

Hunger to Hope

NEWS FROM UNITED FOOD BANK

FALL 2011



There's nothing I wouldn't do to feed my hungry children...

My name is Sunnie, and my father Eugene, daughter Ariella and I just had another great experience here. We are all grateful beyond words for United Food Bank and for places like Chandler C.A.R.E. Center. We appreciate the nutritious food and the many other products we receive here. It's always a surprise to see what's in our box. It might be cereal, eggs, chicken or perhaps some produce. Sometimes there's even shampoo or soap. Because I have virtually nothing, you have no idea how much even the smallest item means to me—and to my entire family. *Thank you.*



Without your generosity and the good people here at the Center, we'd go hungry night after night. To let you know how desperate I've been, I'll tell you this. I once stole cheese so I'd have something to feed my children. I knew it was wrong, but I felt I had no choice. But now because of what we receive here, I no longer need to steal.

You do more to help us than you may realize.
Thank you for helping us at this difficult time in our lives.

“Without your generosity and the good people here at the Center, we'd go hungry night after night.”

I'm slowly making my way back

I used to have a good job. For seven years I enjoyed working at a day-care center. I was motivated to go to work so I could provide for my family. One day my nine-year-old son was killed in an accident. I didn't handle his death well then, and I'm still having trouble dealing with his loss today. I'm slowly making my way back. His passing has affected every area of my life.

But even through my pain, I'm still able to be grateful for all you do to help families like ours. You're opening my eyes to be grateful for what I have. Now I want to pay your kindness forward. Like so many here, I don't have the words to express my thanks to you for your big, caring heart. You are so nice...so kind...and so thoughtful. Please accept my thankfulness and the gratitude of my father and family.
In appreciation, Sunnie

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Thank you for your kindness to so many who struggle each day to put food on their tables. *Every week you help United Food Bank provide food for some 22,000 of our friends and neighbors.* I go home at night knowing your ongoing generosity helps provide one more day of food and hope for someone who is hungry. *Seventy-five percent of the families you help have incomes below the federal poverty level.*

I grew up poor in Tennessee, so when I see the face of hunger, and when I hear the stories of children and seniors without adequate food, I'm touched to the core. I bleed for the fathers and mothers who cannot feed their families...and *48 percent of the household members you help feed are under 18.*

People who are hungry don't wear a sign around their necks that says, *I don't have food for my children.* In our society, hunger is largely a silent epidemic. A hungry child with an empty stomach may be sitting next to your child or grandchild at school. The family next door may be struggling with loss of employment or a serious illness, leaving the cupboard bare and the family without food. *Fifty percent of our neighbors report having to choose between buying food and paying for utilities.*

This is why we run a tight ship at United Food Bank. We take your investments in people's food needs seriously. A grandma on a fixed income doesn't send us money for unnecessary expenses. A young student expects his or her dollar bill to feed people. That's why we move our inventory up to 17 times a year. I don't want us to be the richest or the biggest. I want to keep our food moving quickly from our warehouse to our agencies, onto the tables of those who need it most.

Yes, your donations are vital. But we would hope for more than monetary gifts. We at United Food Bank invite you to enjoy the privilege of making a difference in someone's life through your acts of kindness. Thank you for being that kind of person.

With warm regards,

Mr. Robert F. Evans, Jr., President and CEO

Thank you for being a good neighbor to another Arizonan who struggles to put food on the table

Many of us in America take it for granted that we have good food, warm clothing, a safe place to sleep, and hopefully, a loving family to stand by us when things get tough. Unfortunately, this is not the case for thousands of families and individuals throughout Arizona. And the lack of food rises to the top of the "crisis list" for most of our poorer neighbors.

That's why the work of United Food Bank is vital for those who simply do not have enough in the cupboard to feed themselves or their families. And because the need is so great, we ask you to open your heart once again to do what you can to help those who suffer from lack of food.

Smiles of gratitude...words of praise



If you've ever wondered if the recipients of our food are grateful, we urge you to visit one of our many agencies on the day it distributes its boxes and bags of food to those in need. You'll see smiles of gratitude and you'll hear words of praise for your help in providing nourishing food for those who need it most—like the words of thanks

you're hearing from people like Timothy and Sunnie in this newsletter.

To continue to help us provide food for our neighbors throughout Eastern Maricopa, Gila, Pinal, Southern Apache and Southern Navajo Counties during these fall months, please complete the enclosed slip and mail it today to make your personal investment in someone's life.

Thank you for being a special friend of Arizonans who need food for themselves and their families—not only during the months of fall, but throughout the year.

The lack of nutritious food tops the "crisis list" for most of our poorer neighbors.

