

AAFB MEDIA WATCH: OCTOBER 13, 2009 – OCTOBER 19, 2009
submissions: brian@azfoodbanks.org

10/19: Food stamp restrictions sought

<http://ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=1221432>

by Kevin Tripp/KTAR (October 19th, 2009 @ 7:46am)

Arizona's health director is heading to Washington, D.C., this week to push for restrictions on food stamp spending.

Will Humble, director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, will meet with officials of Health and Human Services and the Agriculture Departments to press them for guidelines that would require that food stamps be used to buy healthier foods.

"You can buy almost anything with food stamps," Humble said. "You can't buy booze and you can't buy tobacco. But, you can buy any kind of food, pretty much. You can buy a candy bar, you can buy a doughnut, you can buy a big bag of chips, you can buy anything you pretty much want with food stamps. And that's not right."

Humble said it should be of special concern as research shows more and more Americans are obese. A study published in the Journal "Health Affairs" shows spending on obesity-related health care is now nearly \$150 million a year, double what it was 10 years ago. And, a just-completed study by Ohio State University shows people who use food stamps, on average, have a higher body mass index than those who don't. The study showed that was especially true among women.

Humble said fewer people eating federally-funded junk food would mean fewer obese people and fewer people checking into hospitals with heart attacks and diabetes, so lower health care costs for everyone.

Humble said, "Both as a public health official and as a citizen taxpayer, I feel like, 'Hey, look, we're buying this food for folks. We ought to have a say in what it goes for. With this obesity epidemic the way it is, it's just not right for people to be spending their food stamp dollars on very high calorie foods that have no nutritional value."

Humble said Arizona steers clients of its Women's Infant's and Children's food program to healthier foods and restricts spending that money on junk foods.

10/19: Eddie's House launches food drive for St. Mary's Food Bank

<http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2009/10/19/daily7.html>

Phoenix Business Journal - Monday, October 19, 2009, 11:33am MST

This week, Eddie's House is conducting a food drive for St. Mary's Food Bank. For every pound of food brought to the restaurant, owner Eddie Matney will match it pound-for-dollar with an Eddie's House gift card.

On Monday from 5 to 7 p.m., Ben Patrick of the Arizona Cardinals will be at the restaurant to help out. The Arizona Diamondbacks' Luis Gonzales will be there Tuesday night, and the Phoenix Suns' Gorilla and Howler from the Phoenix Coyotes will make appearances as well.

The restaurant is at 7042 E Indian School Road in Scottsdale.

St. Mary's Food Bank distributes 300,000 meals a day. Because of the increased unemployment rate, the nonprofit has never seen numbers this high.

To make a monetary donation directly to St. Mary's: www.firstfoodbank.org.

10/17: Arivaca group receives \$50,000 for food program

<http://sahuaritasun.com/articles/2009/10/17/news/60aarivaca1018scvsun.txt>

By Philip Franchine, Green Valley News - Published: Saturday, October 17, 2009 12:14 PM MDT

The Pima County Board last week approved a \$50,000 contract for a hot meal program with the Arivaca Coordinating Council Human Resource Group.

The contract provides crucial funding the hot meals program, which is an important source for nutrition for many impoverished senior citizens, agency director Donna Sala said.

"If we didn't get that money our hot meal program wouldn't exist — it's so costly. For some seniors it's the only hot meal, or the only meal they get all day," she said.

Those eking out a living on Social Security "just don't have anything, living on \$500 a month for rent, utilities and everything else," Sala said.

The Pima County Board board approved the emergency assistance services contract by a 5-0 vote on Oct. 13.

The agency serves 65 hot meals a day, more than double the number from six years ago, when Sala joined the organization. As demand has gone up, donations have gone down. Arivaca has felt the impact of the closing of the Bashas' supermarket in Sahuarita, which once donated tons of food to the Green Valley Community Food Bank, which helps supply the need in Arivaca, along with the Tucson Community Food Bank.

The ACCHRG is in a 100-year old house at 17252 W. Fifth Street, across from the Arivaca Post Office.

The agency offers a variety of services to elderly, disabled and low-income residents, including weekly rides to grocery stores, banks and the White Elephant and medical and government offices in Green Valley and Tucson. The agency also helps with filling out Social Security, disability and other government forms and contacting other resources, such as Legal Aid lawyers and other non-profit agencies.

"We thrive on volunteers. We have all-volunteer cooks — the guy who runs the kitchen and does food ordering, we have an all-volunteer board, drivers who go into town are volunteers. A lot of volunteers are or have been clients, low income people, who just want to give back. We have between 150 and 200 volunteers a year," Sala said.

The volunteer pool helps the staff, which includes Sala, assistant director Maria Alvarez and four part-time employees, with the various tasks, including delivering hot meals to the home bound and checking up on clients.

The money approved by the county board represents about one-third of the agency's annual budget, which now \$148,000.

The budget should be around \$165,000, because, Sala said, "our vehicles are falling apart," including the 14-seat van that makes weekly runs to Green Valley and other vehicles that make deliveries. None are newer than 2001.

"We need donations. We have a monthly rummage sale to try to make money. We have a clothing bank and request donations. If someone comes in and cannot afford clothes, we let them have them," Sala said.

"Whatever problems come up we try to help people with," Sala said.

The agency can be reached at 520-398-2771. And they could use an answering machine, too.

