



Building a Brighter Community

2021 Community Report

Sahuarita 
FoodBank

& Community Resource Center

Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center strives to meet the nutritional needs of the hungry and address the causes of hunger through education, workforce development, coaching and other human services. We collaborate with partners and clients to build a brighter future.



Greetings friends,

Incredible and inspirational. These two words describe this year at the Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center. When I accepted the executive director position three years ago, I never envisioned the challenges, hurdles, and vast unknown that would take place in this short time. With so much adversity affecting a large portion of the population, I have been inspired by the incredible work of people who helped us overcome all the obstacles. Whether it was a volunteer assembling a box of emergency food for a 90-year-old couple, a fellow staff member ensuring a community resident had the resources to overcome eviction due to job loss, a young family donating pasta, canned veggies, and cereal every week over the summer, or a generous donor writing a check to ensure our Backpack Program continues so no child goes hungry over a weekend, I was awestruck.

I personally thank all the incredible and generous individuals, companies, and organizations that have contributed to the SFB-CRC. Without your support, we could not have served every single person or family that walked through our doors. For many, we were their last destination for help.

Next year will be an exciting year. Our new facility will be finished, and we will finally have a proper home. The need for services has grown every year since our inception, and now we will have the resources to continue serving those most in need. As the only one-stop hub in Sahuarita, we anticipate a broad range of services, with some being unique to our area. While we still believe that food is the foundation of life, our other services, such as workforce development, will play a crucial role in helping individuals and families become more independent. And we have enlisted the help of volunteers who will coach so people are never left behind.

Volunteering will take a much-expanded role with many more positions available. With a new home and additional services, we will need your continued support. Come and bring a neighbor, a friend, or a family member to become part of the SFB-CRC family.

With the expansion of services, I also ask that you continue or begin monetary support for operations and the Nourishing Our Community Capital Campaign. Our community needs you now more than ever. Your generous donations will ensure we continue to build a brighter future.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Valles'.

Carlos Valles, MBA
Executive Director



Food Bank

Last year your support helped provide 1,300,000 pounds of food to more than 10,000 individuals. That's enough food to prepare more than a million meals!

In the Backpack program, this year 550 children at nine schools receive weekend food so they are ready to learn on Monday mornings. Nearly 200 seniors with very limited resources get extra food through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. We have also learned that many low-income seniors at a nearby subsidized apartment complex need food but are disabled or lack transportation. So, now we deliver food to 50 residents. Also with your support, we assist neighbors farther away. We supply two school pantries, organize a twice-a-month pantry in Summit, and help with food at two more pantries in under-resourced rural areas.

Despite the need for social distancing, volunteers continue resource referrals, free tax preparation, and free books for kids. This fall, a new program helped students learn to be cooks for restaurants, retirement homes and health care facilities. And we've been planning the move to the new facility and the start of new programs.

We're preparing for an even brighter future.

Norma Oldham, Food Bank visitor

My brother's social worker referred us to another food bank because he has a traumatic brain injury and needs more nutritional food than we can afford. One day I discovered SFB just down the street from where we live. When I went to register, they were not judgmental at all. They were warm and welcoming just like they are every time. They make it a nice experience and I look forward to going. It's like visiting friends.

Sergio Garcia, Food Bank visitor

I started going to SFB when I became the caretaker for my mom who is 97 and my two sons, one who is autistic. I love the attitude of the people! They are so nice and really enjoy helping. SFB-CRC is more than a food bank, it has become a support system. My family has a rich history of helping others and it makes my mom and me appreciate the food bank even more. She now provides a home for six family members, all of whom are food insecure.

Laura Chico, Food Bank visitor

I pick up food for my mom and mother-in law. They are both retired and live on a limited income. The good food keeps them well fed and they don't have to worry so much and neither do I. I really appreciate what the staff and volunteers do, especially the young people who volunteer. They are kind, helpful, and an inspiration to see what they do for others. It has been a blessing to our family.

Sue Eaton, volunteer leader

An older couple came in for the first time. The woman was sobbing, and the man explained that they needed food and a place to live. The owner of the house they rented had sold it and they did not know where else to go. Our community resource center director connected them with resources to find a home. Food insecurity is usually just the tip of the iceberg that people face when they are economically insecure.

