

## *Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021*



Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

It is my pleasure to share the incredible things you made possible for your hungry neighbors in 2020 during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Forced to change our in-person delivery method, we created a new, permanent, no-contact drive-through service approach which has proved to be extremely successful for all concerned. We were able to continue our normal 4-day a week schedule of food distribution, which combined with your generosity, allowed us to give out more than a million meals, ensuring that children, families, and seniors had healthy food to eat throughout the year.

Behind the scenes, we have been very busy planning for the future. By renegotiating our lease with Pinal County, the empty lot behind our building will be available to us for the next 20 years. We are already drafting plans for building improvements that will give us additional storage space and allow us to reroute our delivery system so recipients can receive food from their cars without ever leaving the parking lot. We will be initiating a capital campaign for this project, estimated to cost \$800,000.

Having maxed out our refrigeration capacity, we have also started building a new refrigerator/freezer which will increase our cold storage capability five-fold. This is a \$182,000 project, \$120,000 of which has already been raised. We're confident that additional grants and community generosity will help us raise the balance within this year.

With your help we are continuing our mission with more commitment and strength than ever before. Our hungry neighbors need us, and we will be there for them. We are totally focused on using your donations of funds, food, and time to reach the people who need us most.

I hope you enjoy reading about the difference you are making in so many lives here in Apache Junction and surrounding communities. It is a privilege to partner with you in serving the hungry. Your generosity and compassion continue to inspire me every day.

With my deepest gratitude,

Myra D. Garcia

### *New Refrigerator/Freezer area - Progress at work*



The Superstition Community Food Bank held a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, to begin a long-awaited expansion of its Idaho Rd facility. The expansion was spearheaded by former board members Bob Mohle and Georga Humphreys in 2019 and is now able to move forward with the awarding of a \$100,000 COVID-19 relief grant.

## cont. New Refrigerator/Freezer area Progress at work

According to Executive Director Myra Garcia, "The expansion project is the addition of new refrigeration and freezer units that will quadruple our cold storage space. We've been maxed out with our cold storage capacity for some time and the food demands brought on by the pandemic have exacerbated the problem. We'll be applying for additional grant funding and initiating a capital campaign drive to cover the total projected cost of \$182,000."

Local businesses and community members may contribute to the expansion project by visiting [www.superstitionfoodbank.org](http://www.superstitionfoodbank.org) or by contacting Executive Director Myra Garcia at 480-983-2995.

## FOOD BANK ADDS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



John Young, builder and morning team leader, and Linda Wiseman, painted the little house

The Superstition Community Food Bank (SCFB) is proud to announce the Little Snack Book Bank. The little bank houses new children books, non-perishable snacks and water for children and individuals in our community. It was built by John Young and JT Slade, and painted by Linda Wiseman, dedicated SCFB volunteers.

According to Myra Garcia, Executive Director, the idea for the Little Snack Book Bank developed from an endowment received from an anonymous donor who requested the funding be used specifically for educational programming through the food bank. About three-fourths of Arizona's third graders do not read proficiently (source: [achievethecore.org](http://achievethecore.org)). Children who do not read at grade level by fourth grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school, which can contribute to a cycle of poverty. Many homes do not have books readily available, a problem that is particularly challenging for children who need to read books and have books read to them in order to build foundational learning skills.

The food bank has partnered with Kids Need to Read, a local Mesa non-profit that encourages kids to discover the joy of reading and the power of a literate mind (source: <http://www.kidsneedtoread.org>). In Pinal County 1:4 children live in a food insecure home. The Little Snack Book Bank is another way the food bank is helping to feed the hungry while also working with partners to help bridge the literacy gap. Those who would like to donate to the food bank's programming may do so by going to <http://www.superstitionfoodbank.org>

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Myra Garcia**  
Executive Director

**Lynn Hansen**  
Interim President



**Mike Stoddard**  
Treasurer



**Helen Kimble**  
Vice President



**Megas Croll**  
Interim Secretary





*David Kinchlow, Operations Manager*

**A**s we all know, the pandemic over the last year has brought unprecedented and unforeseen challenges to American families. Most pressing of all is the need for the most basic of necessities...food!

With unemployment numbers on a downward spiral, more people than ever are being forced to reach out to agencies to help feed their families. Fortunately, we at the Superstition Community Food Bank can alleviate the stress of not knowing where, and how, they will be able to provide nourishment and daily hygiene needs for their families. For 38 years, we have been helping to alleviate hunger in our local communities with the aid of public donations, store donations, food drives, and the private sector's generosity.

Now, with our grant from the Arizona Food Bank Network, we can continue our good work on an even bigger scale. This grant is a game-changer for us, enabling our food bank to broaden its scope of families affected, to sustain a larger inventory, and thus reach outlying communities whose needs are not currently being met. We can become a stronger beacon of light to help in these most trying times. It puts us on the path to become a far more significant resource in pursuing our mission of making a positive impact on the lives of families in need.

