



valley view community foodbank newsletter



Dear Friends,

We had our newsletter all written with upbeat news and exciting results to share – and then along came COVID-19.

The virus has changed absolutely everything about the way we are all living and working. Whatever we once considered “normal” has been suspended.

Our clients are struggling even more than they usually do just to survive. And we are scrambling to help them have enough to eat so they remain healthy.

We decided that because their needs are escalating with job furloughs and loss, we will be open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. to ensure that we assist as many people as possible. We are maintaining all possible health and safety protocols to keep our clients and our volunteer workers and staff from danger.

However, let's pause here and recap a few things that we had been doing before COVID-19 put us on high alert.



In October 2019, we moved our pantry to 10771 W. Peoria in Sun City. We are grateful that the location was running smoothly and efficiently when the virus hit. Clients, staff, and volunteers like the new location, and we are better able to serve our seniors. We are once again on a bus route which makes it easier for people to get to us. The pantry is in the same general location as our thrift shops, which makes everything convenient.

The Shared Maintenance Program and the Farmers Market allow us to give back -- in a different way and at a reduced rate -- to clients that are in need of food and do not use the Emergency Food Pantry.



Feeding Arizona is a new program out of Valley View Community Food Bank that assists other food pantries with food distribution and other resources, helping to keep food programs running throughout our state.

VVCFB provided more than 2 million pounds of food for hungry families last year. Staff and volunteers packed 158,324 food boxes for clients. An average of 300 seniors took advantage of our weekly senior program. We also partnered with local groups, including foster programs and safe homes.

Easter 2019, some 1,752 families (4,556 individuals) received an extra food box, and 2,015 children got Easter baskets. More than 380 children and teens got backpacks and 225 received haircuts in July during the Michele Gillespie “Back to School” Event.



During Thanksgiving week, VVCFB helped 5,715 people, including 155 homeless! Another 1,898 food boxes helped 4,488 grateful people at Christmas time. We also had gifts for 1,500 children, including 33 kids who won the bike raffle. There were 116 gift bags distributed to homeless folks and 255 grandparents raising grandchildren received a special treat just for them.

We were feeling very upbeat about how things were going. And now we are determined to relieve as much uncertainty and suffering as we possibly can

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Ways to Help

for vulnerable neighbors in our community. In one day, I received more than 160 calls on my emergency phone from people desperate for assistance. The food bank is seeing as many as 500 clients per day, many of them who have never asked for help before. Food counselors and other agencies are also referring clients to VVCFB. With the sudden cancellation of school, and the shuttering of many businesses for an unknown length of time, many people are struggling to provide basic survival necessities for children, grandchildren, and themselves.

We are in need of more donations, especially food, personal hygiene items, and cleaning and sanitation supplies. The cost of staple food items such as rice and beans – if these items can even be acquired right now – have doubled and tripled. So monetary donations to facilitate the purchase of needed resources are extremely helpful. Particularly sought after are such essentials as items to make soup, canned tomatoes, and fresh produce.

In addition, volunteers are needed to take the place of regular volunteers who cannot assist in the food bank at this time because of their increased risk of contracting the virus or exposing a vulnerable family member. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food boxes. Volunteers are also needed to deliver boxes to homebound seniors in the Sun Cities. All health and safety protocols are being observed, and we are sanitizing three times a day. We have purchased and received as donations gloves, face masks, and hand sanitizers. We are taking every precaution to keep our volunteers, employees, and clients safe.

And there is hope all around us! People have come forward with donations of resources of every description, from cash to canned goods, offers of trucks to use for deliveries, and countless other goods and services. We are blessed, we are grateful, and we are all in this together!

Stay safe -- and stay connected to the ones you love, and the ones who love you. Better days are coming. In the meantime, we are here every day of the week, Sunday through Saturday, if you need us.

Thanks for all you do.

Jesse Ramirez
Founder and President



Make a monetary donation online: you can go to www.feedingaz.org.

To volunteer to help pack boxes or deliver food in the Sun Cities, call Martha Ovalle, Volunteer Coordinator, at **602-486-4285**. For more information, contact Jesse Ramirez at vvcfb@yahoo.com.

Make donation with a check: Mail to VVCFB
10771 W. Peoria Ave.
Sun City, AZ 85351

Shop at Fry's: Enroll through their website, and choose VVCFB. Part of your purchase will be donated to us.

Shop at Amazon: Go to smile.amazon.com Choose **Valley View Community Food Bank** through the drop-down menu to sign up. A percentage of your purchase will be donated to us.

Thrift Stores: Our thrift stores were thriving under Joseph Ramirez's leadership, and we were able to cover much of our overhead through sales, as well as help our clients repurpose useful items. While you're at home, please go through your closets and save items for us. Joseph is doing pick-ups for the thrift stores, and we will re-open them as soon as it is safe to do so.

To arrange a pick-up, call **623-455-2911**. Our stores are located in Sun City West at **13576 W. Camino del Sol** and in Sun City at **10737 W. Peoria Ave.**

Valley View Community Food Bank
10771 W. Peoria Ave.
Sun City, Arizona 85351
623-933-3358
www.feedingaz.org

Our Arizona state number for the tax credit is QCO 20405.
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SCAN TO DONATE

