

# FEEDING HOPE

*Recipes for a healthy, hunger-free community.*



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

2024  
GRATITUDE REPORT

# Dear Friends and Neighbors,

**More people need food.** The past year has shown us a 22% increase overall in the demand for emergency food. We've been able to meet that need because of your support.

We know that high food and gas prices, and a housing crisis, have pushed many families to the limit. Your help gives us hope, and we are especially grateful as we move forward with a much-needed new building and location for our Nogales Resource Center. This is our second busiest location across the five-county area we serve. Heating and cooling issues, electrical struggles, and the age and condition of the building constantly challenge our staff there to meet the need and serve people with dignity.

A careful study of the current building shows us that repairs would be too involved and costly, and a new building will be a smarter investment that will better serve the community. With the purchase agreement we signed in April, the four-acre site will allow for an 18,000 square foot building. We hope to break ground in summer of 2025.

Thank you for helping us to move forward to serve Southern Arizona and build a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow.



**Malea Chavez**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Nathan Rothschild**  
*Board Chair*



## OUR WELL-STOCKED PANTRY

Volunteers gave 101,733 hours to the Community Food Bank last year—equivalent to 48 full-time employees.

Our staff of nine drivers average 23,500 miles on the road, making an average of 519 stops each month.



# MEASURING OUR MARK IN 2024

**505,510**

pounds of food  
collected in food  
drives

**499,792**

emergency food boxes distributed

**171,038**

people served  
with emergency  
food

**34,929,535**

pounds of food  
distributed

**25,165**

summer meals  
provided at  
19 sites

including  
**15,627,874**

pounds of produce

Senior food boxes distributed:

**90,237**

## *Chef Notes*

28% of emergency food recipients are under 18

22% of emergency food recipients are over 60

**65,260**

after-school  
snacks provided





# WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

## *Key Ingredients*

- ✓ **2,000,000  
SENIOR MEALS  
PREPPED SINCE  
2017**
- ✓ **OVER 1,000,000  
COMMUNITY  
MEALS PROVIDED  
SINCE 2015**

## *Our Process*

What's for dinner? That's a big question for our team at Caridad Community Kitchen, and something they carefully consider in preparing home-delivered senior meals.

Taste, of course, is important. Nutrition is also a big factor. All of the menus have to be approved by a nutritionist. The meals go out on trays in a partnership with Catholic Community Services. Many other considerations come into play: cost, variety, presentation, how the meal fits on the tray, whether it's feasible to be assembled by volunteers, and how it will hold up when it's reheated at home.

The crew at Caridad prepped 292,000 senior meals just last year. Kitchen Manager Kyle Okurily plans a six-week menu rotation to keep things interesting.



The kale chicken salad turned out to be a sleeper hit. “Every time we get feedback on that it’s very positive,” Kyle says. “People say, ‘We didn’t think we liked kale. But we love this salad.’”

The summer menu also featured a spiced cauliflower salad, barbecue beef sandwich, and a summer omelet. Kyle describes the omelet as vegetable forward with mushroom, asparagus, and a zucchini cream sauce. It’s also been popular.

The meals are assembled by volunteers and staff in the kitchen every weekday. More than 2,000,000 senior meals have been prepared since the program started in 2017. Caridad also provided 225,000 free community meals to partners, for a total of more than 1,000,000 community meals since 2015.

### *Chef Notes*

Arizona ranks 10th in the nation for the rate of food insecurity among seniors at 9.4%





# THE POWER OF PANTRIES

## *Key Ingredients*



**81,000  
CHILDREN  
SERVED**



**34 SCHOOL  
PANTRIES  
IN SOUTHERN  
ARIZONA**

## *Our Process*

More and more we see that people need food even if they can't get to the Food Bank. Our work in making food available at schools keeps growing, and is becoming a popular choice with families.

We served more than 81,000 children in 34 different school pantries in Southern Arizona. **That's nearly a 70% increase from the previous year.** The number of households served also increased to more than 34,000.

A pantry at school can be an after-school food pickup outside, a converted storage closet where parents can shop when they choose, or a monthly setup to drive through and pick up food at school.





“We use everything we get,” says Santiago, who works nights while his wife works days. With six children to feed, the food goes fast.



School pantries don't run without volunteers committed to organizing and distributing the food.

A group from Rising Star Baptist Church has worked for several years to package food that goes out at Utterback Middle School.

