



# Annual Report 2023

# Table of Contents

A Letter from Jason	03
Goal and Strategy	04
Our Mission	05
2024 Stats	06
Our History	08
Connecting Communities Through Hunger	10
Feeding Hope, Building Resilience	11
United Food Bank's Grocery Rescue Program	12
Financials	13
The Heart of Giving	14
Empowering Agency Partners to Tackle Hunger in Their Communities	16
Agency Partner Spotlight	17
United Food Bank's Summer of A Million Meals	18
Joyful Holiday Distribution Events Bring Sunstenance and Unity	19
Getting Involved	20



“

There is nothing more important than knowing where your next meal is coming from

”

“

*...we see the faces behind the impact—individuals whose lives have been touched by the generosity of our community.*

”



## A Letter from Jason

As I reflect on the impactful journey of 2023, my first year at United Food Bank, I am filled with gratitude for the collective spirit that defines our community. This significant year, coinciding with our 40th anniversary, has showcased the resilience, compassion, and unity that form the core of our mission.

At the heart of our mission to alleviate hunger is a commitment to directing resources effectively. A significant 94 cents of every dollar is channeled directly into our programs, making a tangible impact on communities we serve.

In 2023, United Food Bank served 2,510,533 Arizonans, yet the need remains significant, with 1 in 7 kids, 1 in 10 people, and 1 in 14 seniors facing food insecurity in our state.

Our Grocery Rescue Program, saving 12,393,058 pounds of food, exemplifies our sustainable approach to creating food stability. This program,

along with initiatives like Summer of a Million Meals, embodies the spirit of innovation and compassion driving our mission.

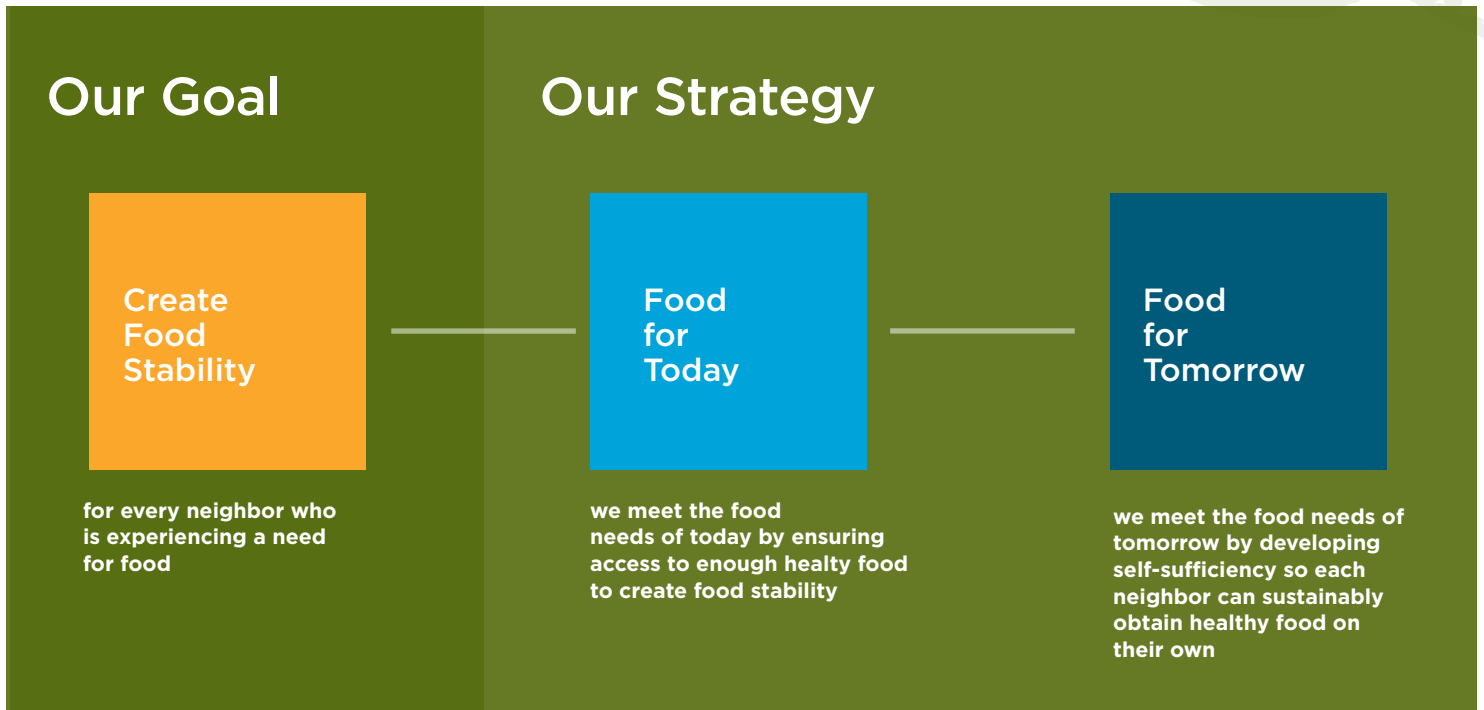
In sharing the stories of those we serve, we see the faces behind the impact—individuals whose lives have been touched by the generosity of our community.