10/17: Pyatt, Lepisto begin Coyotes' outreach initiative

<http://www.azcentral.com/sports/coyotes/articles/2009/10/17/20091017coyotesbrief-CR.html>

Oct. 17, 2009 06:24 PM

Coyotes forward Taylor Pyatt and defenseman Sami Lepisto will meet and greet fans Monday from 6-7 p.m. at Polar Ice in Peoria.

The appearances mark the first of several stops in the team's public outreach initiative of the season.

Players also will take part in community and fund-raising events, including St. Mary's Food Bank, Phoenix Children's Hospital and the UMOM New Day Center homeless shelter.

10/17: Around your town.

<http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2009/10/17/around-your-town>

News - Sat, 10/17/2009 - 00:49

Around Your Town lists nonprofit events open to the public. Please send your items two weeks in advance to cityeditor@svherald.com.

The Empty Bowls Project fundraiser for local food bank efforts is planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma St. For a \$10 donation, guests may choose a handcrafted bowl contributed by area potters. A simple meal of soup and bread will be served, and the bowl may be kept as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. All proceeds will go to anti-hunger efforts.

10/16: Firefighters launch 'Answer the Call' campaign--Asking public to donate one hour a week to a charity

http://www.wmicentral.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20379399&BRD=2264&PAG=461&dept_id=505965&rfi=6
10/16/2009

The Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona has launched a public service campaign appealing to the public to help "Answer the Call" and become more involved in service to their communities.

"In these tough times, community needs become greater with less funding," PFFA President Tim Hill said. "Arizona's professional firefighters answer their communities' calls, to the tune of about 6,000 calls a day. We're asking everyone to help us answer the call by donating one hour a week to a charity of their choice. This could be a homeless shelter, hospital, animal refuge, food bank or other worthy cause."

Hill said that "there are lots of Arizonans who would help in their communities if they knew how to hook up with a civic group. So we're offering direction and resources to make that connection." The campaign features television commercials airing statewide that not only educate but also drive viewers to

www.answerthecallaz.com, where they can find links to charitable organizations and learn how to become more involved. There also will be co-promotions with media around the state, such as the upcoming Season of Hope holiday food and toy drive with KVOA in Tucson. Hill said each year, Arizona's professional firefighters raise over \$1 million and volunteer thousands of hours to non-profit and charitable causes in their local communities.

"Many of those calls come from charities or groups like the United Way, Burn Camp and Muscular Dystrophy. Some calls come from families needing food and shelter during tough times or from food banks who serve needy families who might need an extra push to get through a frigid winter or sweltering summer.

Others come from communities who want help with baby vaccinations, pool fences, bicycle helmets and children's car seats. Some calls result from devastating tragedies such as home fires and child drowning," Hill explained.

"As members of our communities as well as firefighters, we feel compelled to lend a hand. That's why we're calling on everyone to join us in answering the call. We can always use help," Hill said. For more information on how you can help answer the call, log onto www.answerthecallaz.com.

10/16: Unemployment driving increased food bank demand

<http://www.everydaychristian.com/features/story/5164/>

By Peter Elliott - Contributing Editor

National unemployment is hovering just below 10 percent. Several states have already crossed the double-digit statistical barrier. With employment consistently referred to as the slowest lagging indicator of the economic recovery being gradually seen in financial markets, the ratio of job seekers to available jobs is likely to remain high for at least several months to come.

This means that one of the most basic necessities of putting food on the table for a family has become a daily struggle for millions of Americans.

Everyday Christian surveyed food banks around the country in March and discovered that demand was increasing rapidly. Since spring, that demand has increased.

Chandler Christian Community Center, Chandler, Arizona

The increase in the amount of traffic Elaine Leños has seen come through the doors of this center in suburban Phoenix has been noticeable over 2009. Fortunately, the donations have kept pace.

"The community has stepped up like you wouldn't believe," Leños said. "We have served a record number of people, but we have not have had to close down and we haven't had to substitute, for example, for other protein items from what we normally have.

"We have been going full speed all along while the numbers of people coming in have been going strong."

The spirit of giving has consistently matched the bleak circumstances.

"We have expanded out our donor base through publicity," Leños said. "As people find out about our situation, they have helped. We've been able to go to the same core group we've gone to before and say, 'We need this and that,' and we've been able to head off crises before it ever got to that stage."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arizona's unemployment rate stands at 9.3 percent. Leaños said she has seen the effects in Maricopa County where former donors are increasingly becoming new customers.

"We had a gentleman here who was robbed and needed our help and the next week he came back and made a donation. We certainly don't require that he do that, but this is the kind of situation we're coming across over and over. People are willing to help their neighbors in an emergency."

This was also the case over the summer as some children struggled to find consistent meals without the benefit of free and reduced breakfast and lunches through public schools.

"Our schools go back pretty early at the end of July, but for those eight weeks when school isn't in session creates a real challenge for many people," Leaños said. "Things have been more stable once we got into August and September."

10/16: Filling a need with 'Empty Bowls': Simple meal for donors will help fight hunger.

<http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2009/10/16/filling-need-empty-bowls-simple-meal-donors-will-help-fight-hunger>

Fri, 10/16/2009 - 00:44 - By Adam Curtis - Herald/Review

SIERRA VISTA — Southern Arizona residents are invited to enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread in Sierra Vista on Saturday to support local food banks. Participants in the Second Annual Sierra Vista Empty Bowls Project will also receive a handcrafted bowl, made locally, as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world.

The event is sponsored by the Sierra Vista Parks and Leisure Department's pottery workshop. Participants are asked to make a \$10 suggested donation to benefit four local food banks, said Julia Jones, a volunteer organizer of the event. Last year, about 160 people donated money to take home a bowl, which raised a little more than \$2,000. This year, there will be more than 350 bowls made by students at the pottery workshop, artists in Bisbee and some students from Cochise College.