## *Pantry Volunteer Reviews* ★★★★★

“It's my joy to help people. I think it's a good boost to families.” - Jean

“So many hungry people in the world. If I can do anything to help I am here.” - Minnie

“I feel if your belly isn't full you can't learn.” - Cheryl





# SOWING THE SEEDS

## *Key Ingredients*

- ✓ **LAS MILPITAS  
COMMUNITY FARM**
- ✓ **ANCESTRAL PLANTS**
- ✓ **SANTA CRUZ RIVER  
FARMERS' MARKET**
- ✓ **DEDICATED  
GROWERS**

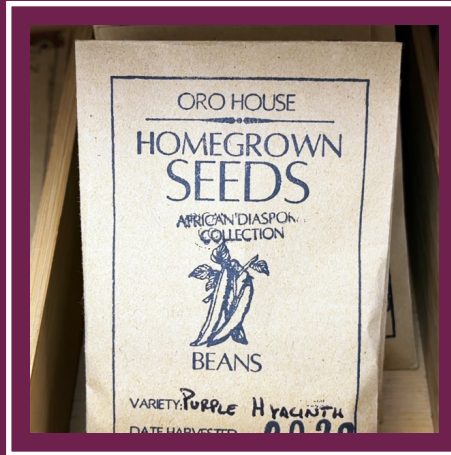
## *Her Process*

Local grower and business owner Adia Olguin looks to the land and the past for inspiration. They do not disappoint. She is mindful about what she and her husband grow at Las Milpitas Community Farm.

“Our mission is that we focus on ancestral plants. Ancestral being for me as a black woman and my husband as a Mexican immigrant, the plants we grow are either native to this area or they’ve [been] brought from Africa or from Mexico.”

She sells the produce at Santa Cruz River Farmers’ Market. On a recent summer afternoon she had broccoli greens, sage, herbs, nopal and Efo Shoko, a west African plant in the amaranth family.





“We are the first to grow it here, as far as I know. We didn’t know what to expect but the first year the plants grew about seven feet high.”

Gardening was a natural choice for Adia. She likes to cook from scratch, can and preserve food, and she takes that appreciation of the land to the art she creates. Her recent work of textile art, “I Am The Seed”, portrays her as a girl with her ancestors before her. **“They are planting the seeds of what they hope for us.”** The piece features seeds and dyes from plants she grew.

She works to share her knowledge through her family business Oro House. **“The goal is to help the community learn how to grow plants and then how to use them. So we teach how they can be used for cooking or dying for art. And we also teach how to save seeds.”**



### *Chef Notes*

We work with 70 farmers and small-scale growers.  
We distributed 38,256 seed packets last year.



# A COOLING EFFECT

## Key Ingredients

- ✓ **20,000 MESQUITE TREES**
- ✓ **NEIGHBORHOOD SHADE EQUITY**
- ✓ **AZ DEPT. OF FORESTRY & FIRE MANAGEMENT'S URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM & THE US FOREST SERVICE**

## Our Process

We're on our way planting more trees to help cool warmer areas of our community. We helped distribute about 200 trees this past year as we continue the SOMBRA (Sonoran Mesquite Barrio Restoration Alliance) project. With research showing 7 of the 10 hottest neighborhoods in the Tucson area are on the south side, this project addresses heat equity.

Funded by a grant from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the US Forest Service, the goal is to plant 20,000 velvet mesquite trees across the city's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

*Velvet mesquite seedlings are grown at the Community Food Bank's Nuestra Tierra Garden, and at several other community sites.*



# HEALTHY REFRESH

## Key Ingredients

- ✓ **WHOLE GRAINS**
- ✓ **LOW/NO SODIUM  
CANNED GOODS**
- ✓ **CANOLA OIL**
- ✓ **SPICES**

We're excited to be part of the **FRESH** (Food and Resources Expanded to Support Health) pilot funded by the National Institute of Health that focuses on food as medicine.



Twice a month we supply specially tailored food boxes for a group of study participants who have diabetes. The boxes contain whole grains, low or no sodium canned goods, canola oil, and spices. **We partner with El Rio Health on this project. Pivot Produce supplies fresh, locally grown, organic produce.** The study started last year and will continue until October 2025. It's one of a growing number of research projects targeting food to improve health and lessen the burden on the health care system.

# PRODUCE PALOOZA

## Key Ingredients

- ✓ **16,000,000 LBS.  
OF PRODUCE**
- ✓ **4,000,000 LBS.  
OF POTATOES**



From eggplant to honeydew to microgreens, **we distributed nearly 16 million pounds of produce last year.** Our top three items by weight were tomatoes, watermelon and potatoes. **Potatoes came in #1!** We distributed nearly four million pounds of them just last year.

We also facilitated \$644,000 in local food sales through institutional and direct-to-consumer markets. And we purchased \$335,400 in local produce for school pantry and partner distributions, supported by federal funding and Child Nutrition Program grants.



# OUR MARKET ON THE MOVE

Our Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market made a move and is now settling into a new home in the MSA Annex in the Mercado District off Congress west of the freeway.

The market's still a great way to get fresh, locally grown produce and to visit vendors with local goods from honey to bread to coffee. Shop on Thursdays from 3-6pm October to April and 4-7pm May to September.