As we look ahead, your continued support will propel us forward, shaping a future where no one goes hungry. Let us persist in uniting communities, defeating hunger, and fostering a legacy of compassion.

Sincerely,

Jason Reed  
President & CEO, United Food Bank

In 2023, we established a new goal for United Food Bank, along with a 5-year strategic framework. This framework is designed to help us meet our goal of creating food stability in our community, which will help ensure that neighbors not only have food for today, but food for tomorrow.



**Board Members**  
AS OF DECEMBER 2023

Executive Committee	Members	
Cathy Chlarson, Board Chair	Jason Porter	Chris Mason
Christina Dicksen, Vice Chair	Scott Kooiman	John Gibson
Rick Warren, Treasurer	Dave Plumb	Julie Spilsbury
Jennifer Holsman Tetreault, Secretary	Jennifer Rivera Wargo	Sonia Martinez
	Mike Suriano	Bill Warren
	Linde Harned	Raj Sistla
	Kisshell Wilson	Cecilia Quiroz
	Srikanth Balusani	



---

# Our mission is to unite communities to alleviate hunger

---

## Our Values



### Integrity

Do the right thing always



### Teamwork

What we do we do together



### Service & Innovation

Above and beyond





**1 IN 7**  
KIDS IN ARIZONA



**1 IN 10**  
PEOPLE IN ARIZONA



**1 IN 14**  
SENIORS IN ARIZONA

---

experience  
food insecurity

# In 2023 United Food Bank served **2,510,533 ARIZONANS**



of food distributed



**32%**

of food distribution  
is fresh produce



Every dollar donated  
can help provide

**5** NUTRITIOUS  
MEALS



**18,923,564**

meals distributed  
for an average of 52,000  
meals per day



**313,495**

meals were served through  
school markets and pantries



**292,567**

seniors served



**12,393,058**

pounds of food  
diverted from landfills



**716,308**

pounds of food  
collected through  
food drives



**30,000+**

volunteer hours



**650+**

corporate and  
foundation partners



# 40 YEARS

## Our History

**United Food Bank's history is deeply rooted in the East Valley and dates back to July of 1983**

**When it began operations as United Food Distribution Center, Inc. United Food Bank was started as a nonprofit joint venture among East Valley cities and their respective United Ways to gather and distribute food to East Valley organizations that were helping feed those in need. United Food Bank assisted 28 different community partners that first year, and some are still partners today like the Mesa Senior Center, The Apache Junction Food Bank (now known as Superstition Community Food Bank), and the Chandler Christian Community Center.**



