



Apache Junction



FOOD BANK NEWS

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN EAST VALLEY COMMUNITIES

Spring 2018

Volume 7



The 26th Annual Stamp Out Hunger™ Food Drive Saturday, May 12

Every day, U.S. Postal Service workers and letter carriers see families in need. Every second Saturday in May, they get to do something about it.

On Saturday, May 12, the postal service will conduct its Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Apache Junction letter carriers will join those in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America for the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Carriers collect donations of nonperishable and unexpired food left by local mailboxes and in post offices. They then deliver the food items to local community food banks such as the AJ Food Bank. Last year, 71 million pounds of food were collected nationwide.

In Apache Junction, the carriers will receive a helping hand with 30,000 bags donated by Fry's Food Store on Apache Trail. They will be dropped off in mailboxes a few days before the May 12 campaign.

Residents can put unexpired nonperishables out for the postal workers to pick up on that special Saturday. The AJ Food Bank hopes to receive more than 25,000 pounds of food.

AJ Food Bank Board Member and Postal Drive Chairperson Sharon Allison-Brown noted the event comes at the best time for the Food Bank. She said with the winter visitors gone, volunteer ranks and donations decrease. But the number of families in need continues to increase annually and school-aged kids do not have the benefit of school lunches or other meal programs during the summer months.

Receipts for tax credits can be provided by the AJ Post Office or the Food Bank.

On Saturday, May 12 – Place nonperishable, unexpired items out for your postal worker to pick up. In doing so, you will help feed more than 1,000 local families for five days!

Items ALWAYS Needed

Peanut butter • Jelly • Tuna • Pasta & pasta sauces • Canned soups • Canned fruits and vegetables • Cereal • Mac & cheese • Jell-O • Fruit cups • Beans • Rice • Nonperishable cakes, muffin, stuffing & pancake mixes • Sauces, dressings, oil & spices

Please do not donate expired food or severely dented or damaged cans as they are of no use to the Food Bank.

Food Donations = Free Admission to AZ Renaissance Festival



Lady Gwendolyn of The Gwendolyn Show, left, and Agnes Boddington of the Fairhaven Morris Dancers, right, posed with AJ Food Bank volunteer and former board member Ben Fellows when the Arizona Renaissance Festival entertainers stopped in to promote their event.

Kids can get free tickets for the popular and entertaining 30th Annual Arizona Renaissance Festival on its last weekend – March 31-April 1 – thanks to a promotion that will benefit the Apache Junction Food Bank.

Just bring three cans of unexpired food for each child ages 5-12 and they can enter the medieval event for free – a \$16 value. Cans of food or a combination of boxes of a nonperishable item such as pasta, cereal or crackers count toward a free youth ticket.

Be transported back in time with an amusement park, a 13-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, arts and crafts, jousting tournaments, food vendors serving up medieval fare and a marketplace featuring more than 200 artisans showing unique, handmade wares.

Gates open at 10 a.m. at the Ren Fest village off U.S. 60 in Gold Canyon. Activities take place until 6 p.m. Don't miss the "Final Huzzah" weekend at the Arizona Renaissance Festival. For more information, go to www.RenFestInfo.com.

PHILANTHROPIST PROVIDES THE FOOD BANK WITH \$50,000 ENDOWMENT

BY GERALD HUNDT

The Apache Junction Food Bank Board of Directors is pleased to announce the acceptance of a \$50,000 endowment from a local philanthropist. The board has taken this opportunity to create policies forming the endowment program and to allow additional gifts to the fund. The board will also create policy to provide for effective management of those funds.

An Endowment Fund creates future financial stability for providing funds to continue the Food Bank's work in years to come. For those who may not know, endowment funds are invested with the income earned each year provided to the Food Bank to be used at the Board's discretion. As the funds grow, so does the amount of earnings that can be contributed to the Food Bank for critical needs.

Why give to an Endowment Fund?

Your gift amount will earn income for the Food Bank in perpetuity as the corpus of the fund is never spent. Its buying power is protected even from the erosion of inflation. It's a way for you to know your gift will last forever. You can have the peace of mind that an organization you love will be around for many years to come. You can also have the satisfaction of knowing the Food Bank can feed those in need for a long time.