Last year, the money raised went to the St. Vincent De Paul food bank, the Salvation Army's food and nutrition program and the Chaplain's Food Locker on Fort Huachuca, said Barry Midgorden, a pottery instructor for Sierra Vista Parks and Leisure. This year, funds will also go to the Bisbee Coalition for the Homeless.

"We're glad it's widening out a little bit. Since Sierra Vista is one of the big hubs for the county, it's our responsibility to share," Midgorden said.

The local Empty Bowls Project event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday inside the Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista.

The original Empty Bowls Project started in 1990 when a high school class in Michigan raised funds for a food drive.

Since then, a nonprofit organization called the Imagine/Render Group formed to host an online calendar of Empty Bowls events that take place around the world, Midgorden said.

Jones said she got the idea to hold one in Sierra Vista when she heard about the project through an e-list of potters in California.

“So I talked to other people at the pottery studio and nagged them a little until someone with better organizational skills than me said, ‘Oh, OK, we’ll do one,’” Jones said.

Midgorden said, “It was an idea that caught the imagination of potters, artists, and others — a great idea to generate some community involvement.”

The bowls themselves come in all shapes and sizes, and participants in the event can choose the one they want to take home, Jones said.

“My goodness. People have been making pots with all sorts of techniques and colors; we have fun gathering them together.”

There will also be a variety of soups donated by local restaurants available on Saturday, Jones said. The choices range from a chicken tortilla soup to a black bean chili.

The event is being held near the same time as World Food Day, which takes place today, Jones said.

“The idea is to remember that some people’s bowls are empty,” she said.

People can even make two donations and receive an additional bowl, Jones said.

“Lots of potters would be delighted for every one of these bowls do find a home.”

For more information about Empty Bowls events being held around the world, go to www.emptybowls.net

If you go:

The local Empty Bowls Project event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday inside the Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista.

10/16: Community Briefs (10/16)

<http://www.ahwatukee.com/articles/waste-7922-bowls-event.html>

October 16, 2009 11:35 AM - Send submissions to Janet Walker Ahwatukee Foothills News

Waste Not Empty Bowls event Oct. 16

Waste Not, a Phoenix-based organization dedicated to collecting and distributing perishable food to a diverse network of agencies that feed the hungry, will hold its 19th annual Empty Bowls Event from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 in the Grotto at the Arizona Center, 400 E. Van Buren.

A wide array of one-of-a-kind bowls made by the Arizona Clay Association will be available for purchase, most for a \$12 donation to help support Waste Not’s food recovery and delivery program.

The Empty Bowls event was created to raise awareness for the great number of Valley residents that go hungry each day. In fact, the \$12 cost of the bowl provides 75 people with a nutritious meal. Waste Not’s refrigerated trucks pick up good, perishable food from local restaurants, caterers and resorts and delivers to over 80 local agencies that supply food and meals to those in need.

For more information, visit www.wastenotaz.org or call (480) 941-1841.

Free emergency food boxes

Local families are eligible for free food boxes sponsored by Divine Word Ministries in partnership with the United Food Bank of Mesa.

The Emergency Food Boxes distribution takes place from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. every Saturday at Divine Word Ministries, 2115 W. Guadalupe, Suite 103, Mesa. Emergency food boxes are limited to one food box per family.

Divine Word Ministries is a nonprofit organization dedicated and committed to reaching the community and drawing families and individuals who are in need of spiritual guidance and a life changing experience.

For more information, or if you would like to donate food, contact the church at (480) 820-0224.

Food drive at CoffeeBuzz

The CoffeeBuzz, 4804 E. Chandler Blvd., Suite 110, is hosting a food drive for St. Mary's Food Bank through Jan. 1. Non-perishable foods (pasta, canned food, cereal) and donations are being accepted.

For information, call (480) 393-3430.

Food distributor launches food drive benefiting Ariz. residents

The Treasure Box, an economical meal program developed by San Diego-based Good Source Solutions, provides quality, nutritious food for everyone trying to stretch their food dollars. Treasure Box can feed a family of four for almost a week or an individual for nearly one month!

The Treasure Box is able to leverage its buying power through partnerships with more than 500 well-known and popular food brands to provide a pre-assembled, frozen box packed with \$75 to \$100 worth of food offered to individuals and families for just \$30 per week.

The program has partnered with churches across the Valley to offer this unique opportunity. Pickup locations include Tempe Nazarene Church, 3929 S. Rural Road, and First Baptist Church of Tempe, 4525 S. McClintock Drive, in Tempe. Deliveries are made monthly, and October orders must be placed by Oct. 7 for pickup on Oct. 24.

Individuals and families may place their orders online at www.thetreasurebox.org. For more information about the program or to become a community partner, call Koni Gould at (602) 663-0350.

10/16: Valley Benefits

http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2009/10/19/story18.html?ana=e_cw

Friday, October 16, 2009 - Phoenix Business Journal - by Kristena Hansen

-The Phoenix office of Grant Thornton LLP donated 1,060 cans of food to Interfaith Cooperative Ministries food bank in September. The firm will donate over 85,000 cans of food to various organizations across the U.S. as part of their 85th anniversary celebration. Grant Thornton LLP is the U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International, a global audit, tax and advisory organization.

