



Strength in COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

2020 Gratitude Report

Remembering PUNCH WOODS

Charles “Punch” Woods passed away in April 2020 at age 82, following a horseback riding accident.

In his 25-year tenure as CEO of the Community Food Bank, Punch Woods oversaw tremendous growth of the organization, a move to a new warehouse, and a shift toward new ways of thinking about ending hunger.

His legacy is one of justice, advocacy, and compassion.

“He was a fighter for social justice,” says Michael McDonald. “His vision for the food bank was about so much more than emergency food—he saw us really ending hunger at its source. Really changing the world.”

Punch’s legacy at the food bank includes the Punch Woods Endowment Fund, which grants funds to organizations that promote sustainable local food systems and access to nutritious food.

We remember Punch, and we carry his vision with us as we continue to fight for food justice.

“ **HIS LEGACY** is one of justice, advocacy, and compassion.



DEAR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS,

It has been a year like no other.

You already know the challenges our community has faced this year. Job loss. Rising grocery prices. Evictions, school closures, illness and isolation. Adapting to a world of physical distancing at a time when social connection is more important than ever.

But we don't want to focus on the challenges. We want to focus on the incredible ways in which our community has risen to meet them.

Because of you, we were ready to face this year head on.

We were ready to provide emergency food assistance to families who never needed it before, ready to support our resilient local food systems during a time of global crisis, ready to respond to the constantly changing needs of our communities.

We stand in awe of people like you: people who respond to crisis by coming together, taking action, and giving back. We are just one part of an incredibly compassionate, resilient community.

In a time of great need, you answered with great generosity. *Thank you.*

In gratitude & solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McDonald".

Michael McDonald
*Chief Executive Officer
& President*



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Becker".

Gary Becker
Board Chair

“

**WE ARE
JUST ONE PART
of an incredibly
compassionate,
resilient
community.**

367,839
emergency food
boxes distributed to
187,839 households

65 MILLION
pounds of food
distributed to
local families,
kids, and seniors

94,574
senior food boxes
distributed to
12,656 seniors

40% INCREASE
in households picking
up emergency food
in March & April 2020

Facing hunger ON THE FRONTLINES

This year has exposed to the public the problem we've been facing all along: too many families who need immediate, emergency food assistance.

That's what we're here for.

The rush for food assistance has been sobering since the pandemic started. The long lines of cars. The kids in the backseat, out of school. The faces of families who have never needed help before.

With your support, we've kept our doors open. We've moved to drive-through distributions. We've set up in parking lots, distributed masks and hand sanitizer, loaded up cars with bags of healthy groceries and sent families home with one less thing to worry about.

All with your generosity. *Thank you!*

“ I went for the first time on Tuesday and I was impressed with how much food we got, and how friendly everyone was. I was nervous to go but it was necessary for my family. **THANK YOU ALL.** ”



ACROSS 5 COUNTIES

All five of our Resource Center locations moved to low-contact food distributions, and mobile distributions continued without interruption at 18 sites across southern Arizona.

In Tucson, we moved our distributions to Kino Sports Complex to accommodate record numbers of households seeking assistance.

AT THE KITCHEN

Caridad Community Kitchen provided 2,597 hours of culinary training in the first half of the year, before pivoting to increased meal production when the need arose. As communal meal sites closed, Caridad prepared 85,597 Grab & Go meals—an increase of nearly 30% over last fiscal year.

AS SCHOOLS CLOSED

With 3 in 5 kids relying on free or reduced school meals, the threat of schools closing meant more kids not knowing where their next meal would come from. Our school pantries and after school meal sites stayed open, distributing nearly 400,000 pounds of groceries and 58,000 meals.

35%

of Farmers' Market
sales were made with
SNAP benefits—an
increase of 11%

\$585,000

stayed in our local
economy through
local food initiatives

25,000

free seed kits
distributed—19,000
after April when
interest in home
gardening spiked

\$316,000

generated for
local farmers and
food producers

Growing local FOOD SYSTEMS

The long lines at grocery stores. The empty
store shelves and rising food prices.

It's no wonder that so many of our neighbors turned to farmers'
markets, local growers, and growing their own food.

As supply chains were disrupted and food costs rose, we
were reminded of the importance of building local food
systems resilient enough to withstand global crisis.