Did you know that 80 percent of Americans give to charity, but only about 8 percent choose to give a gift through some kind of estate-giving? It's an easy way to support organizations you have loved and supported for years and requires no cash gift now. Depending on tax laws and your own assets, often a gift to charity in your will or trust may reduce your estate taxes. Your own financial advisors or attorney can assist you with this.

Ways to give to Endowment:

- **Charitable Bequest:** A simple bequest from your will or trust to the Food Bank or charity or charities of your choice. There are different kinds of bequests you can discuss with your attorney.
- **Life Insurance:** Any charity including the Food Bank can be named as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy.
- **Gift of Appreciated Stock:** There can be tax benefits to give appreciated stock or real estate to a charity.
- **Trusts:** There are numerous kinds of trusts that can be created using appreciated assets to benefit charities. These would need to be created by you and an estate-planning attorney.
- **Cash Gift:** Anyone can make a gift of cash to the Endowment Fund.

The endowment program is a big step forward for the Food Bank. To learn more or to obtain some general bequest language, contact Apache Junction Food Bank President Robert Mohle at rmohle@aol.com or call the Food Bank at 480-983-2995.



AJFB Board President Robert Mohle, retiring members Ben Fellows and Joan Clair, Treasurer Georga Humphreys and board members Sharon Allison-Brown, Helen Ewing, Robin Reesal, Ashley Newcomer and Jeff Rowland are front and center in leading the staff, volunteers and organization as it continues to grow and develop new funding strategies and its use of technology to reach donors and families in need.

Not pictured are board members Sherri Seoane, John C. Owens and Malcolm McMillan.

Growing Numbers of America's Seniors Are Going Hungry

The data on poverty among the elderly is sobering. AARP says that 52 percent of senior citizens are economically insecure and up to 12,000 Americans are turning 65 every day.

Since the 2008 economic collapse - and the eight-year depression that followed – those 50 years of age or older lost their safety nets, their jobs, their homes and their savings. Even those fortunate enough to have a pension saw that resource slashed.

The U.S. Census Bureau says poverty estimates for Arizona “don’t look good.” An estimated 22% of all Arizonans are at or below the federal poverty line compared to about 15% nationwide.

One recent Congressional Budget Office report says it is bleaker. One-third of senior households have no savings, no money left after rent, utilities and prescriptions for clothes or even a meal out. They budget less than \$4 a day for food.

It’s no wonder our senior citizens struggle with anxiety, loneliness, isolation and depression. Many do not seek help from social services, neighbors or family out of embarrassment.

Your monetary donations help the most. You have until April 15, 2018 to claim your gifts of \$800 per family or \$400 per individual as a Qualifying Charitable Organization for Arizona on your 2017 tax return. We are listed as Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc.

**“...estimated 22%
of all Arizonans
are at or below
the federal
poverty level...”**



Here are three ways you can help us help them

Please use the code **SUMMER** in the reference field when you donate online or in the memo area of checks. If you donate in person, please mention **SUMMER**, if this newsletter is what prompted your gift.

- Online at www.ajfoodbank.org, hit **DONATE NOW** button.
- By mail to: AJ Food Bank, 575 N. Idaho Road, #701, Apache Junction, AZ 85119.
- In person from 9 am - 11:30 am & 1 pm - 4 pm Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri.

Sustaining and Evolving the Ec

The service area of the Apache Junction Food Bank extends beyond the limits of the township. Our 35-year-old nonprofit organization is the largest of its kind in the East Valley and has grown by leaps and bounds.

The Food Bank is the highest performing of the more than 200 food banks in the United Food Bank family. Yes, it's true that 70 percent of our clients live in Apache Junction. But in 2017, our modest facility and hard-working volunteers helped provide food to people in need from more than 35 Zip Codes in both Pinal and Maricopa counties.

We maintain a good record of our operation and ensure all reports, inspections, audits and paperwork are up to date and the facility meets health code standards. After an audit of the Food Bank in February, United Food Bank Agency Relations Manager, Deb Bowman stated it is an excellently run and very well-organized operation.

"Your distribution site is very neat and clean," she said, adding that UFB officials appreciate our communication, volunteer program and up-to-date stats. "You are 100 percent in compliance. Keep up the great work that you and your volunteers do!"