-The "Gourmet's for Good" charity event Sept. 19 raised nearly \$70,000 for United Food Bank, a community-based, non-profit organization that provides hunger relief programs throughout Arizona. More than 250 guests sampled signature dishes by a number of Valley chefs.

10/16: Young at Art: It's 'Chaos' at the Valley of the Moon

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/313364>

Tucson, Arizona | Published: 10.16.2009

What it is: "Magic Carpet Chaos at the Haunted Ruins."

Who it's for: It's fun for the whole family.

When it is: 6:30-9 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday, and the same time Oct. 21-25 and 28-30.

Where it is: Valley of the Moon, 2544 E. Allen Road.

Who's doing it: Volunteers for the Valley of the Moon.

What it costs: \$7 adults, \$5 kids ages 7-13. Kids 6 and under free. Anyone who takes two cans of food for the Community Food Bank on Wednesdays gets a discount: \$3 adults, \$2 kids ages 7-13.

Who to call: 323-1331.

The particulars: This is the Valley of the Moon's 13 Nights of Halloween — the 36th annual show.

This year's play finds the Evil One back with no good as his goal. He has brought his minions with him to hijack the Magic Carpet Land from the Genie.

What's to be done? Will the Wizard and the Genie be able to stop the Evil One? Will they save the land of fairies and gnomes?

Valley of the Moon is Tucson's special fantasyland, built in the 1920s with desert stone to create structures such as an enchanted garden and wizard's tower.

Money from the Magic Carpet play will be used to continue restoration of some of the closed structures.

10/16: Sunday: Taste of the Park

http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/bella/2009/10/sunday_taste_of_the_park.php

By Michele Laudig in Behind the Bar, Chow Bella, Events - Fri., Oct. 16 2009 @ 12:30PM

This Sunday brings another chance to eat, drink, and be merry in the name of charity.

Taste of the Park, Litchfield Park's third annual culinary festival, will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on October 18 in downtown Litchfield Park, at Old Litchfield Rd. and Wigwam Blvd.

And it actually benefits a variety of good causes, thanks to the area's Rotary Club. The Boys and Girls Club, families at Luke Air Force Base, St. Mary's Food Bank, and a well project in Africa are just a few of the club's beneficiaries.

Among the food tastings, look for tasty nibbles from AJ's Persian Grill, Blu Sushi, Old Pueblo, Taps, and the Wigwam Resort. There will also be wine, beer, and sake, a silent auction, and even a belly dancing performance. For tickets, \$50, call 623-444-4416.

10/16: Award-Winning Youth Theatre, Gov. Candidate Outspoken About School Violence: Bennett Academy Performing Arts Theatre and John Paul Mitchell teamed up to host press conference, sending clear message school violence is unacceptable

<http://www.prlog.org/10378577-awardwinning-youth-theatre-gov-candidate-outspoken-about-school-violence.html>

PRLog (Press Release) – Oct 16, 2009 – Three years ago on a bright October morning, the attention of the world was focused on a one room Amish school house in Lancaster, PA. What started out as an ordinary day quickly changed to a tale of terror at the hands of a madman. Schools are meant to be places of learning and this was no exception. Only the curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic quickly changed to lessons in strength, forgiveness, and love that would be taught to the world that day and for days to come by a handful of Amish students and their surviving families. Thus starts the opening of “Lancaster,” a Bennett Academy Performing Arts Theatre production original, which has its world premiere this month.

Bennett Academy Performing Arts Theatre is a youth theatre that started out as a class and has grown to a fully fledged theatre company. Since its beginning, it has won numerous awards including the AriZoni award for best original children’s show for the 2001-2002 season, and third in the nation with NBC and the Keiser Foundation for a program on teen pregnancy awareness.

On Saturday, October 17th at 6:00 p.m. the Bennett Academy is hosting a joint press conference with Arizona gubernatorial candidate, John Paul Mitchell. He is joining the charter school’s founder Dr. Bennett, director Jim Hyte, and the play’s cast to address the issue of school violence. Mitchell is a fresh face in Arizona politics and firmly believes it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of every child’s life.

A number of Mitchell’s supporters are parents with children enrolled in Arizona public and charter schools. He learned of the “Lancaster” public performances this week, approaching the school to host a press conference to focus public awareness on school violence. “School shootings are more prevalent than ever,” Mitchell said. “The Lancaster theatre production is a sobering way to remind parents, teachers, and residents about these tragic events. I hope people will attend, share this story with others, and work on solutions to make sure it doesn’t happen in our state.”

“Lancaster” is the story of the Amish school shootings that happened three years ago on October 2nd. People have asked “...how can you do a children’s show on the Amish shootings?” Anyone attending who is expecting to see a blood bath on stage will be greatly disappointed. The show is made terrifying through use of digital video and sound effects along with the live action on stage. The audience never sees blood, the killer, or a gun. This is a show about the strength of young people.

The mission of the theatre company is to expose young people to live performance of stories that have a positive reflection in today’s world.

Arizona residents can watch the play until its matinee finale on October 24th. All seats for performances are reserved. The admission is free. Donations toward costumes, program materials, and other miscellaneous items are accepted. Bennett Academy encourages theatre patrons to bring in a non-perishable donation for **St. Mary’s Food Bank**.

The press conference is available to all media, but due to limited space, journalists and broadcasters should contact the Bennett Academy for arrangements.

For show reservations, please call 602-943-1317 and a staff member will return a call to confirm your seating arrangements. The theatre is located at 2930 West Bethany Home Road on the Bennett Academy campus.

For information on this and future productions please call Jim HYTE at 623-878-0177 or email at bpojim@yahoo.com.