An elderly couple, both in wheelchairs, were clients at the food bank. When the wife passed away, the husband came to the food bank and told us that all the family was coming for the funeral, and he didn't have food for them. It was not a food distribution day, but the volunteers found donated ham, potatoes, vegetables and more and boxed it up for him with their sincere condolences.





SFB-CRC is mostly a volunteer organization. As we build a brighter future together, we have all sorts of opportunities for you to help. Check out our website to volunteer your time, money...or both! These stories from our workers and donors illustrate how meaningful it is to help others.

Jerry Wiebe

One of the first times I volunteered I took weekend food BackPacks to the San Xavier Mission School. We pack 11 items of food for kids on the weekend. When I arrived, the kids were so happy and excited that it is one of my most memorable experiences as a volunteer.

Valerie Green

I started volunteering on distribution days during this pandemic and am so impressed with how this food bank does not turn people away. They go out of their way to help and are very understanding of individual needs. We are seeing more extended family units as people get evicted and now live with family members. The need is much greater than people realize, and we see three to four generations. A daughter will come with three distribution cards to pick up food for others since transportation to the food bank is another hurdle for people to overcome. Even with so much need, it is a happy place to volunteer. I know I am helping so many people.

Nathan Hall

I joined and stayed with the board of SFB-CRC because I believe deeply in the mission, see every day the need for food security in Southern Arizona, and want to help make it better. I also joined because of the amazing group of people that makes up the board, their dedication, and the difference they make every day. I am so happy that the skills that employ me can also help further the work of this amazing organization.





Tom & Suki Thomsen

We are happy to donate to the Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center because of their “all in one place” services. Not only do they feed those in need, but they offer free income tax services, job training, and employment assistance. We’re impressed with the creativity and efficiency of the independent Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center and believe that our donations are an investment in a stronger community.

Dr. Ruth Bristol,
daughter of Ralph Bristol—philanthropist in Green Valley

My father would often become teary eyed when talking about the various organizations he supported, and how important he felt that support was. He also believed that sustaining, regular support was essential to these organizations.

2020-2021

 **287**

Households per week at main location

 **1,300,000**

Pounds of food per year in all programs

 **351***

BackPacks per week

 **21,242**

Equivalent meals per week in all programs

*Schools provided some weekend meals thanks to the CARES Act, so Backpack numbers were down.

Data by fiscal year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Households per week at main location	2	7	25	44	87	109	126	153	154	208	287
BackPacks per week	50	75	110	125	196	225	275	290	346	447	351
Pounds of food per year in all programs	1,500	15,000	60K	140K	200K	350K	500K	760K	925K	1.1mil	1.3mil
Equivalent meals per week in all programs	25	245	980	2,288	3,268	5,719	8,170	12,418	15,114	17,974	22,242

New Beginnings

In 2009, Sahuarita Food Bank began in a 2' x 6' closet as a secular mission of The Good Shepherd UCC. We have grown rapidly each year, sometimes by nearly 100%. With the encouragement of the Church, in 2018 we became an independent nonprofit. We began renting more and more space at the Church and by 2020 during the pandemic served up to 500 households a week. There was no space and there were many inefficiencies.

A new building became a necessity and now it is under construction, opening in February 2022. It will allow integrated services in 14,300 square feet, feeding the hungry and with the Community Resource Center, will provide support to families, health/nutrition programs, and workforce development. We will coach our participants as they work toward economic self-sufficiency. We are dedicated to a community that works for all residents.

The SFB-CRC one-stop service hub is intended to last for decades. This will allow us to provide food distribution and services on-site, and with many community-based organizations. It will also provide the classrooms and community meeting spaces that we and our partners will use in our rural surroundings to deliver services, classes, and encouragement.



Future Programs

Our new building will offer many opportunities to build a brighter future for the people we serve. Not only can we expand delivery of emergency food and family support programs, but we can also provide programs that help individuals become more self-sufficient. In the text and photos are just a few examples of what more space, new classrooms and a large commercial kitchen will allow us to do:

Workplace Readiness

With Pima County Arizona@Work and Valley Assistance Services we'll teach folks basic job and job search skills. How do you write a resume, interview, and dress? How do you learn to be on time or get along with a boss, a coworker, and customers? And what about basic math or computer skills?

Certified Caregiver and Certified Nurse Assistant

We will partner with Pima Community College to train students for state certification exams. Successful participants can find jobs and local health care facilities will fill employee vacancies.