*Meet the Team that helps our community*

**David Kinchlow**  
*Operations Manager*



**Hyo Lee**  
*Bookkeeper*



**Patricia Luff**  
*Executive Assistant*



**Dan Rice**  
*Senior Truck Driver*



**Jim Jones**  
*Driver Assistant*

*Team Leaders*

**Robyn Malgieri**  
*Monday AM & Tuesday PM*



**Corky Reed**  
*Monday PM*



**Randy Beringer**  
*Tuesday & Thursday AM*



**JT Slade**  
*Wednesday AM*



**John Young**  
*Wednesday AM*



**Amy Combs**  
*Thursday CSFF Coordinator*



**Nicki Krafft**  
*Thursday PM*



**Jan Kopelic**  
*Friday AM*



**Lindia Wiseman**  
*Friday PM*



## Right Time, Right Place | Betty Bowes

**M**y volunteer time at the SCFB is going on 15 years now, and it never gets old. Through those years I've seen my afternoon shift team grow from 3 people to 8 and more. Our food bank has evolved from a small community outreach serving Apache Junction/Gold Canyon into a full-scale nonprofit "business" serving multiple communities and distributing over a million pounds of food a year to our neighbors in need.

When I started, I had a freelance writing business and was working from home. I needed an outlet that was social, fulfilling, and not too time consuming. A friend suggested the food bank, and it was the perfect fit. As I eased into retirement, I amped up my commitment by adding a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Why let my writing and communication skills go to waste when I could put them to good use in furthering the mission of such a great cause? My time on the board was stimulating, challenging, rewarding – and fun! I was interacting with my fellow directors in planning, strategizing, brainstorming... constantly meeting new people... constantly seeking new ways to promote our collective vision...(and secretly keeping my brain cells alive).

SCFB has become a huge asset to the East Valley. We're there when people need us – and never more so than helping them through the stress and uncertainties of this pandemic. After all this time, I still look forward to my Tuesday afternoon shift and spending time with my merry band of fellow volunteers. When you see a grateful mom's eyes fill with tears when she receives her food cart or a little boy jump with joy when he sees a birthday cake, you know you're in the right place.



## Rewarding Experience | Cathy Bray

**V**olunteering my time at the Superstition Community Food Bank has been an incredibly rewarding experience. We have the opportunity to assist the most vulnerable in our community. We have provided food for single mothers living out of their cars, aging grandparents struggling on social security, and families affected by the COVID 19 economy. Recently, on a triple-digit August afternoon, we were approached by an older man on foot. He and his wife were on their way to the food bank when they ran out of gas. They were in need of a gas can and wanted to know if we could help them. Dave, our operations manager, quickly went to the warehouse and returned with



a gas can and received assurances that it would be returned. As we were getting ready to shut down for the day, an old, rather beat up van pulled up, driven by our gas-can borrowing client. He was so grateful for our help and our willingness to wait for him. I will never forget the look on his face and his words of gratitude. Had he been the only client we helped the entire day it would have been time well spent.

## Positive Impact

Jan Kopelic



**E**arly in the summer of 2020 I read an AARP publication stating there was an increased need for volunteers for non-profits due to the COVID epidemic. Food banks were near the top of the list. I was recently retired, in good health, and had

time to spare. So, I began praying about where my time could be best used. Shortly thereafter my yoga instructor mentioned the Superstition Community Food Bank. Then a couple of weeks later I opened up the *Superstition Living* magazine and saw an article welcoming Dave Kinchlow as the new operations manager. At that moment I knew I would be calling the food bank the next day. I began volunteering in August 2020.

Initially I had planned to show up, do my shift, and then slip out. After years of working in a high stress corporate position I was looking for as little obligation and structure as possible. But very quickly I was impressed not only by the work ethic and dedication of the staff and volunteers, but also by the impact the facility had on the surrounding community. My interest intensified. I volunteered to work additional days and shifts. This gave me a more complete understanding of the overall operation and drove home the need for a committed volunteer staff. By October I was hooked. Dave Kinchlow and Lindia Wiseman approached me around that time and asked if I would consider taking on a Team Lead position. I spent the next month training with Linda, whose kind heart and positive attitude fills any room she walks into.

Volunteering at the food bank has and continues to be a fun and rewarding experience. I've had the opportunity to meet some wonderful people. And when I walk out the door at the end of my shift, even though sometimes exhausted, I know what I've accomplished that day has made a difference and will have a positive impact on someone else down the road.



**Dear Friend,**

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Superstition Community Food Bank (SCFB). We are in great need of volunteers to help with two important projects: food drives and food box assembly. I'm hoping you can help.

The COVID pandemic has been devastating to so many families and individuals in so many ways, not the least of which are job losses and school closures. Both are raising food insecurity issues on an ever-increasing scale. Our community has not been spared. Like food banks everywhere, we have seen more individuals, families, seniors, and homeless people needing our help.

We need more food, and we need more people to help pack that food for distribution to our clients. We're asking local businesses, groups, civic organizations, clubs, schools, churches, mobile home parks, etc. to assist us with both. Here's how you or your organization could help.