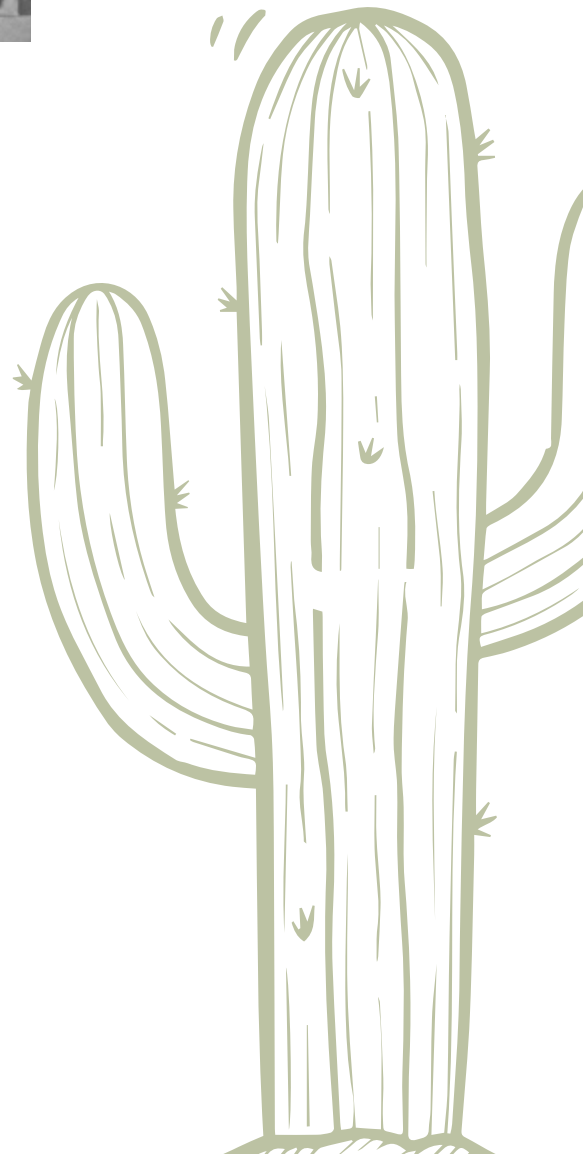




**In 1985**, United Food Bank's service geography expanded to its current area of Gila, Pinal and southern Apache and Navajo Counties along with the original service area in the East Valley of Maricopa County.

United Food Bank has grown to meet the increased need from people in our service area. As a proud member of Feeding America, our service area of 19,608 square miles includes some of the most remote areas in the state. Places like Sanders, Arizona, where there are only a couple of places to purchase food, and the next town is 40 miles away.

To serve the most people, United Food Bank collaborates with more than 120 partner agencies, including food pantries, churches, youth programs and other nonprofits, who offer over 280 programs to help feed families, children, and seniors.





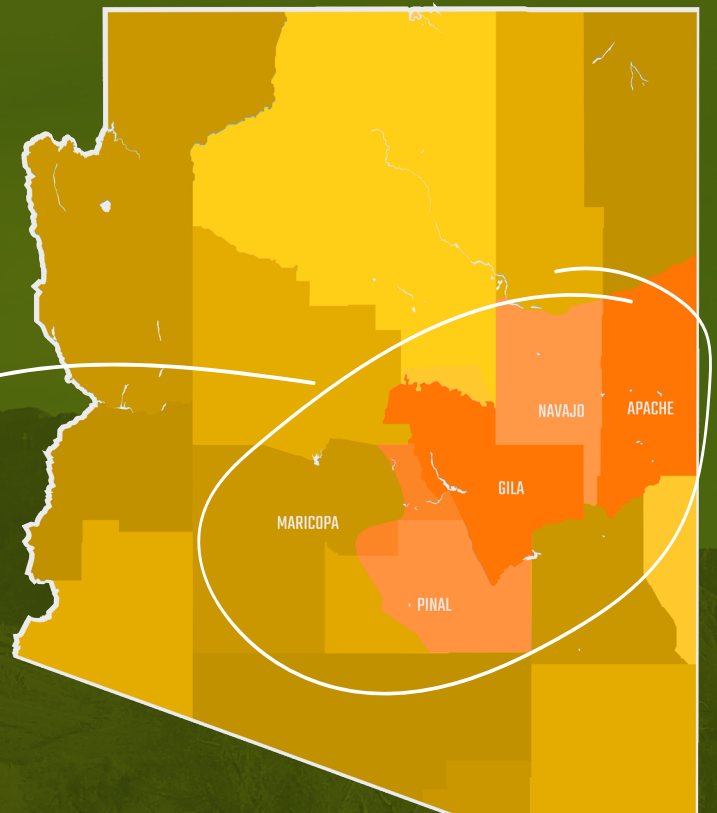
# Connecting Communities, Defeating Hunger:

## United Food Bank's Outreach Across 19,608 Square Miles

In our mission to alleviate hunger, United Food Bank proudly serves a vast and diverse service area spanning an expansive 19,608 square miles, reaching from the vibrant city of Tempe to the border with New Mexico. To provide context, this service area is equivalent in size to the state of West Virginia. Within this vast landscape, we extended our support to 2,510,533 Arizonans in 2023, encompassing families, seniors, and children who rely on our assistance. Notably, our service

area includes some of the most remote areas in the state, emphasizing our commitment to reaching every corner of need. Serving tribal communities and numerous rural areas, we recognize and address the unique challenges that these communities face regarding food insecurity.

OUR SERVICE AREA





# Feeding Hope, Building Resilience

## A Closer Look at Our Impactful Initiatives



### Emergency Food Assistance

United Food Bank offers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal commodity food program that helps supplement the diets of low-income individuals and families by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost.



### Senior Nutrition

The Commodity Senior Food Program, also referred to as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), is a federal commodity food program that helps supplement the diets of low-income older adults, 60 years or older, by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost.



### Pantry+

The Pantry+ program offers a cumulation of products collected from food drives and other various donations. Participating partners have the flexibility to submit categorical wish lists, and items are distributed as they become available, ensuring a customized approach to meeting specific needs.



### BackPack Program

United Food Bank offers the BackPack Program, which provides nutritious and easy-to-prepare food for students to take home on weekends and during school breaks when school meals are not readily available.



### Kids Café

The Kids Café program is designed to offer nutritious snacks to children during after-school activities or summer programs. Participating partners not only provide snacks, but also a secure environment for children to participate in enrichment activities like art, dance classes, and tutoring.



### School Markets

School Markets provide nutritious food to students and their families in a convenient, familiar, and safe location. School Markets may operate as a permanent onsite pantry, or the food is delivered and immediately distributed that same day as a mobile distribution. School Markets are typically operated by k-12 schools, community colleges, or universities.



### Congregate Meals

United Food Bank plays a vital role in supporting congregational meal sites by providing essential ingredients and food supplies to our agency partners. These partners then use these resources to prepare nourishing meals that serve as more than just sustenance - they foster social well-being and community engagement.

# United Food Bank's Grocery Rescue Program

## A Sustainable Solution for Nourishing Communities

In 2023, our Grocery Rescue program didn't just help to tackle hunger in our communities, it also played a big role in diverting food waste from landfills.

Working alongside our Agency Partners, we managed to rescue a whopping 1,347,883 pounds of food. But that's not all - our Agency Partners pitched in too, saving an extra 9,919,731 pounds within our service area. Together, we hit an incredible total of 12,393,058 pounds, showing what we can achieve when we work together to find sustainable solutions to creating food stability in our communities.



### Waste Not, Want Not: A Collaborative Triumph

A pivotal collaborator in our mission, Waste Not, played a crucial role in the Grocery Rescue Program. A staggering 2,578,940 pounds were rescued by Waste Not, contributing substantially to our comprehensive efforts. This partnership not only prevents edible food from going to waste but transforms it into a lifeline for those struggling with hunger.