10/16: KENNETH HERBERT WADLEIGH, 90

http://www.southforktimes.com/v2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=73&story_id=952

Posted: Friday, Oct 16th, 2009

SUN CITY WEST, Ariz. — Kenneth Herbert Wadleigh, 90, died Oct. 9, 2009.

He was born June 9, 1919 in Monte Vista to Arthur and Elizabeth (Gius) Wadleigh, and grew up with two brothers, Milton (deceased) and Ronald.

Kenneth graduated in 1941 from Colorado State University with a degree in electrical engineering and Drexel University with a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

He served his country during World War II. Enlisting in the Army Air Force, he went through officer training, served as a radar officer in the Philippines and England, and attained the rank of First Lieutenant.

He met his beautiful future wife, Beatrice Joan Peters (deceased 2008) on a blind date in Chicago in March 1946. They hit it off right away, sharing many interests including a love of dancing, and married on Nov. 16, 1946. They had two daughters, Deborah Larson (deceased 1998) and Patrice Eller.

In addition to his daughter, Kenneth leaves behind son-in-law, James Eller; grandsons, James Kenneth and Benjamin Matthew Eller; and many nieces and nephews.

Kenneth was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He could fix or build anything. His playful side meant learning to ski with his daughters, camping, fishing, dancing, listening to music, mixing up a good drink for friends and family and watching his favorite cartoons with his kids.

A memorial service will be held Oct. 15 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, Ariz. In lieu of flowers, if desired, memorials may be sent to either **St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance**, 2831 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, Ariz., 85009-1518 or Lord of Life Endowment Fund, 13724 W. Meeker Blvd. Sun City West, Ariz. 85375.

10/15: Methodist church builds connections for homeless

<http://jackcentral.com/news/2009/10/methodist-church-builds-connections-for-homeless/>

by Danny Kohl on October 15, 2009

Hundreds of people turned out at Project Connect last Saturday where nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies from northern Arizona helped provide resources and services to low income and homeless members of the community.

The Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Flagstaff hosted the event, which included services ranging from health, food and shelter services to free showers, haircuts and clothing. Project Connect began in January of 2008 and occurs every few months in an effort to end poverty and provide assistance for people in need.

Organizations present included the St. Mary's Food Bank, Hope Cottage and NAU's Newman Center.

Wenda Meyer, the senior program coordinator of Coconino County Community Services, helps run Project Connect.

“There is a lot of difficulty for homeless people to get assistance because services are scattered all around,” Meyer said. “People become isolated, and we wanted to come up with creative options. Our goal is to help people meet their needs and let them know they have options. A lot of people don’t realize that they can get these services.”

Throughout the church, Project Connect set up tables for more than 35 social service agencies where guests could find the assistance they need. Outside, volunteers provided a free meal of donated food. Guests also had the opportunity to take showers, receive a haircut from trained stylists, or congregate with other families and individuals in the community.

Bill Packard of St. Vincent de Paul is the co-chair program director for the event.

“The program does two things: It provides services all in one location, but more importantly, the people who serve as guides make a contact with a guest,” Packard said. “Everyone who comes gets a personal guide who prioritizes their needs and takes them to the correct people for assistance. We’ve had over 600 people through here today, and with the economy, we have more people every time.”

Anna Palyga decided to volunteer as a guide after learning about Project Connect in the Arizona Daily Sun.

“I saw a need in the community,” Palyga said. “Northern Arizona is a rather impoverished place, especially Flagstaff.”

James Kennedy is the outreach coordinator at the Open Inn Inc. Alternatives Center in Flagstaff, one of the many nonprofit organizations that attended the event.

“One of our primary functions is to help runaway homeless kids,” Kennedy said. “They can stay in our shelter, and pregnant teenagers who don’t have a home can also come so they have a place to live.”

Several medical procedures were also on hand, including flu shots; screenings for diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and HIV; dental checkups; and assistance for mental health needs.

Ron Paul from Southwest Behavioral Health Services said the organization reaches out to people by offering psychiatric care, medication and counseling.

“A lot of people are homeless because they have a mental-health issue,” Paul said. “We want to help them become successful.”

One room in the church was turned into a clothing shop for the day. Guests received donated clothing from Goodwill of Northern Arizona. Participants could pick from a room full of shirts, coats and boots.

Merrie Heath, the director of Mission Services at Goodwill, said Goodwill is focusing on providing winter clothing for the upcoming season.

“People need all the help they can get,” Heath said. “We want to uplift people in the long term and help them move on.”

By the parking lot in front of the church, a shuttle came by intermittently to give people a free ride along a route that went to the Wal-Mart and back.

Terrance Woodard waited for the shuttle and found the experience to be positive for him and his wife Sandra.

"It's great for the community," Terrence Woodward said. "They treat people with respect. [The guide] stood there with us the whole time and treated us right."

Daniel Lomell, a first-time volunteer at Project Connect, said he found the experience particularly rewarding.

"I was close to being homeless, and I can relate to them," Lomell said. "One guy, Elden, came in and took a shower and looked completely different. He went home happy as hell, wherever home is."

10/15: CAC welcomes kids to matinee showing of "Mornin' Train"

http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2009/10/20/eloy_enterprise/sports_and_education/doc4ad640ae335ae154793138.txt

Staff Reports - Published: Thursday, October 15, 2009 8:20 AM MST

PINAL COUNTY – Central Arizona College is inviting kids on fall break to bring their parents to a special matinee showing of Home on the Mornin' Train this Thursday, Oct. 15, at 11 a.m. in the Don P. Pence Center for Visual & Performing Arts.