Apache Junction Food Bank by the Numbers:

Major Categories	2017
Total Households Served	13,142
Total People Served	39,042
Total Seniors Served (60+)	6,809
Total Children Served (0-17 yrs)	11,752

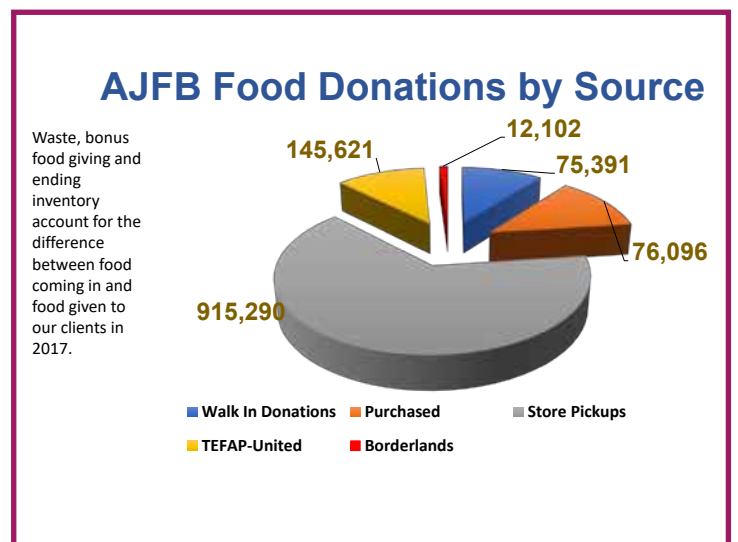
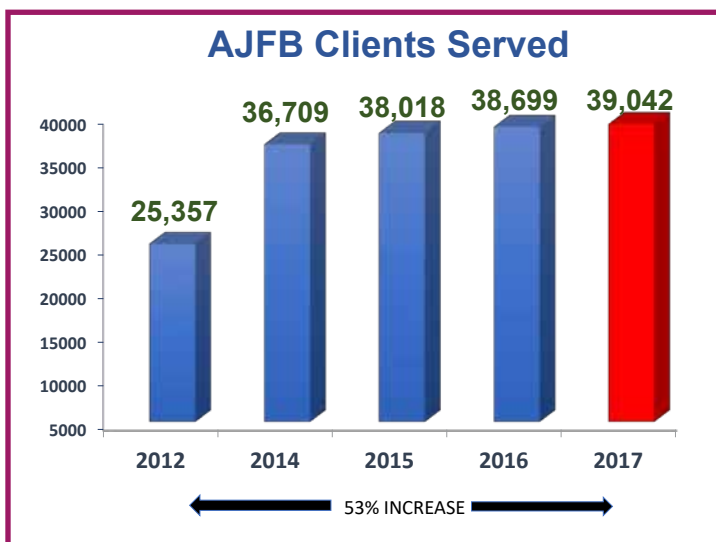
Total donations from area stores: 915,290 lbs.
Total volunteer hours: 13,836

Boundaries of Our Service Area:

McDowell Road to the North
Ocotillo Road to the South
Ellsworth Road to the West
Queen Valley to the East

Here Is Some of The Great News:

- We provided **468,360 meals**, gave out over **975,000 pounds of food** and **39,250 TEFAP bags** - The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a federal program supplementing the diets of low-income Americans.
- We distributed **25 pounds per person** per month. We have maintained this generous level of giving for years thanks to food donated from 15 stores weekly, food drives, TEFAP and individual donations.
- Fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, meats, dairy items and nonperishables provide the families with **three to five days** of nutritious food.
- A cart of groceries for a family of four typically **weighs about 105 pounds** and is worth about **\$175**.



East Valley's Biggest Food Bank

Serving Our Clients

"It was a bit hard for me to finally come," said one client who had recently lost her mother and her 33-year-old son just two months apart. "I lost my job because I couldn't cope with the grief and debilitating pain. With funeral cost and an untimely rise in rent, I had to admit I need help."

The AJ Food Bank's mission is to "Feed the Hungry in the East Valley with Dignity and Respect," but our secondary charge is to refer our clients to other resources such as Department of Economic Security programs, women's shelters, other food banks and resources provided by the city or Pinal County United Way.

Many clients share their stories. Some have not yet recovered from the economic crisis that began in 2007, but over 50% of our families have someone in the house working fulltime. Younger clients feel they need help temporarily as they reclaim some of what they lost. Many seniors now depend on us to help provide food as the cost of their rent, prescriptions and other living expenses have left their fixed monthly income in shambles.

