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COVID-19 Update - March 13, 2020

In the midst of growing concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), United Food Bank seeks to continue providing vital food assistance throughout the East Valley and eastern Arizona. During this time, we are closely monitoring this evolving health issue and taking available measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. This includes:

- Reviewing the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), and the City of Mesa.
- Continuing to provide Emergency Food Bags, deliver food to our partner agencies and their clients, and safely operate essential volunteer activities until deemed otherwise by our government entities.
- Increasing the cleaning protocols of our two locations to disinfect our offices, restrooms, warehouse, volunteer, and common areas.

Without the support and dedication of our volunteers to deliver more than 86,860 pounds of food each week to our 220+ member agencies, we cannot effectively sort food, build emergency food boxes, or operate our weekly Help Yourself Food Co-op.

United Food Bank is taking all reasonable measures we can to limit the risk of coronavirus at our volunteer facilities. We also are changing how our weekly Help Yourself Food Co-op functions to get clients in and out more quickly with a minimum of contact.

To that end, we want to assure volunteers that we are taking all reasonable measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Recommendations include:

- If you are feeling any cold or flu symptoms -- especially cough, fever or shortness of breath -- we ask you to stay at home and seek treatment so you can get better. If you are feeling well, we urge you to consider keeping your commitment to volunteering at United Food Bank.
- We ask that you wash your hands thoroughly upon arrival to the Volunteer Center (washing for at least 20 seconds) and avoid touching your face.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and dispose of it promptly.
- Volunteers distributing fresh foods will be provided with food handling gloves. We ask that once you have put on the gloves, you avoid touching any part of your face during your volunteer activities.
- United Food Bank cleans and sanitizes volunteer work stations each day and after each volunteer packing event to help ensure a safe and positive volunteer experience.

We appreciate your continued generosity and compassion for the individuals, seniors, family and children we serve. We will keep you posted on any future developments United Food Bank takes to make sure our facilities, employees, volunteers, and clients are protected.