Children under 18 are admitted at no charge while parents who attend receive a complimentary ticket with a donation of a non-perishable food product or a winter clothing item.

Food donations will benefit the Eloy Food Bank, while winter clothing donations are being collected by CAC employees for distribution to local communities in Pinal County.

"We initially set aside the Oct. 15 production for schools to come as a class trip," John Owens, the professor of theater at CAC who is directing the play, explained. "But many of the schools are on fall break so we thought it would be a great idea for children to bring their parents on a Thursday morning to see an entertaining and educational play while also helping a great cause."

Tickets also are on sale for the weekend performances scheduled for Friday, Oct. 16, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets for the public shows are \$5 for adults. There is no charge for students with ID.

Advance tickets are now on sale at the CAC Cashier's Office located in the Student Services Building (Building M, Clock Tower) on the Signal Peak Campus. The Cashier's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets also may be purchased by phone at (520) 494-5240.

The Pence Center is located on the Signal Peak Campus between the cities of Coolidge and Casa Grande in Pinal County.

Home on the Mornin' Train is the story of five German-Jewish children attempting to flee Nazi Germany in 1939.

Rifka, her brother, and their friends are hidden by a sympathetic German family on their farm outside of Berlin. The children are waiting to be smuggled out of the country by the German Underground.

While in hiding, Rifka begins to read a book that tells the story of four slave children in Alabama 100 years earlier who followed their own underground railroad to freedom from southern United States.

Buoyed by the story, Rifka and her friends use the inspiration to escape the Nazi regime.

10/15: Test your bravery at scary Halloween happenings: Magic Carpet Chaos at the Haunted Ruins

<http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/caliente/313160.php>

By Veronica M. Cruz - For the arizona daily star - Tucson, Arizona | Published: 10.15.2009

The Evil One is back, this time to wreak havoc on the mystical Magic Carpet Land. Help the genie and protect the Valley of the Moon with your Magic Stone.

Valley of the Moon rescued four Magic Carpet Golf statues from the graveyard. Visit this fantasy land built from rock and imagination during its Halloween event, debuting the additions.

- Where: Valley of the Moon, 2544 E. Allen Road.
- When: 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays through Oct. 30. Tours leave the gate every half hour. It's closed on Oct. 31. It's a long-standing tradition that nobody is allowed on the grounds all day during Halloween, in case spirits come out to play.
- Cost: \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 7-13, free for kids under 7. Bring two cans of food to donate to the Community Food Bank and get discounted admission on Wednesdays.
- Information: www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com

10/15: Noshing Around: Harvest Feast

<http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/noshing-around/Content?oid=1452943>

by Adam Borowitz

Five chefs are putting their heads together for the Tucson Community Food Bank's "Dinner Under the Stars" at the Marana Heritage Farm (12375 N. Heritage Road) on Sunday, Oct. 25. The event—featuring locally grown foods—starts with a social hour at 5:15 p.m. and is followed by a five-course dinner. It's \$100 per person and limited to 80 guests, with proceeds benefiting hungry people across Southern Arizona. Call 622-0525, ext. 469, for reservations or more information.

10/14: Number of Arizonans on food stamps at record high (w/VIDEO)

http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/Number-of-Arizonans-on-food-stamps-at-record-high/C25_esriQkO0KUlbXgW6Bg.csp

Reported by: Dave Biscobing - Email: dbiscobing@abc15.com - Last Update: 10/14 6:06 pm

PHOENIX -- At St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, it's the busiest it's ever been.

"It's difficult times for everybody," St. Mary's spokesman Jerry Brown said.

Thousands of hungry people come to the Food Bank for help.

And everyday, the workers say they see how hard this economy is hitting the Valley.

"We now have people coming in who this time last year were donating food to the food banks or donating money," Brown said.

The Phoenix center has handed out 25 tons more food this year than last.

New figures show why.

Officials say that more than 900,000 people in Arizona are now on food stamps.

That's a 36 percent increase from 2008, or about 250,000 people.

"If you look at a chart, the last year and half, it's been climbing every single month," said Ginny Hildebrand with the Association of Arizona Food Banks. "It's almost like the line is going straight up."

Hildebrand helps track hunger across the state. She said it's reached unprecedented levels.

"The food is going out as fast as it's coming in right now," she said.

That's something St. Mary's knows all too well.

"We're delivering 300,000 meals a day into the Valley," Brown said.

The sad news is that as unemployment continues to rise, so will the demand. And some estimate the real threat of hunger is even worse than reported.

"For every person who's on food stamps today, there's another person out there who is hungry and needs it," Brown said.

10/14: Valley Girl Scouts bring food for St. Mary's Food Bank

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/Valley-Girl-Scouts-bring-food-for-St-Mary-s-Food/t0SijKrMWE-sLNHS18KJug.csp>

Reported by: Imani Randolph - Email: irandolph@abc15.com - Last Update: 10/14 5:43 am

PHOENIX - Members of Girl Scouts-Arizona Cactus Pine Council kicked off their 4th Annual "Girls Against Hunger" Food Drive on Sunday.

They will continue their work through October 22 in neighborhoods throughout the Valley in support of St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

The Girls Scouts are delivering door hangers with the specific dates when troops will be making their collections.

Donors are asked to please secure food donation items in plastic grocery bags, place them outside the front door with the door hanger and the Girls Scouts will do the rest.