Our biggest concerns for the short term are twofold: volunteers and funds. Volunteers are needed because many in the existing troop retreat to homes in cooler climates; donations are especially needed when tax season is over and our resources are stretched to their thinnest.

Looking To The Future

Overcoming the challenges of serving more families, recruiting more volunteers and finding new funding opportunities are top of mind for our leaders. We know that we simply cannot rehash what has been done in the past. It's time for new and bolder approaches.

Aggressively seeking more than a dozen new grants and building closer relationships with donors are imperative parts of the fundraising plan. Collaborations with businesses and the government sector will expand. Sharing consistent messages across a combination of social media platforms will provide efficient ways for the Food Bank to expand its public relations, remain relevant and control its budget. The costs of salaries and other administrative costs will remain at less than 10% of total donations – an uncompromising, long-standing policy.



Drivers Dan Fisher and Dan Rice in front of the 12-year old refrigerated truck with over 250,000 miles on it. They pick up over 900,000 pounds of food a year, running six days a week to about 15 area grocers and bakeries.



Volunteers Jim and Diane have fun during an afternoon shift at the AJFB. Many volunteer for the camaraderie and exercise.



Volunteers Sharon, Greg and Jean enjoy a morning at the AJFB. To volunteer, go to www.ajfoodbank.org and hit the VOLUNTEER tab.

One of our bigger challenges for the longer term will be successfully campaigning for funds to replace a vital resource – our large, refrigerated delivery truck. We believe the community will get behind it with the same support we have had since our grassroots beginning.

"Our board members have a clear sense of who they are helping," Executive Director JoElle Hurns said. "They do not disconnect from the mission. I can be busy in the office with a report or talking to a volunteer and they are working as well on some crucial part of our program. They are relentless and very comfortable with asking for and finding support and money. But, we will all be embracing some new tools this year, and we each feel a personal responsibility toward that."

Three Cheers For Our Volunteers

These generous souls donate 14,000 hours of manpower to the AJ Food Bank annually. Without them, we couldn't do all the good work we do. About 14-20 volunteers of a pool of about 145, work daily for free. They give a million pounds of food to 40,000 qualified residents of the East Valley area each year.

Volunteers weigh, record, sort, bag and assemble grocery carts filled with food to distribute to about 80 families in varying sizes each day, four days a week. Many of our volunteers have been with the Food Bank for five, 10, 15 and some even 20 years.

It takes at least 30 minutes of one volunteer's time to feed one person for five days. And they all say they don't need to be thanked but we disagree. We rolled out the red carpet – or in this case beach balls for the Beach Party theme - for about 100 valued volunteers who came to the Volunteer Appreciation Beach Party in February at Lost Dutchman State Park.

Those awarded with top honors for donated time in 2017, were in individual and family categories and include:



Dillon McKinster working at the Food Bank.

INDIVIDUALS

1. Dillon McKinster 621 Hrs.
2. Maxine Roy 536 Hrs.
3. Nicki Krafft 409 Hrs.

FAMILIES

1. Dave Stelzner and Nicki Krafft 709 Hrs.
2. Jack and Robyn Malgieri 627 Hrs.
3. Diane and Gail Pence 485 Hrs.
4. Amy, David and Tanner Combs 323 Hrs.



AJ Food Bank Board Members John Owens, left, and Sharon Allison-Brown, right, present couple Nicki Krafft and David Stelzner with top honors for volunteer hours.

Thanks to the Southwest Surfers, a locally based band known for its Beach Boys tribute music and classic hits from the '50s and '60s, for the entertainment.

The stores who helped provide the food and other items also work with us on many projects throughout the year. They include Walmart, Fry's Food and Drug and Safeway.

Nice backdrop for the 2018 Volunteer Appreciation Beach Party at Lost Dutchman State Park. The Southwest Surfers provided the entertainment and AJ Food Bank President Robert Mohle presented the organization's Annual Report.