Your gifts have supported our local farms and food economy
for years now—so when things got tough, we were ready.

“

WE DID START A GARDEN
this year. It felt important—we
wanted to be able to count
on ourselves for our food.



AT THE MARKET

Our already-thriving Santa Cruz River Farmers' Market pivoted quickly when the pandemic hit, switching seamlessly to a drive-through model. And with Double-Up SNAP limits lifted, families paying with SNAP benefits doubled the amount of fresh, local produce they could buy.



AT THE FARM

At Las Milpitas Community Farm, all 73 garden plots were in use, and the farm had a waiting list for the first time ever! Milpitas is more than a place to grow food—it has been a safe, outdoor space for folks to connect with the land during uncertain times.



IN SCHOOL GARDENS

We supported over 25 schools and other organizations with free seedlings, compost, soil, and other garden supplies. And when schools closed last spring? All the veggies growing in school gardens were harvested and returned to the community.

40

local organizations
were granted funds
to continue and
expand their work

\$336,000

invested in partners
working to end
hunger in our
communities

385

community partners
work alongside us

\$46,000

in grants invested
in local mutual aid
groups in response
to Covid-19

Empowering OUR COMMUNITY

If this year highlighted anything, it was this: we can't do the work alone. The real work happens in our communities, by our communities.

We will only move our work forward through advocacy, collaboration, and investing in the community leaders and organizations who are leading the way to change.

And we know that we can't end hunger with food alone. We recommitted this year to our advocacy efforts, at a time when public policy was more important than ever in keeping families fed.

Your gifts are going so much further than just a food box—they are creating real change.

“

Mutual aid just means
taking care of our own.
THAT'S WHAT IT'S ABOUT.



COMMUNITY CARE

Our new Community Needs group, formed in response to the Covid-19 crisis, has been dedicated to responding rapidly to changing community needs. The team committed to deep listening: surveying community members about food access, SNAP benefits, and other resources.



MUTUAL AID

Our team took fast action when the pandemic hit, awarding grants to grassroots groups like Food Not Bombs, O'odham Mutual & Cultural Aid, and Keeling Mutual Aid, who work with and for their own communities to provide groceries, meals, and other resources.



ADVOCACY

Our staff traveled to Washington, D.C., spoke to state legislators about hunger in Arizona, submitted comments to the USDA on proposed changes to SNAP, advocated for the Friends of the Farm bill at the state level, and more.

171,594
volunteer hours
contributed

35,017
donors like you
gave back

\$20 MILLION +
donated to make
our community
a better place

385,358
pounds of food
donated through
food drives

Compassion IN ACTION

Our community has always been a compassionate one—our generous donors and selfless volunteers have never let us down.

And since Covid-19 has forced many local families into financial crisis, we've watched as our community has come together in incredible new ways.

We've seen volunteers show up to distribute food on days of record-breaking heat. We've seen neighbors donating their paychecks to families who need them more than they do. We've seen truly radical acts of generosity and mutual aid.

We are humbled and moved like never before by the ways people like you have stepped up. *Thank you.*



We are donating our stimulus check, as we both still have jobs and are fortunate to be financially secure at a time when many are struggling. **MAY IT GO TO HELP THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.**



CALLING IN HELP

When the pandemic began and volunteers had to stay home, we were fortunate to receive immediate help from the Arizona National Guard. The Guard spent 17,376 hours working tirelessly to pack emergency food boxes, distribute food, and keep our doors open.

MASKED UP

We couldn't have predicted that we'd need donations of masks this year, but when we did, you came through! Community members and organizations donated over 2,000 handmade masks to our staff and volunteers. Others got creative with their fundraisers, selling homemade masks to raise money.