No one associated with drive will be permitted to knock on doors or enter homes during the drive.

While all canned packaged and boxed food will be happily accepted, among the most needed items are: canned meats; tuna and chicken; meals in cans such as beef stew, chicken and dumplings; ravioli and soups; and canned vegetables and fruits, as well as dry and canned beans, cereal, rice, peanut butter and diapers.

For safety purposes, food in glass containers, homemade foods or food in open packages cannot be accepted.

Donations for St. Mary's Food Bank can also be delivered to U-Haul and Goodwill stores throughout the Valley.

10/14: Chandler, Kyrene districts see boost in food program

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/chandler/articles/2009/10/14/20091014cr-lunches1014.html>

by Kerry Fehr-Snyder - Oct. 14, 2009 09:34 AM - The Arizona Republic .

Catherine Giza choked back tears telling the governing board of Chandler public schools about a call she got from a student forced to get a job after her parents both lost theirs.

They couldn't afford to eat and the student wanted to know what food programs the district had for families in need like hers.

"Kids have enough to deal with these days," said Giza, director of nutrition for Chandler Unified School District for the past 20 years.

Demand for free and reduced meals at both CUSD and the Kyrene School District in Tempe, Ahwatukee and Chandler has soared over the past year as parents and their children struggle to eat.

"Our district is fairly low for numbers as a percentage," Giza said. "We don't have typically high rates you see in other districts like the Roosevelt District (in Phoenix), but we've gone up greater than 10,000 students.

"That's just crazy for us."

The number of students eligible for free lunch and breakfast grew to 8,828 as of Oct. 2, up from 7,758 at the last day of classes in June.

The number of those eligible for reduced meals grew to 1,195 from 1,176 over the same time period. Reduced lunches cost 40 cents each compared with \$2 each for other students' lunches; reduced breakfasts cost 30 cents each.

That puts the total number of students on free and reduced meals at 10,023 in October compared with 8,934 in June.

The growing district has about 38,000 students this academic year compared with nearly 37,000 last year. As a percentage, about 26 percent of the district's students rely on schools for free and reduced meals. That's up from about 24 percent just four months ago.

Giza said she was saddened when the student called asking what the district could do to help her family after her parents lost their jobs.

"If you have a two-income household and one person loses a job, it bumps them right over" from reduced to free meals, she said.

"As far as I look at it, we're not slowing down. It's really tied to unemployment."

The Kyrene School District has witnessed similar growth in student participation in the National School Lunch Program.

Of 17,766 students in the district, 3,240 were enrolled in the program as of September 2008.

Although the district's enrollment shrunk by about 150 students, demand for reduced and free meals grew to 3,975 children as of September this year, according to numbers provided by district spokeswoman Nancy Dudenhoefer.

That means the portion of students on free and reduced meals grew to nearly 23 percent this year from 18 percent last year.

10/14: Eloy Food Bank back on its feet

http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2009/10/20/arizona_city_independent/news/doc4ad4bfd4036ad032350927.txt

By LINDSEY GEMME - Eloy Enterprise Editor - Published: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 8:58 AM MST

After a two-week hiatus, Eloy's Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank is finally back on its feet, thanks to a quick response from the community.

With the economy in the throes of a drastic dive, the need has become greater than ever in the history of the food bank. Without an equal amount of resources to help stock the shelves, the food bank had to close its doors to recover. And recover it did.

"We actually have a stocked food bank right now," said Stacey Martin with CAHRA, the overseeing organization of the food bank. "The community's really taken notice of the need in our community and so many have really stepped up."

Specifically, the Eloy Fire District, the First Southern Baptist Church in Eloy, and the Eloy Detention and Red Rock Detention centers have all been conducting community food drives specifically to benefit Eloy's food bank. According to Martin, the food bank has also received supplemental funding from a variety of different businesses and organizations in both Arizona City and Eloy.

The schools will have its holiday food drive with the schools in the area next month.

"We're hoping that in another six months, we'll do another community food drive, so that this doesn't happen again," Martin said.

10/14: Basketball game donates money for Meals on Wheels, Food Banks

<http://verdenews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=33127>

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Two firefighters presented a check to Elaine Bremner of the Verde Valley Senior Center Thursday. Capt. Jordan Baker and Engineer Sean Chartier, of Sedona Fire District, made a presentation of \$1,800 as a donation to the Meals on Wheels program.

The donation represents part of the proceeds from the second annual Police vs. Fire Basketball Game Sept. 26 in the Sedona Red Rock High School gym. The game, which includes police and firefighters from throughout the Verde Valley, is held every year to benefit public safety workers fallen in the line of duty.

Police topped the Fire team 72 to 66, a rebound for Police after losing by 80 points last year and the first year Police have won since 2001.

The game has been held regularly, but is the second year that it has been conducted under the Sedona Verde Valley Fire Charities banner.

Jordan Baker told a crowd gathered at the Verde Valley Senior Center for presentation of the check that the game also donated 500 cans of food to the Sedona and Verde Valley Food Banks.

10/14: LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Donations needed

<http://www.willcoxrangeneews.com/articles/2009/10/14/opinion/letters/letter1.txt>

By Director Nell Worden/Willcox Community Food Pantry - Published: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 5:09 PM CDT

Willcox Community Food Pantry, once again we must appeal to the community for their generous support. Our needs are increasing every month. In September alone we supplied food for 467 persons. This is a total of 5,604 meals. These food boxes are emergency food for people out of work and others have a very low income.

The Food Pantry is now associated with The Community Food Bank in Tucson and this has been an enormous help in stretching the dollars of your donations.

