people in five counties get the food they need, it also helps fund school gardens and free community meals, supports local growers, and culinary training that can change lives.

Give online at  
[communityfoodbank.org/  
Giving-Tuesday](http://communityfoodbank.org/Giving-Tuesday)

---

## DECEMBER 10-26 Winterhaven Festival of Lights

A walk through Winterhaven is a treasured holiday tradition—and it's a great way to support the Community Food Bank. Last year, Winterhaven visitors donated 57,612 pounds of food and \$39,437!

Donations will be accepted at the Festival entrances.

**Most needed items include:**  
Peanut butter, oatmeal, cereal, canned tomato products, canned tuna & chicken, canned vegetables & fruit, rice, pasta, and beans.

# Ten Weeks of Training

*“I made a 180-degree turnaround.”*

Graduation Day at Caridad Community Kitchen always has a festive feel. Students who have spent ten weeks in culinary training have sharpened their skills in areas from menu planning to chopping vegetables to making sauces. Along with a delicious feast to celebrate, the day brings time for reflection.

Hear Russ's story as he graduated from Class 32.

“I was living on the streets, between there and prison.

I had enough of it. I found this place [Caridad] on Craigslist. And I made a 180-degree turnaround. I've actually got a job now. And I couldn't have done it by myself for sure. Had a lot of help from my family and friends and the staff here. Definitely have a renewed motivation for life in general. I've got a new confidence in skills I've obtained in the past, new ones, and ones I didn't know I had.

Moving forward I have a job at a restaurant, one of the oldest ones in town. Just looking forward to growing my relationship with my family and friends and advancing in culinary arts.”

Three months after graduation, Russ says things are going well at his job.

“I get a lot of compliments. So thank you for your encouragement and help.”

While trainings were shut down during the pandemic, Caridad has offered three training sessions this year. The next one starts in January. Find more information at [www.communityfoodbank.org/caridad-community-kitchen](http://www.communityfoodbank.org/caridad-community-kitchen). 



*“I’ve got a new confidence in skills I’ve obtained in the past, new ones, and ones I didn’t know I had.”*

# Thank you for walking with us to end hunger!

An amazing 1,033 walkers raised over \$151,000 at this year's HungerWalk

Families, friends, and community members alike laced up their sneakers, donned their purple tees, fastened their orange capes, and walked together to end hunger on September 10th at the Community Food Bank's annual HungerWalk.

Walkers joined us in-person for the first time in two years in Tucson and Green Valley, and also walked virtually from neighborhood sidewalks and treadmills. HungerWalk even went international with walkers participating all the way over in Malaysia!

Once again, we were overwhelmed with gratitude seeing our community come together and show their support for neighbors in southern Arizona experiencing hunger. *Thank you for walking with us!* ☺



*Thank you to all of our community partners who made **HungerWalk 2022** possible!*

## Casino Del Sol

Long Realty Cares Foundation • Volk Company

Sam Levitz Furniture • Ashley Home Store • GEICO Philanthropic Foundation • Whataburger  
Marathon Petroleum • Keegan Linscott & Associates, PC • Tucson Water

CREST Insurance Group • Dunkin' Donuts • Tucson Weekly • KGVY Radio  
Green Valley News • Equality Health Network

Arizona Pest Control • Arizona Uniform • Longhorn Grill & Saloon • Pima Federal Credit Union  
Pioneer Title Agency • Rotary Club of Green Valley Foundation • Spectrum Printing LLC  
United Community Health Center • United Healthcare • Ray Scott's Automotive

AAA Landscape • Alphagraphics • Bill's Home Service Company • Cardena's Markets Foundation • Centerline Wraps  
Heinfeld, Meech & Co. P.C. • Homewatch Caregivers • HomeSmart Pros Real Estate • La Posada • Legacy Smiles of Southern Arizona  
Radiology Ltd. • Valle Verde Rotary Club • Vista Eye Care • Vantage West Credit Union

# Community Wins Grant to Cultivate Food Sovereignty

*Work will begin in remote rural area of Tohono O'odham Nation*

We celebrate a \$500,000 grant just received in partnership with Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF). The grant comes from

the Feeding America network of food banks and will allow NAAF to move forward with work in the GuVo District. The District is located in the Sonoran Desert, 120 miles west of Tucson and up to an hour drive from the nearest commercial grocery store.

The three-year grant will help provide access to clean water for residential and agricultural purposes. Rain harvesting systems will be installed for up to 30 homes. NAAF will also equip several homes and community centers in the area with reliable, off-grid, free solar power to increase capacity for cold storage of food. A community refrigerator and freezer will be purchased to provide long term storage of farm-harvested and purchased food. Solar panels will be installed to extend the growing season for fruits and vegetables and provide free solar power for the area's Learning Center.

Jordan Evans, CEO of NAAF, says  
“These funds are life changing.”

The Community Food Bank has partnered with NAAF in the past, providing grant funding to help support the building of a preschool, learning kitchen and rainwater garden in the GuVo district. 



## What is Food Sovereignty?

*“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.*

*It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”*

*– Declaration of Nyéléni, Forum for Food Sovereignty 2007*

As a food bank, food security is at the heart of what we do—we work to make sure people have access to safe and nutritious food. The framework of food sovereignty, first introduced by the International Peasants' Movement La Via Campesina in 1996, challenges us to deepen and expand our commitment. More than food security, food sovereignty requires that we center the human rights of food producers and consumers, and shift the ownership and control of our food systems away from corporations to local people and communities.

*By Audra Christophel, Director of Community Development*

# Back in Session

*School pantries up and operating for busy parents*

A school pantry can look different from school to school—but the goal is the same: get fresh local produce and pantry staples out where parents can pick it up easily.

At Prince Elementary, one of about 30 school pantries operating in our area, food is set outside and arranged early in the morning, and distribution starts at seven o'clock. Volunteers greet people walking up or driving through.

In one hour at their first distribution of the school year, the pantry served nearly 200 children and 178 adults. About a fourth of the people served were using the pantry for the first time.

One woman is in tears and says she just got custody of two grandchildren. She's living on a fixed income. "This helps more than you know," she says. "We were at a point where we were calling relatives for money. Being able to get something for home is unbelievable."

Another mom says, "I have five kids. This is food they can use. Bread, peanut butter."

A father hugs his daughter and she walks off to class. He walks over to get some food.

The pantry at Prince will be back next month to provide more food to families who visit. ☺



Volunteers at Pueblo Gardens Elementary operate their school pantry from a ramada after school. Produce like carrots, onions and lettuce are offered, along with canned food and bread.



At Holoway Elementary, volunteers from two local churches offer a pancake breakfast to welcome families for the school year. In the middle of the cafeteria, produce, peanut butter and canned goods are out for people to take home.



COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

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.

3003 S. Country Club Road • Tucson, AZ 85713  
(520) 622-0525 • toll free (800) 950-8681

[communityfoodbank.org](http://communityfoodbank.org)