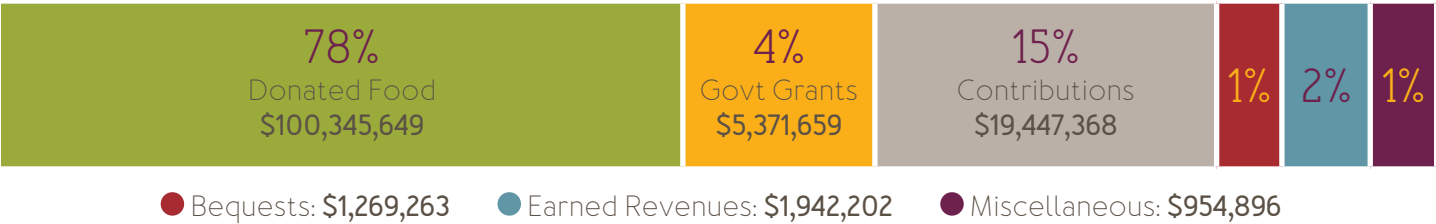
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were the true stars this year, contributing time worth an estimated \$4,667,357 and comparable to 83 full time employees. Before Covid-19 hit, volunteers were on track to surpass previous years' records.

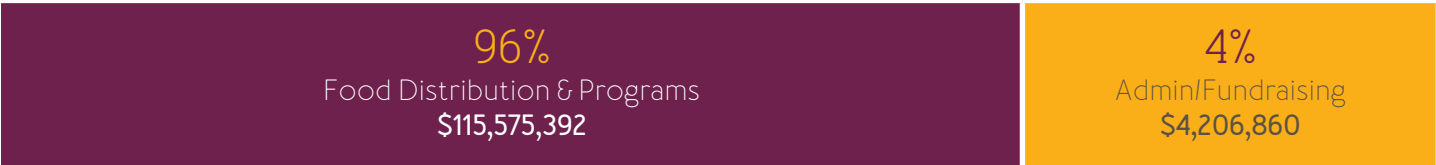
FINANCIALS | FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic led to an outpouring of community support, and we are incredibly grateful to have ended our fiscal year in a financial surplus. But the crisis isn't over. We are drawing from our resources judiciously, and planning for a long recovery ahead. We are here for the long haul—with you on our side.

ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE: \$129,331,037



ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES: 119,782,252



NET ASSETS & EXPENSES

| NET ASSETS | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Without Donor Restrictions | \$28,412,207 |
| With Donor Restrictions | \$3,880,298 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$32,292,505 |

View our 990 online at:
communityfoodbank.org/financials

| EXPENSES | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Health & Food | \$112,803,057 |
| Community Development | \$658,111 |
| Education | \$2,114,224 |
| PROGRAMS EXPENSES TOTAL | \$115,575,392 |
| Fundraising | \$2,175,253 |
| Administration | \$2,031,607 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$119,782,252 |

Building a better FOOD BANK

With your support, we've moved forward with our first ever major remodel project, bringing exciting changes to our Tucson Resource Center and warehouse. Our growing work in rescuing and distributing fresh produce means we need more food storage in a building that was once a furniture warehouse. New refrigeration and freezer units will not only increase our capacity to store fruits and vegetables, but also allow us to extend their shelf life as we continue to distribute rescued produce not only in southern Arizona but across the country. Last year we distributed more than 37 million pounds of produce to 36 food banks in 18 states!

The \$4 million renovation will also improve volunteer training facilities, expand parking, and allow safer access for both our truck drivers and community members receiving food. Private donations and long-term financing are funding these much-needed changes, set to be completed in late 2020.

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Photo credits:

Front cover & page 5: Aerial shots of cars in distribution line by David Sanders

Page 9: Volunteer at pantry (middle photo) by Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture

Page 11: Raytheon volunteer at Kino Stadium distribution by Justin Haugen



Seeds OF LIFE

Seeds of Life donors are generous individuals who have made the Community Food Bank a priority in their planned giving. We thank the following donors, whose gifts were realized last year and whose legacy lives on in the continued work to build a healthy, hunger-free community.

Audrey A. Carter

Betty A. Goff

Joseph Letuks

Betty Paine

Wayne Potter

Phyllis J. Rigg

Patricia Tarr

Marlen D. Yoder

Thank you to all 168 donors who continue to think of us in their planned giving. We're honored to be part of your plans.

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Wholesum Family Farm

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Yuma Community Food Bank

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WE CHANGE LIVES

in the communities we serve by feeding the hungry
today and building a healthy, hunger-free tomorrow



COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA



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FOLLOW US:



THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, relies on over 140 employees and hundreds of community volunteers to ensure that the people of southern Arizona have access to the food and programs they need. The food bank is based in Pima County and also serves Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz counties. The Community Food Bank provides services to eligible applicants without regard to race, color, creed, religion, handicap, age, national origin, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or gender.