### Smart Solutions, Sustainable Impact

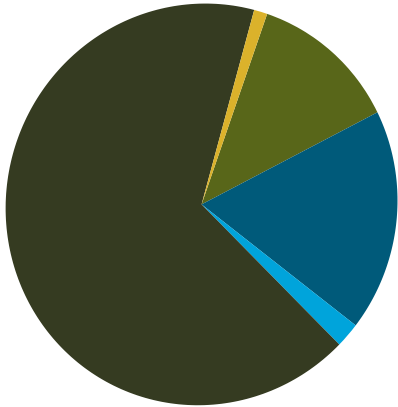
The Grocery Rescue Program's success is further exemplified by the strategic engagement with 220 retail partners. Through an estimated 41,350 total interactions and pickups, we were able to intercept and redirect food that would otherwise be discarded. This not only bolsters our commitment to hunger relief but aligns with the principles of sustainability.

**54.57%** of the food distributed annually by United Food Bank comes from the Grocery Rescue Program.



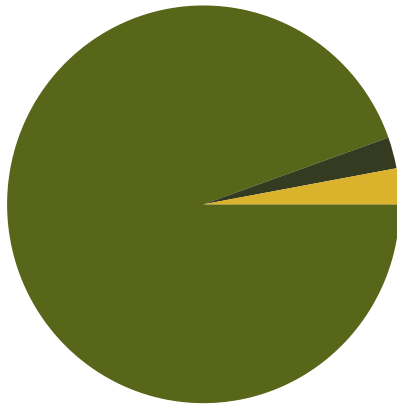


# Financials



## 2022-2023 Revenue: Total = \$46,269,422

■ Donations	\$3,757,823
■ Grants & Gov't Contracts	\$5,463,001
■ Misc. Income	\$611,340
■ Donated Food	\$36,399,483
■ Other Donated	\$37,775



## 2022-2023 Expenses Total = \$43,898,469

■ Programs	\$41,505,376
■ Management & General	\$1,117,606
■ Fundraising	\$1,275,487

Audited financials represent fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 for United Food Bank only.

**94 cents of every dollar supports  
United Food Bank programs**



“

It's good to see that we have people out here to help, because sometimes we feel like nobody's going to help us. Seeing that the community is out here, people trying to help us and trying to give back a little bit, it makes me feel good, especially around the holidays.

- Durwin

”

# The Heart of Giving

## Million Meals Club's Impact on Hunger Relief

The Million Meals Club is a testament to compassionate organizations making a significant impact in our communities. These partners have each provided enough support to help provide over 1 million meals, a remarkable milestone. We appreciate their dedication to hunger relief, recognizing the profound positive impact on individuals and families facing food insecurity. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need, helping ensure that no one goes to bed hungry.

### Million Meals Club Members

Albertsons Safeway Foundation

APS

Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation

Arizona Food Bank Network

Bank of America

Bashas' Family of Stores, AJ's Fine Foods

Cardinals Charities

City of Mesa

Desert Financial Credit Union

Fry's Food Stores

Google.org

Just-In Time Moving & Storage

Mesa United Way

Salt River Project (SRP)

Santander Consumer USA Foundation

Season of Sharing

The Boeing Company

The Cigna Group Foundation

The Light the World Giving Machines sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Thunderbird Charities

USAA Foundation

Valley of the Sun United Way

Wells Fargo Foundation





# Arizona Cardinals Score Big in the Fight Against Hunger

## A Winning Partnership

In 2023, the Arizona Cardinals took on food insecurity with a powerful partnership with United Food Bank, extending beyond football. This collaboration showcased genuine commitment from players, their partners, corporate allies, and fans—an example of compassion and community engagement.

Arizona Gives Day emerged as a beacon, uniting the Cardinals with Verizon, Kelvin Beachum, and rookies. Beyond individual donations, this initiative symbolized a commitment to match 50,000 meals, underscoring the Cardinals' dedication to alleviating hunger.

Teaming up with Albertsons & Safeway, Cardinals rookies and Albertsons employees packed emergency food bags, resulting in a substantial donation of 125,000 meals—an immediate relief for those grappling with food insecurity.

Grace Bishara, Director of Philanthropy at United Food Bank, received the NFL's first Inspire Changemaker Award, accompanied by a donation. This gesture illustrated the Cardinals' commitment to championing community champions who make a significant difference.