We get the darndest things, and we use them all

Thousands of cases of squeezable fruit packages for toddlers, 6,000 packs of gum and hundreds of cases of Rice Krispy Treats, the latter donated by Midwest Food Bank, are just a few of the unique items we get and pass onto our clients. Here are some other ways in which the community gives:

- Sunshine Acres, which always gives generously to the Food Bank, donated 1,300 pounds of ice cream and 475 bottles of barbecue sauce in February.
- The Church of Latter-day Saints of Jesus Christ and local Boy Scouts troops held a drive and collected 1,460 pounds of food.
- CVS and other stores frequently donate leftover goods from holidays including paper products, decorations, candy, cards, gift bags and lights.
- Fry's Food and Drug managers Bob Zimmerman and Chris Adams, at the AJ store on Apache Trail and Mesa store on Signal Butte, respectively, give us dozens of their employees to volunteer during the holidays or "just because."



AJ Food Bank Operations Manager Jim Jones, Board Treasurer Georga Humphreys, Board President Robert Mohle and Fry's Mesa store employees Alisha Coleman, Bekkah Tomaszewski and Michael Guzman pose for a quick picture after the group helped clean and move our storage units. Owners Kerry and Kim Taylor will soon unveil the new Apache Trails South Storage and donated a space to us.



Right Away Disposal donated about \$200 in shredding old records from storage. Left, Food Bank Operations Manager Jim Jones, RAD's Larry Williams and AJ Food Bank Board Member Sharon Allison-Brown.



Pinal County Supervisor Todd House, District 5, pictured here, donated 25,000 diapers and 8,000 wipes to three area nonprofits including the AJ Food Bank for clients with young babies and toddlers.

Below, big thank you to Walmart on Signal Butte, which is undergoing major renovations. The store will celebrate on April 5th. But we are rejoicing now due to the gift of rollers that transports boxes and crates straight off the truck to warehouse work stations.



Village Voices Director Judy Herr and Treasurer Mary Williams presented AJFB President Robert Mohle with a check for \$1,600. Half of the proceeds from the choir's Christmas concert goes to our cause.

Keith George, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, presents AJ Food Bank board member Georga Humphreys with \$2,597 cash and 257 pounds of food. The donations were raised during the Eighth Annual Community Appreciation Dinner and Dance at Meridian Manor.





Apache Junction Food Bank
575 N Idaho Road, Suite 701
Apache Junction, AZ 85119-4015

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
SBSDM

It Takes 30 Minutes of One Volunteer's Time to Feed One Person for 5 Days

Even if it is once a month, we can use your help! You might think you don't have qualifications or that you can't do the physical work involved. No worries. We have a variety of positions in both morning and afternoon shifts that can be the perfect fit for you. When you enjoy helping good causes, you feel happier, healthier and confident. Improved mental and physical health are two great reasons to volunteer.

We are recruiting for volunteers to **help one Thursday morning a month to give food to seniors**. The Commodities Senior Food Program will be taken on at the AJFB because it is within our mission guidelines. We will provide training on how to sign up those seniors who need food and we give them food from about 8 am to 12 noon on the third Thursday of the month.

If you're feeling lonesome or depressed, volunteering can put you in touch with people in your community. Or if you're eager to learn a new professional skill or flex an existing one, skilled volunteering can help you do that.

We are expanding our presence in the community and are seeking volunteers who will visit businesses, churches and civic groups and explain what we do. We need office help or volunteers to help us train other new recruits by simply going over basic instructional materials and sharing the basics about how, why and when we take care of 40,000 hungry residents in the East Valley communities.

Learning new things and meeting people from various walks of life can enrich your own life. There is nothing like experiencing our mission first-hand. Whatever your reason, if you have the right attitude and drive, you can make a difference and help us make good things happen.

Go to www.ajfoodbank.org and click on the **VOLUNTEER** tab. Or stop in and pick up a new volunteer information packet. We look forward to working with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS:

6th Annual AJFB Golf Tournament

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Gold Canyon Golf Resort

Set the date for the most exceptional tournament in the Southwest. Golfers, sponsors and donors look forward to this!

AJ Chamber of Commerce/AJ Food Bank Mixer
October 18, 2018 5:30-7 pm
Join us at the Food Bank,
575 N. Idaho Road, #701

Introducing fellow Chamber members and civic leaders to the Food Bank's facility and how we feed over 13,000 families annually is just part of the fun. To entice you, we have gathered some outstanding raffle prizes including a two-night, three-day stay at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, with dinner for two at celebrity chef Bobby Flay's Mesa Grill.

Stay connected for more details to come. Visit our Web page AJFoodBank.org.