Sometimes we all need a little hope from our friends...

And your kindness is making a world of difference

My name is Timothy, and I want to express my gratitude to United Food Bank and to you who give so much of your time and money to help put food on my table. I've been homeless, and it wasn't pretty. I've had to move from house to house to house. I've slept in my car for more nights than I care to remember. And I'll never forget those days when I didn't know when or where I'd be able to find my next meal. But even during those trying times, I never lost hope in myself or in others. And because so many people have been kind to me, *I have no choice but to do my part to return the favor.*

Being disabled does not keep me from caring

That's why I volunteer here at the Tempe Community Action Agency's senior center. I love people and I want to do all I can to help make their lives easier—which often begins with providing the



Thank you for reaching out to me...and to so many others.

"One thing is for sure: you're providing more than food for us who are in need. You're also giving us hope to make it through the day."

Sometimes I wonder if you realize how much your donations

elderly with a plate of food. I figure we all need a little help at some point in our lives—whether it's food, a kind word, sharing our stories or just having someone to talk to. Because I've been disabled since birth, I've never been able to get around too well. I will never let that stop me from being a good neighbor to someone in need.

mean to people like me. One thing is for sure: you're providing more than food for us who are in need. You're also giving us hope to make it through one more day. I don't have enough words to communicate my deep personal thanks to you...so I will just say *thank you.*

Your grateful friend, Timothy

Gift Opportunities

MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know that it is possible to double your gift to United Food Bank? Many employers will match your contributions, allowing your generosity to reach more hungry neighbors. Check with your employer or your former employer (many offer this program to their retirees).

TRIBUTE GIFTS

Remembering a loved one or celebrating a special occasion or person through a gift to United Food Bank are wonderful ways to say you care. We will notify family members or the person to be honored by your kindness.

PLANNED GIVING

Have you included United Food Bank in your will or estate plan? Let us know of your plan, and become a member of our Legacy Circle. Planned gifts live forever and ensure United Food Bank's future in our fight against hunger.

MONTHLY GIVING

It's painless! Call United Food Bank to arrange to give a gift every month. You choose the amount, the credit card, and the timing. We do the rest.

For more information call 480.926.4897

Community Rises to the Challenge of the Wallow Fire



United Food Bank helped distribute 400,000 pounds of food to people impacted by the Wallow Fire.

When the Wallow Fire first struck, we at United Food Bank knew that our agencies would be hit hard. People were forced to leave their homes and their jobs and wait until the fire subsided. Their uncertainty about losing their homes was only one of the issues they had to face. Access to nutritious food was another, and our goal was to prepare our agencies for the large influx of

people needing emergency food assistance.

Within the first week of the fire, United Food Bank had already delivered 200,000 pounds of food to our agencies. Most of this food came from our inventory, and affected our day-to-day business. We called on the community to help us replenish our food supplies.

The community responded

Eager to contribute in any way they could, some of our friends held food drives to help those affected by the fire. We worked quickly to get the food that was donated specifically for the Wallow Fire victims into the hands of those who needed it.

Many of the food drives were conducted by businesses like Dollar Tree, OnTrac, the Democratic Office and the Arizona Off-

Highway Vehicle Coalition. These food drives not only brought in food, but also much-appreciated personal care products.

Our donors helped us by making cash donations for the purchase of additional food to restock our depleted warehouse.

These special food drives, grants, and cash donations made a huge difference in our ability to provide extra assistance to our agencies near the Wallow Fire. With your help, we were able to distribute more than 400,000 pounds of food, which provided more than 300,000 meals to the people affected by the fire.

“It takes collaboration to make a real difference in any community,” said Bob Evans, President and CEO of United Food Bank. “We are just happy to be part of that collaboration, and are truly thankful for all those who stepped up to help our friends in the Wallow Fire.”

TOURS

Come tour our facilities and see your gift in action. Our beautiful warehouse on South Nina Drive in Mesa is a sight to behold. Guided tours are available for individuals or groups. Please call 480.926.4897 and ask to schedule a visit.

My Fall Donation

YES, Bob. You can count on my support for our neighbors in need of food.

Here is my gift of: \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

I commit to a monthly gift of \$ _____. My first gift is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please charge my gift on my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

CARD NUMBER _____ SECURITY # _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

To charge your gift by phone, please call (480) 926-4897. **It's easy! Give online at www.unitedfoodbank.org**

My e-mail address is: _____ @ _____



United Food Bank

Please make your check payable to:
United Food Bank
245 S. Nina Dr.
Mesa, AZ 85210-8490

Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send you a receipt for your records.

Your gifts change lives!