Grant funding for United Food Bank's Kids programs, active participation in Summer of a Million Meals telethons, and involvement in the Eisenhower holiday distribution unveiled the Cardinals' holistic strategy in tackling food insecurity. Players like Kelvin Beachum, Jonathan Ledbetter, and Dennis Gardeck, along with appearances from Big Red and Cheerleaders, showcased their commitment beyond the football field.



The State Farm & Cardinals' holiday food initiative brought the team's commitment to the forefront, providing 3,645 turkeys and holiday fixings to those in need, as well as volunteering at our Thanksgiving distribution event. Cardinals Cheerleaders, Kelvin Beachum, and alumni collectively emphasized the team's dedication during the holiday season.

In a creative twist, the Cardinals hosted a virtual Turkey Drive competition at the stadium during a home game, featuring players DJ Humphries and Dennis Gardeck. This initiative not only raised funds but also highlighted the team's unity in supporting the community.

The Arizona Cardinals' 2023 initiatives transcended football, leaving a lasting impact on the fight against food insecurity. Through the collective efforts of players, partners, allies, and fans, the Cardinals played a vital role in spreading warmth and hope throughout our community.



---

# Empowering Agency Partners to Tackle Hunger in Their Communities

## RISE Agency Grant Program

Since 2021, United Food Bank has offered the RISE Agency Grant Program to financially support partner-lead projects that elevate food pantry operations and grow the overall impact of the food assistance network within the community. RISE stands for Revitalize, Inspire, Support, Empower, which are keywords related to the goals of this program.

In 2023, a total of 23 agencies received funding to acquire new equipment and supplies, expand storage and distribution capacities, enhance safety measures, and provide additional food and services to their communities. Since its inception, the program has distributed a combined total of \$300,000, contributing significantly to the continued success of community-based initiatives.

## Enabled Agency Gas Grants

Since 2020, United Food Bank has been providing essential support to agency partners through small fuel grants, recognizing the commitment of these partners who invest time, gas, and resources to participate in the Grocery Rescue Program. In 2023, a total of 29 agencies were recipients of these grants. This financial assistance plays a crucial role in offsetting high fuel costs, ensuring that agency partners can continue their valuable contributions to the Grocery Rescue Program.

## Senior Hunger Grant

Thanks to a generous grant from Feeding America, United Food Bank has been able to enhance its services by offering monthly supplies of supplemental fresh produce and healthy proteins to senior citizens who are eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The program specifically caters to CSFP agencies serving at least 30% of individuals from diverse racial backgrounds and/or located in rural areas within the service region. In 2023, a grant of \$100,000 was awarded for this initiative, and its success has led to its renewal for a second year.



“

I moved here 7 years ago and didn't know anyone. I got in touch with the food bank here and it's been a godsend because I'm on a fixed budget since I retired. It's kind of scary moving to a new state and not knowing anyone and not knowing where to go and they've helped me out a lot.

- Patt

”





## Agency Partner Spotlight

### CAHRA's Holistic Approach to Community Well-Being

In Eloy, Arizona, the Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA) and its Santa Cruz Valley Food Pantry stand as vital pillars of community support. Since partnering with United Food Bank, they've distributed 62,935 emergency food boxes to 45,959 households. Additionally, since July 2021, they've provided 5,498 senior boxes. The pantry's efficient drive-through system primarily assists large households, aided by a dedicated volunteer team, some serving for over 12 years.

Perfecto, the Food Pantry Manager, transitioned from volunteering to a professional role, driven by a passion for community impact. The pantry's outreach extends to seniors, addressing their high demand for food assistance. Neighbors like Abe, facing personal struggles, find both support and a platform for generosity through the pantry. Beyond food aid, CAHRA offers housing and nutrition programs, reflecting their holistic community commitment. Through these efforts, CAHRA embodies the spirit of unity, compassion, and resilience, serving as a lifeline for the Santa Cruz Valley community.



