



SUPERSTITION COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Working Together to Feed the Hungry

Winter 2020



Greetings from the Superstition Community Food Bank

It has been an interesting year at the food bank, starting with our name change (formerly the Apache Junction Food Bank). Last year our Board and management focused on operational excellence and efficiency. A great deal was accomplished and operations were running smoothly. Then came the coronavirus that changed our world.

Many smaller food banks in the area closed and the needs for those suffering from food insufficiency multiplied. Our Board and management remain totally committed to continuing our mission, and doing so in a way that ensures our volunteers and clients are safe. That required a complete change in our delivery routine.

We invested in protective equipment for our volunteers and now require test temperatures of everyone entering our building. Myra Garcia, our Executive Director, improvised a “contactless” approach to registering recipients through closed car windows in order to safeguard both our volunteers and clients. Pinal County allowed us to use an empty lot behind our building to create a drive-through process. Police officers from Apache Junction assisted by directing traffic in and out of our facility, and the Arizona National Guard helped by loading food into cars.

It all worked. We accomplished our mission and we distributed more than 900,000 meals over the last 9 months from our food bank. In addition, in partnership with United Food Bank and Wells Fargo Bank, a food distribution was held at the Wells Fargo branch in Apache Junction every Wednesday night for 8 weeks and we helped distribute over 73,000 lbs. of food. But we are not done.

The Board is now working on our strategy for the future. How can we improve the nutritional balance of the food we distribute? Should we allow those in need to receive food more than once a month? With so many smaller food banks closing, can we deliver food to other distribution sources in smaller communities? In addition, our warehouse facility is reaching its maximum capacity. How do we expand our present facility to meet the needs of the future?

Our mission is more critical than any time in the past. Thanks to all of you who have supported our mission in the past. You have made it work. We hope we can count on you again in this most needed time in our country’s history. In addition, if anyone can spare their time and expertise, we are looking for volunteers and Board Members.

Thank you for your continuing support !

Phil Tremonti
President of the Board

Arizona residents have until April 15 to make donations to their favorite charities. The maximum credit allowed is \$800 for a married couple and \$400 for a single person. More information about how easy it is to help locally in this way is at www.azdor.gov/tax-credits. We are listed as the Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc dba Superstition Community Food Bank and we count on this funding annually.

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Superstition Community Food Bank Continues to Meet COVID Challenges



During the last year, the Apache Junction Reach Out Food Bank changed its name to the Superstition Community Food Bank (SCFB) to better reflect its service area scope. With the COVID virus challenges of increased unemployment, families’ lost access to school meal programs, and the expanded vulnerability of seniors needing food, SCFB further stepped up its efforts to ensure that its clients would not go hungry. With the aid of volunteers, local police, and the National Guard members, the food bank has managed to change its food distribution process to a no-contact drive-up system to help clients avoid standing in line and limit social contact for both clients and volunteers. Food distribution has continued uninterrupted on its usual 4-days per week schedule. Currently, SCFB is looking to expand its refrigeration/freezer capacity to increase food storage to provide nutritious food availability through expanded services and to raise funds to help pay off the remainder of the new food truck in the amount of \$7,000.

This will be a holiday like no other.

People who never thought they would be unemployed now find themselves struggling to meet life’s necessities. Family budgets have been stretched to the breaking point. Children are at home most of the day needing meals and snacks formerly available at school. Vulnerable seniors have been house-bound for months, many relying on the goodness of family, friends, and neighbors to pick up food for them.

I’m sure you agree, everyone needs a little happiness right now. Let’s work together to make that happen. With your help, Superstition Community Food Bank will help feed a family of 4 for just \$10, and with a donation of \$20 we can help a family of 8. Or you might use your area of influence to conduct a food drive.

Thank you for supporting the food bank, wishing you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

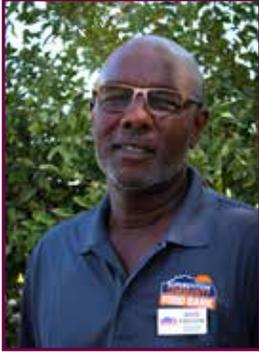
Myra D. Garcia

Make sure no one in our community goes hungry during the Coronavirus pandemic:

We are not through the pandemic, which is presenting SCFB with unplanned expense for the food bank. We have maintained a standard of asking anyone associated with the food bank’s activity, including volunteers, clients and staff members to follow the health recommendations from federal, state and local officials, which include adherence to our new personal hygiene, cleaning, and sanitizing procedures



New to the Team - David Kinchlow, Operations Manager



David M. Kinchlow, Jr. is a facilities management professional who has dedicated twenty- plus years to honing his logistical operations, customer service and leadership skills in the foodservice, healthcare records, and real estate industries. Kinchlow, a certified ServSafe Food Manager, joins the team at the Superstition Community Food Bank in Apache Junction, Arizona after seven-plus impressive years in university-based retail food service, where he successfully planned, opened, and maintained campus-based concept stores.