Women's Food Entrepreneurship

We'll teach business basics and help women sell food legally and safely.

Nutrition and Diabetes Education and Support

Our volunteers will join with professionals to offer diabetic-friendly food, nutrition classes, glucose and A1C testing, and coaching to support those who want a health-giving lifestyle.

Rural Services

We will reach out to many of the underserved rural communities in our area to offer fresh produce and other nutritional food and provide services such as resource referrals, nutrition education, volunteer tax preparation, and job search skills.

Coaching

Research shows that unemployed or underemployed individuals can make great progress when they work with a job and success coach. We will have a coach available for each of our participants.





Without partners, the Community Resource Center would not be able to function. Before the pandemic, we were already working with multiple community partners, including Pio Decimo Center for free tax preparation, Easter Seals Blake Foundation for positive parenting, United Way for Stay and Play, and the Friends of the Library for books for our literacy program.

As the CRC opens in our new space, the range of partnerships will only expand to include Pima Community College, Pima County One-Stop, Valley Assistance Services, RetailWorksAZ, the Town of Sahuarita, and others. These collaborations will ensure better results with our participants and eliminate duplication and extra costs.

Victor Gonzalez, Economic Development Director Town of Sahuarita and community partner

You can't have a healthy and vibrant local economy without actively addressing workforce development. Economic Development and Workforce Development are synonymous! The Town of Sahuarita and the Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center are working hand-in-hand to deliver community-based workforce development programming that addresses the needs of our local healthcare, restaurant and retail businesses. I'm excited to see line-prep-cook training; certified nursing assistant, and retail certification programs soon be front and center at SFB-CRC. I look forward to continuing to work together with SFB-CRC in advancing our vision for a vibrant Sahuarita community.

Dan Sullivan, Pima County Director of Community and Workforce Development and community partner

SFB-CRC's new facility will have a range of services that community members can have access to locally. Pima County Community and Workforce Development is pleased to be a community partner. The organization not only is dedicated to feeding the hungry, but also, through its Community Resource Center will provide family support, health/nutrition, and workforce development to help our households achieve family and economic wellbeing.

Understanding Our Finances

The growth in food insecurity, amplified by the pandemic, means that each year we must raise more and more operational dollars. Your contributions allow us to meet the needs of the hungry—with emergency food, weekend food BackPacks for over 550 students in nine schools, two school-based pantries, and distribution partners in Amado and Arivaca.

In the three years that we have actively raised capital for a new building in the “Nourishing Our Community” campaign, we have received strong community support from individual and family donors, foundations, businesses and governments. Donors have embraced our two missions—feeding the hungry and supporting the journey to household and economic security.

Despite this incredible support, the Capital Campaign has had several challenges. We suspended fundraising between April and October 2020 due to the pandemic. Further, the cost of the project nearly doubled since initial planning. We determined that we needed more space to allow for community growth and to become a distribution point for other local pantries and food banks. Also, the cost of building materials and code requirements rose greatly. Finally, it became clear that our donors and partners strongly support the Community Resource Center, so we included adequate space to provide integrated services that function as a one-stop hub for our participants.

Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$211,500
Grants	\$125,000
Government Contracts	\$75,000
2020-2021 Carryover	\$24,000
Total Revenue	\$435,500

Expenditures

Emergency Food Purchases	\$48,000
BackPacks (<i>food for children</i>)	\$78,500
Community Resource Center Programs	\$17,000
Operations (<i>e.g., office, utilities, insurance, fees, lease, audit, vehicles, maintenance</i>)	\$137,877
Fundraising	\$5,000
Personnel	\$148,442
Total Expenditures	\$434,819
Value of In-kind Food Donations	\$1,900,000
% of budget for administration	4%





Build a Brighter Future

Donate at www.sahuaritafoodbank.org or make checks payable to Sahuarita Food Bank and send to Sahuarita Food Bank, Box 968, Sahuarita, AZ 85629-0968.

Donations to SFB-CRC, an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Arizona taxpayers may also be eligible for the dollar-for-dollar Qualifying Charitable Organization tax credit of up to \$800 if married filing jointly or \$400 filing individually. Use Form 321 and Code 22050.

Your generosity makes all the difference.

2021 Sahuarita Food Bank & Community Resource Center
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Randy Mayer • **Carlos Valles** • **Roni Singh**

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