## Key Ingredients

✓ **\$202,662 in direct-to-consumer sales for farmers and food producers**

✓ **42% of total market sales were in Public Assistance benefits**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7/1/2023 - 6/30/2024

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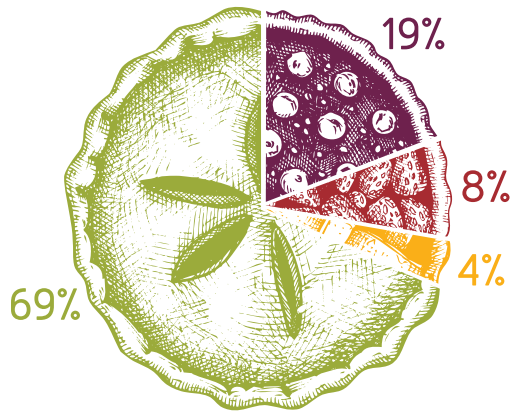
**Benjamin Moore** Director

# The Numbers

## FINANCIALS: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

View our 990 online at:  
[communityfoodbank.org/financials](https://communityfoodbank.org/financials)

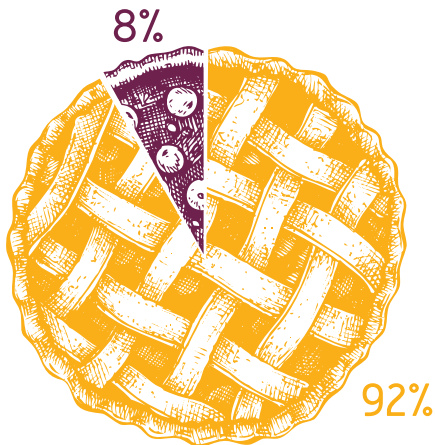
Your gifts fight hunger today by providing meals to our community. Funds also support the broader work of building a healthy, hunger-free future, including community gardens, farmers' markets, nutrition programs, advocacy, and other initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and hunger.



### ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE

● Donated Food	\$60,307,981
● Government Grants	\$3,202,346
● Contributions	\$16,725,161
● Miscellaneous	\$6,616,875

**\$86,852,363**



### ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

● Food & Programs	\$81,207,938
● Admin/Fundraising	\$6,716,367

**\$87,924,305**

### NET ASSETS & EXPENSES

#### NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions	\$45,850,591
With Donor Restrictions	\$4,446,250
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$50,296,841</b>

#### EXPENSES

Health & Food	\$76,249,560
Education	\$1,617,997
Community Development	\$3,340,381
<b>PROGRAMS EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$81,207,938</b>
Fundraising	\$2,778,938
Administration	\$3,937,429
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$87,924,305</b>



## SEEDS OF

## Life

*Seeds of Life donors are generous individuals who have made the Community Food Bank a priority in their planned giving. We thank the following donors, whose gifts were realized this year and whose legacy lives on in the continued work to build a healthy, hunger-free community.*

John P. Cavanaugh

The Griffin Marital Trust

Philip R. Hoover

Michael C. McGee

Janette Mills

Janet E. Schmohl

Karen Schwartz Griggs Trust

Gladys E. Sorensen

John R. Sundberg

Nina Thaxter

Charlotte A. Tousley

Charles A. Wilson

Louise Zellock

*Thank you to all 319 donors who continue to think of us in your planned giving.*

*We're honored to be part of your plans.*

## CORPORATE & FOUNDATION

## partners

Abbett Family Foundation

AHS Foundation

Alan's Shoes

Albertsons

Allyn Family Foundation

Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation

Amazon Fulfillment Center - TUS2

America First Credit Union

American Endowment Foundation

AMG Charitable Gift Foundation

Arizona Community Foundation

Arizona Department of Education –  
Child and Adult Care Food Program

Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation

Arizona Food Bank Network

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Cigna Health Care

Citi Group

City of Tucson's Housing and  
Community Development  
(HCD) Department

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Country Fair White Elephant, Inc.

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Department of Economic Security  
- Hunger Relief Program

Desert Diamond Casinos  
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Feeding America

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& Shelter Program)

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R&A CPAs  
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Tucson Electric Power  
TUSD Food Services  
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United Way of Tucson  
and Southern Arizona  
US Department of Agriculture  
– Forest Service - Urban and  
Community Forestry Program  
US Dept of Agriculture  
– Agriculture Marketing

Services – Local Food  
Promotion Program  
US Dept of Agriculture –  
Food and Nutrition services  
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Foundation  
Valley of the Sun United Way  
Vantage West Credit Union  
Visit Tucson  
Vitamin Cottage Natural  
Food Markets, Inc.  
Volk Company  
Walmart  
Walnut Foundation  
Withoft Apprill Family  
Foundation  
Yuma Community Food Bank  
Zuckerman Family Foundation



# WE CHANGE LIVES

*in the communities we serve by feeding the hungry today,  
and building a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow.*



COMMUNITY  
FOOD BANK  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

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(520) 622-0525 • [communityfoodbank.org](http://communityfoodbank.org)

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We are gathering on the ancestral and occupied lands of the Tohono O'odham, Pascua Yaqui, Ak-Chin, Hohokam, Akimel O'odham, Hia-Ced O'odham, and many more who may call this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, relies on over 150 employees and hundreds of community volunteers to ensure that the people of southern Arizona have access to the food and programs they need. The food bank is based in Pima County and also serves Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties. The Community Food Bank provides services to eligible applicants without regard to race, color, creed, religion, handicap, age, national origin, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or gender.