Born and raised in southern Indiana, David grew up in a family where hard work and “giving back” to the community were the order of the day and helped lay the foundation for who he is today. He credits his strong work ethic, effective communication skills, and talent for teambuilding as lifelong tools that have served him well throughout his professional working life.

David is a self-described extrovert who enjoys people and spent several years dabbling in the local entertainment circuit as an amateur stand-up comedian. He has done volunteer work with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and has worked as an informal mentor to local youth through area parks and recreation programs. This father of two and grandfather of three is an avid golfer and sports enthusiast.

In joining the SCFB team, David says, “I’m excited to begin this incredible opportunity in the non-profit sector and to play an integral role in such an important cause. SCFB has been a respected and trusted service provider in the Greater Phoenix community for almost 50 years and I look forward to being part of its continued great tradition of feeding the most vulnerable among us.”

*We are all in
this together*



Protect Yourself

The infographic features a green cartoon virus character on the left. To its right, a brick wall contains six white boxes with icons and text: 'Use alcohol based gel' (hand sanitizer bottle), '6 ft' (distance measurement), 'Avoid physical contact' (two people), 'Wash hands thoroughly' (hands under a faucet), '14 day self quarantine' (calendar), and 'Face mask' (mask icon).

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

AZDHS:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>

Knowledge, Needs, & Solutions

The goal of Superstition Community Food Bank (SCFB) is to help feed the most vulnerable of our friends and neighbors. Providing food is and always will be our primary mission. But what more can we do to help? What are our clients' needs beyond food assistance? How can we help identify and *assist in meeting those additional needs*?



Getting to know our clients

Thanks to an education grant from an anonymous benefactor, we are now able to get a series of snapshots of our clients and some of the issues they face. We know that some of our clients are short-term, due to employment layoffs, unusual medical expenses, or some natural disaster. These kinds of unexpected situations create a “revolving door” for our services. Yet, the percentage of our client mix remains about the same: children under the age of 18 make up 30%; seniors over 60 make up about



20%; and the group between 18 and 60 make up the remaining 50%.

The education grant allows the SCFB to take periodic samples of our clients' needs through short monthly surveys. We know that our clients want and need nutritious food. We are helping to address this need with the aid of a volunteer chef and a volunteer nutritionist who are providing recipes for the foods that we distribute. We are also putting more focus on our orders to make sure they meet quality nutrition standards. Currently, our attention is on breakfast items which would include quality cereal, milk and eggs.



Survey says...

Our surveys are telling us that one-third or more of our clients do not own computers or have WIFI access. In our modern society both are necessary for employment searches and skill improvement, such as seeking a G.E.D. This is also a statistic that affects how the SCFB communicates with our clients.

If clients have minor children, the high cost of daycare becomes a major challenge. A 2018 study by the Childcare Resource and Referral agency of Arizona shows that the cost of daycare in Pinal County has a median range of \$122 to \$225 a month depending on the age of the children and the level and source of service. As a small step in addressing this issue the “First Things First”



reading program in conjunction with the Library Fun Van will be at our food bank periodically during the summer months. While their children are involved in this program, parents will have free time to utilize computers and programs at the nearby Apache Junction Public Library.

Most recently, our February survey focused on one of our most vulnerable client groups – senior citizens. We discovered that about 1/3 of our seniors were unaware that we have a proxy service available for them (this is a way for clients to designate a friend or neighbor to represent them and pick up food when they are unable to come in). All these little pieces of information help us to continually strengthen our efforts to make a difference.



Combining resources for the greater good

The education grant has given us greater understanding of our clients’ lives and challenges, which in turn enables us to help them get access to other service organizations that can improve their quality of life. We would like to say thanks to our sister organizations for their tremendous cooperation and creativity in programs designed to meet the short- and long-term needs of our clients. The Homeless Coalition verifies resources so we can update our client guide quarterly. Horizon Health and Wellness comes to the food bank monthly to provide clients with resource information, and it addresses mental health concerns. Care Network Team, of which SCFB is a member, focuses on housing, rental, and utility payments. Empowerment Systems is coming in twice a month with healthy

recipes. It will soon offer information on prescription drug resources, and a course in financial stability skills is in the planning stages.

