



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

NOURISHING NEWS

OCTOBER
2023



The Marana Resource Center began operating as a drive-thru distribution during COVID, and then continued that way after staff determined people preferred the drive-thru option.



With our new mobile distributions, a Community Food Bank truck will bring food to the site, where people drive up, stay in their cars, and food is loaded in their vehicles during a certain time period.

On the Road New Rural Mobile Distributions in Marana area

The Community Food Bank is reaching out to people in the areas of Picture Rocks and Avra Valley with new, monthly mobile food distributions that begin in November.

“What we found is that people are driving substantial distances from their homes in Picture Rocks and Avra Valley to the Marana Resource Center,” says Malea Chavez, CEO of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. “In our work it’s important to meet people where they are. The new mobile distributions will do just that.”

Beginning November 8th and continuing every second Wednesday of the month, the Community Food Bank will serve people at Picture Rocks Park, 5615 N. Sanders Road, from 1-4pm.

Beginning Wednesday, November 15th and continuing every third Wednesday of the month, food will be available at Avra Valley Fire District Station 191 at 15790 W. Silverbell Road from 1-4pm.

People who had been using the Marana Resource Center and anyone in need of emergency food are welcome.

The Community Food Bank will continue to support the Marana Resource Center by supplying emergency food for distribution. The Resource Center will operate under a new community partnership between the town of Marana and the Sahuarita Food Bank, with no disruption in hours anticipated, as of January 1st.



¡Ahora disponible en español! communityfoodbank.org/newsletters



Volunteers help out
at Nash Elementary

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

We enter fall with a renewed sense of appreciation for what we can do together in our community.

Examples are all around us:

35 school pantries in our area are up and operating for the school year – the newest in Ajo, Arizona. A school pantry doesn't happen without a commitment from school staff, volunteers, and residents in the community who see it as a valuable help for families who need food.

At Nash Elementary, volunteers from St. Mark's United Methodist partner with the school to set up and distribute food after school in the cafeteria. They also help in the classroom, contribute to holiday celebrations, help provide school supplies and more. It's an amazing partnership and we're grateful to be a part of it.

We've received news of a \$401,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program. This will expand our work growing community mesquite tree forests to provide shade in warmer neighborhoods and be a native food source. We began this project more than a year ago for Tucson neighborhoods. This new grant allows us to expand into Santa Cruz County and the remote Guvo region near the Mexican border.

We're also preparing for our busiest time of the year at Thanksgiving, grateful for your support and very aware that we are in this work together.

Thank you,

Malea Chavez, CEO
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY HARVEST



NOVEMBER 16 | 6AM - 6PM

Thanksgiving Week brings our busiest day of the year. Help us get ahead of the rush by taking part in the Holiday Harvest Food Drive on Thursday, November 16th from 6am – 6pm outside Sam's Club on Stone near River. Stop by any time that day with your food or monetary donation. We'll be collecting non-perishable food and monetary donations with live broadcasts throughout the day on 94.9 MIXfm, and support from 96.1 KLPX, Rock102.1, and 104.9/1490AM ESPN Tucson. **Plus, Tucson Electric Power will be matching the first \$25K donated!**



HungerWalk 2023

Together we make a difference.

That was clear to see on Saturday, September 9th when hundreds of people gathered in Tucson and Green Valley for HungerWalk 2023.

Walkers in Tucson made their 1 ½ mile walk starting at Sam Lena Park, looping around and crossing Country Club to enter the Community Food Bank. They got a glimpse of where folks check in at the pantry, moved on to the vast warehouse and the shelves stocked with food, then exited through the cool green atmosphere of Nuestra Tierra Learning Garden. HungerWalk is unique for the insight it gives into the scope of hunger in our community and the work needed to address it.

In Green Valley, folks gathered at Quail Creek-Veterans Municipal Park to enjoy music, line dancing, refreshments, and their choice of a one or two mile route through the park.

Overall, HungerWalk drew more than 1,000 people and raised nearly \$175,000.

Did you miss it?

Be sure to join us next year on Saturday, September 14th.



Winterhaven Festival of Lights

DECEMBER 9TH - 25TH

Don't forget: a stroll through Winterhaven is also a chance to be part of one of our biggest food drives of the year! Gather a bag of non-perishable food and bring it with you when you head out to the Winterhaven Festival of Lights. You can drop your donation at any one of the festival entrances. This holiday tradition will be held from December 9-25 this year with walk-through nights only, starting at 6pm.



Sketching the Senses

Magical. That's the word we kept hearing over and over and over when we asked people to describe the first of four *Sketching the Senses* events at Las Milpitas Community Farm. The art workshops are funded by a Night Bloom grant from the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tucson. The goal is for people to capture in art the changes in nature across the seasons. More than 60 people attended the first workshop in August, focused on a monsoon theme. Find more info at www.sketchingthesenses.com.



Making Connections in Nogales

Monthly cafecitos at our Nogales Resource Center offer folks a chance to connect in different ways. In September, we focused on healthy cooking recipes and reducing food waste. Working with Mariposa Community Health Center, participants were offered fresh pesto made from basil grown in our garden, as well as Salsa Tatemada using our garden's harvested and roasted green chiles.

SouthWinds

Our work with local growers stretches to many different areas of Southern Arizona. SouthWinds Farm outside Benson is one of our partners. The six-acre farm grows a variety of vegetables: from tomatoes to chilis to asparagus and squash. The farm is run almost entirely on solar power. Our work with local growers gets fresh local food into our community.



New Hours for Farmers' Market

An afternoon walk through at our Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market is a cooler experience now that we've survived the summer.

Market hours adjust for the cooler temps and shorter days, so you can now enjoy the market at 221 S. Avenida del Convento from 3-6pm every Thursday.



Welcome in, Amado

We're happy to re-open our doors at the Amado Resource Center to allow people back inside for check-in and to receive emergency food.

The move is another way things are returning to normal after COVID restrictions were put in place. The Amado Resource Center serves people on Thursdays, open from 9am – 4:30pm.



**COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

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

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.