# United Food Bank's Summer of a Million Meals 2023

## A Season of Abundance

In the scorching heat of Arizona's summer, United Food Bank embarked on its sixth annual Summer of a Million Meals campaign, joining forces with 12News to alleviate hunger and make a lasting impact on families in need. The campaign officially kicked off on May 29, running until September 4, with a singular mission – to raise a million meals for those facing food insecurity.

Jason Reed, President and CEO of United Food Bank, emphasized the significance of the Summer of a Million Meals campaign, stating, "Food insecurity is a year-round problem in Arizona, but the need increases over the summer months with children on break from school. We want to make sure every family has access to the meals they need, and would appreciate every cent you can donate to make this happen."

President and General Manager of 12News, Kate Morris, echoed the commitment to making a positive impact on the community, expressing

pride in their partnership with United Food Bank and the Summer of a Million Meals. Together with partners and generous viewers, the goal was to create a summer of abundance for all.

The results were nothing short of extraordinary. The 2023 campaign raised an impressive 2,353,000 meals – a testament to the compassion, generosity, and collective effort of the community.

## Thank you to our partners:

Fry's Food Stores  
Meineke  
Amazon  
Waymo  
Wells Fargo  
Pinpoint Leak Detection



# Joyful Holiday Distribution Events Bring Sustenance and Unity

In 2023, the Mesa Convention Center transformed into a hub of compassion with two holiday distribution events.

On November 20, over 1,800 households experienced the warmth of community support, receiving turkeys and essential ingredients for a traditional Thanksgiving feast amid rising food prices.

Dedicated volunteers continued the spirit on December 20, delivering a remarkable 104,000 pounds of food to 1,500 households. Ham, fresh produce, milk, and eggs, averaging 68 pounds per household, were loaded into cars, not only combating food insecurity but also becoming beacons of joy that brought communities together during the festive season.

In the words of a grateful recipient, “Thank you beyond words, you have no idea the impact and life-changing you do.” This sentiment resonates with the collective gratitude from those finding joy and relief during challenging times, all made possible through the generosity of our community, including corporate partners, the City of Mesa, dedicated volunteers, and our staff members. Through these impactful events, we not only provided sustenance but also sowed the seeds of joy, transforming holiday seasons into moments of celebration for families facing food insecurity.



“

*It is so nice that there's this wonderful help for the community. - Brenda*

”

Despite both Brenda and her husband working, making ends meet remains a challenge. Attending both the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions became an opportunity for Brenda to not only secure special holiday meals but also experience a sense of community support during the season. Her story mirrors the experiences of many who have benefited from United Food Bank's commitment to providing 'food for today and food for tomorrow,' aiming to change the narrative around seeking help during challenging times.

# Get Involved: Make a Lasting Impact



## Volunteer

### Be the Change You Wish to See

Join our dedicated force of volunteers shaping communities where hunger has no place. Your time and effort bring us closer to a hunger-free future.



## Become a Monthly Donor

### Join the Table

Become a member of The Table, our monthly giving circle, helping provide 630 meals annually with as little as .35¢ a day. Your consistent support ensures nourishment for those facing food insecurity.



## Host a Food Drive

### Unite Your Community

Transform your workplace, club, or church into a compassion powerhouse. Host a seamless food drive with donation boxes and eye-catching posters. Be the catalyst for change - combat hunger in Arizona.



## Fundraise

### Turn Your Passion into Purpose

From 5Ks to online events, channel your enthusiasm to support us. Your creativity can make a lasting impact on hunger in the East Valley and eastern Arizona.



## Corporate Sponsorship

### Partner in the Fight

Corporate Partners play a vital role - every \$1 donated can help provide 5 meals. Join forces through sponsorship to create a hunger-free Arizona.



## Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

### Give and Receive

Arizona offers a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Every dollar you donate is a direct credit toward your state income tax. Contribute and receive tangible benefits.



## Spread the Word

### Follow Us on Social Media

Help spread the message of alleviating hunger in our community. Follow us on social media, share our posts, and be a voice for change. Together, let's make a difference!