We thank you, the public, for your support in donating food, money and – your most valuable resource –time in support of the Superstition Community Food Bank. We also thank the anonymous benefactor for providing our community with this generous education grant.

Thank You



New Year Brings New Name And A New Look To The Food Bank

By Keyuri Parab

The 'Apache Junction Food Bank' is now called the 'Superstition Community Food Bank' as of January 1, 2020.

Other changes included the completion of its remodel, adding an extension and more rooms to the space.

Robert Mohle, former board president of Superstition Community Food Bank, said "the reason behind the remodel was to raise efficiency and create a more professional look."

"Every time I walk through the food bank I look for problems because I am a business guy and look at why we do things the way we do it and why we couldn't do it a better way," Mohle said. "I think about the why's and the why not's."

The remodel includes an added wall, dividing the original space and adding a big room for the executive director's office that can hold a conference table.

There is an individual space for administrative purposes and for the bookkeeper.

Mohle said that previously clients would wait outside the building in the heat, move in line indoors to pick up their orders and then move outside again, which crowded the space.

"It dawned on me why are we having these client services people tripping over the administrative people in the offices. Let's just give them their own quiet, secure

place and let customers come up to a will-call window outside, saving everyone time." he said.

There are many administrative functions which occur while client services are being provided and the new remodel and separation of space helps the conversations and workflow without interference.

Former treasurer Georga Humphreys notes that the remodel will also provide space for confidential conversations to enhance all work efforts."

The remodel was assisted by board member and architect Gary Kloefkorn.

"He is a successful architect with great style, and we needed someone like him on our board," Mohle said.

The renovation funding was a mixture of 40 percent from the county, 20 percent from the general public and another 40 percent from the food banks reserve.

With additional changes of adding exterior fencing and paving to separate the parking lot from the street, the project will be completed within the \$25,000 budgeted plan

"I had no clue about the degree or need of food insecurity and insufficiency of people struggling," Mohle said. "So I jumped in and it feels good to help others."



Photos courtesy of Tamara Lucero

Neighbors need our help

We have seen neighbors from as far away as Globe and Kearny requesting food assistance average of 30% more people seeking help. And the demand continues to grow.

Some of our neighbors did not imagine ever being in this position. Nearly a third of the people getting food are new to our food bank. It has been difficult for many of them to ask for help as they adapt to the new “normal.”

These months have forced drastic changes; at times, it can be overwhelming. We are grateful for the extraordinary acts of kindness and generosity from our friends in the community during this difficult time. Please help our neighbors at risk of hunger by donating today: superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/.



Our volunteers are our Heroes

The Superstition Community Food Bank is sending a big shout-out to its dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, local businesses, civic organizations, and first responders for helping it stay open and keep pace with demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Director Myra Garcia says, “The caring, love, and support have come from all directions. We are definitely in this together.”



We have volunteers working outside to check in our clients on a drive-through basis. The Apache Junction Police have directed traffic. Members of the National Guard help load food into cars. Rosie Portugal-Brastad, Project Help, Mary Erickson, Charlene Hudson and Joan Ferguson made dozens of masks for our volunteers.

And thank you to Frontier Ace Hardware in Apache Junction, for their generous financial donation. Walmart store 1381 in Apache Junction, store 3751 in San Tan Valley, store 5257 in Mesa, and Sam’s Club store 6605 in Gilbert for awarding grant funding of during this time. We’re also very grateful to Brookdale Apache Junction for donating water for our food bank hydration station. Continuous donations of food and cash have saved all of our clients from going hungry.





superstitionfoodbank.org

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Superstition Community Food Bank
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Apache Junction, AZ 85119

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PRESENTS...

2ND ANNUAL GERALD HUNDT MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Course Prizes

Team Prizes
Raffle Prizes

Entry Fee Includes

Golf, Range Balls &
Course Fees
Lunch
Swag Bag
Networking Opportunities
Team Prizes

SAVE THE DATE

December 12, 2020 at 9 a.m.
Gold Canyon Golf Resort - Dinosaur Course
Four Person Scramble - Team Registration \$700



Registration & Sponsorship details at...
www.dixongives.com/scfb



We invite the community to share
their photos, questions, story ideas or
suggestions to:

Myra D. Garcia, Executive Director
Phone: 480-983-2995
Email: info@superstitionfoodbank.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAUSE - DONATE NOW
www.superstitionfoodbank.org/donate

Help Us Feed the Hungry
superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/