**Conduct a Food Drive.** Just choose the date(s) and we'll work with you on all the details, from flyers and collection boxes to pick up. Every month this year we will be targeting different food items on our most-needed list. May, for example, is "Snap! Crackle! Pop!" month with a goal of collecting cereal/oatmeal, cereal bars, protein bars, coffee/tea and bottled water. Could you help us with that? To start the ball rolling, call my fellow board member Sharon Allison-Brown: 480-234-4368.

**Assemble Food Boxes.** Simply round up 8 volunteers to come to the food bank for 3 to 4 hours to pack food boxes for distribution. And prepare to have a good time while doing a good deed. Masks, social distancing, temperature checks, gloves – all COVID protocols will be followed. Just call or email me with your schedule preference(s) from the list below: 480-486-1911 / pkvert@aol.com.



**Any Wednesday afternoon – 1-4 pm**

**August – Saturday, August 14 and 29, 8 am-noon**

**September – Saturday, September 11 and 25, 8 am-noon**

**October – Saturday, October 9 and 23, 8 am-noon**

**November – Saturday, November 6, 8 am-noon**

**December – Saturday, December 4, 8 am-noon**

If neither of these volunteer needs works for you, perhaps you could pass the word on to others. And please feel free to substitute a monetary donation in place of your time. Because we purchase in bulk, we can get more for the money and stretch your donation a long way.

Whatever form of help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Together we can help our neighbors through these challenging times.

Many thanks,

**Pat Palermi**

**Board of Directors**

**Superstition Community Food Bank**

**Office 480-983-2995/Cell 480-486-1911**

## STEMming the Tide at SCFB - Part 1 | Nicki Krafft



The year of 2020 brought unique challenges to Superstition Community Food Bank (SCFB) as it had to many other places locally and globally. Our challenge was to develop no contact food delivery which required our Client Services Volunteers to work outside collecting information by going car to car. There are many challenges to this even outside of the obvious weather situations, from scorching heat to rain.

In mid-October a former volunteer high school student named Khushi Parikh contacted our Executive Director, Myra Garcia, to ask if her STEM team from Gilbert Classical Academy could use SCFB as a site for possible assistance or improvement of food delivery. The STEM team would then submit a proposal to ASU to fund the project and, if approved, they would build whatever it was we had decided upon. Who could say no to that! Myra appointed Nicki Krafft, a food bank volunteer, to coordinate the project with the STEM team consisting of: the team lead, Ayla Young, Khushi Parikh, Keely Sorenson and Madison Ngo, along with another food bank volunteer John Young, whose carpentry and engineering knowledge was put to good use.

It was decided that what was needed most was some type of unit that could be wheeled from car to car, have shelter from the sun and rain, space for IPADS to eliminate the need of a person inside inputting information via walkie talkie space for items needed like client resource sheets and the like. Over the next several weeks we met and “Zoomed” to work out the details of what SCFB needed to build a mobile unit that would be viable in the heat and terrain in the back of our building. The STEM team developed a budget and project proposal video for ASU with a clip of Nicki Krafft outlining the benefit to SCFB. To meet the team and view this 6 minute proposal, go to: [https://youtu.be/2\\_hrAYgk02w](https://youtu.be/2_hrAYgk02w).



On December 19, 2020, we found out that partial funding had been awarded with an invitation to resubmit for the rest in the spring cycle. With a little tweaking on the specifications this would allow us to build 3 mobile units. We are very excited to embark on this journey and encourage you to follow along with us as our STEM team builds and tests our new units.





Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc  
Superstition Community Food Bank  
575 N Idaho Rd #701  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

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



*Help* **FEED THE HUNGRY**

## AZ TAX CREDIT DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 17

- The maximum credit allowed is \$800 for a married couple and \$400 for a single person.
- More information is at [www.azdor.gov/tax-credits](http://www.azdor.gov/tax-credits).
- We are listed as the Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc, dba Superstition Community Food Bank. QCO 20221



**Volunteers needed for food distribution:**  
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1:30-4:30 pm

**\$10 feeds a family of 4 and \$20 a family of 8. Imagine what your monetary donation can do!**

**Donate at [superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/](http://superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/)**

Providing Food Services to Qualified Individuals and Families in East Valley Communities with Kindness, Respect and Dignity

480-983-2995  
575 N. Idaho Rd, #701  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119



## SNAP! CRACKLE! POP!



**GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE**

We're looking for:

- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Cereal Bars
- Protein Bars
- Coffee/Tea
- Cases of Water

\*monetary donations are accepted at any time

**DONATIONS ACCEPTED M-F 8:30 TO 11:30 AM**  
575 N IDAHO RD, SUITE 701  
DOOR #3 APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85119

480 - 983 - 2995  
<https://superstitionfoodbank.org>




**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAUSE DONATE NOW**  
**[www.superstitionfoodbank.org/donate](http://www.superstitionfoodbank.org/donate)**

The Superstition Community Food Bank is incorporated as Apache Junction Reach Out, Inc. and is a 501(c)(3) qualifying charity for Arizona State tax deductions of up to \$400 per person, \$800 per family.

**Help Us Feed the Hungry**  
**[superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/](http://superstitionfoodbank.org/donate/)**