Willcox needs to know we do not charge for anything. All donations of food, clothing, household items, diapers and toiletries, go directly to the people in need.

Ninety-seven percent of our budget is spent on the needs of Willcox citizens. Our only costs are office supplies and gas to pick up food. All personnel are volunteers, including the director. The City supplies us with a building and the utilities and we could not do this work without their support.

In the last year we have fed 2,745 people a total of 29,105 meals. We are still fighting this War on Hunger and we are working everyday to stop hunger in our community. Let no one, especially our children, go hungry in Willcox, Ariz.

10/14: Investment firm to gather food, give breakfast on Nov. 7

<http://www.explorernews.com/articles/2009/10/14/business/doc4ad5f8acaa254798834375.txt>

Published: October-14-2009

A year ago, Edward Jones advisers collected enough food to feed 1,100 families in greater Tucson.

This year, the investments company wants to at least triple that number when it collects food and serves free breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Edward Jones adviser Ken Blanchard of Oro Valley is the coordinator for the "10,000 Pounds of Food Drive," to be held Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon. That day, 16 Edward Jones offices throughout Tucson and Oro Valley are collecting food and donations to support the Interfaith Community Services food bank.

"We are honored to play a small role in helping people that are going through difficult times and to let them know that the community cares," Blanchard said.

He started the annual event several years ago.

"My minimum goal is 10,000 pounds of food in four hours" throughout the city, Blanchard told a lunch gathering of the Northern Pima County Chamber of Commerce last week. Go by a food bank, Blanchard said, and you'll realize "the demand is there. The shelves are empty."

At Blanchard's Lambert and La Cañada office in Oro Valley, Caffé Torino Ristorante Italiano is serving a free breakfast to those who donate. Daniela Borella, owner of Caffé Torino, is donating food to support the cause. There'll be activities for the kids, and entertainment, and all 16 offices will have free food for people bringing donations.

Blanchard urged people to bring food to the chamber's breakfast meeting on Oct. 29.

For more information about the event, call Ken Blanchard's office at 219-5101, or contact the nearest Edward Jones office to you.

10/14: Around your town

<http://www.svherald.com/content/news/2009/10/14/around-your-town>

Wed, 10/14/2009 - 01:21

The Empty Bowls Project fundraiser for local food bank efforts is planned from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma St. For a \$10 donation, guests may choose a handcrafted bowl contributed by area potters. Soup and bread will be served, and the bowl may be kept. Proceeds will go to anti-hunger efforts.

10/13: The Little Club finds big ways to make a difference

<http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/club-9424-little-group.html>

October 13, 2009 3:20 PM - CLAUDIA SHERRILL - DAILY NEWS-SUN

They call themselves The Little Club, with good reason. Their membership numbers between 15 and 20.

For a little club, though, they do big deeds.

The mission statement reads, in part, "The Little Club was established for the purpose of supporting the needs of the community and its charities." The members pay nominal dues, and the group has fund-raisers to achieve the charity goals.

According to Jon Fagin of Surprise, the group's president, The Little Club donated \$2,200 last year to various charities and to help three families in need.

Some of the organizations that have benefited from the club's donations are Eve's Place, Salvation Army Christmas Tree, U.S. Veterans Initiative and American Indian Education. Members also support St. Jude's Research, American Cancer Society and Westside Food Bank. If members know of a person or organization the group might be able to help, they bring it to the membership for discussion and vote.

The group formed in 2006. Most belonged to the Surprise Elks Club and worked on the Elks community service committee. Members live in the West Valley, from north Phoenix to Sun City and Peoria to Surprise. Six club members are still in the work force.

The club also is a social group. The monthly meetings take place after a potluck dinner. Members take turns hosting the monthly meeting.

"We have adopted a single mother, who is disabled and can't work, and her five children," said Brenda Parker of Sun City Grand. "She left an abusive situation.

"Every month we give her grocery help. We used to buy groceries and deliver them, but now we buy gift cards from the grocery stores and give her those. And quarterly, we give them a meat donation," Parker said.

The group also gives a birthday card and small gift to each child. They provide Christmas for the family as well, from presents to the holiday meal. They also managed to purchase a used car using money raised by member pledges.

The group has made veterans a special cause as well, donating Christmas gifts and considering a donation to future veterans housing. Donations of school supplies are a regular activity, too.

Club members pore over local newspapers, including the Daily News-Sun and its weekly publications, for opportunities to help.

"Sometimes we'll see something on TV and look into the story and see if there's a way we can help," said Doris Fagin.

Garage sales are a popular fund-raiser, giving The Little Club members an opportunity to socialize and raise money at the same time. The group has planned a garage sale for Oct. 31, beginning at 7 a.m., at 8827 W. Betty Elyse Lane in Peoria.

For information about membership in The Little Club or the upcoming garage sale, call Jon Fagin at 623-810-3447 or e-mail him at azm689@hotmail.com.

10/13: Holiday aid signups begin

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/families-53481-clients-assistance.html>

October 13, 2009 5:13 PM - BY JOYCE LOBECK, SUN STAFF WRITER

The Salvation Army of Yuma County is registering families through Oct. 23 for assistance for Christmas food boxes and toys.

"We've estimated we will be able to assist 1,400 families," Capt. Jonathan Harvey said Tuesday. "That's the reality of the number of families we think we can take care of. We're basing that on what historically we've been able to collect in food and toys."

He expects to see a big influx in struggling families seeking help for the holidays based on the dramatic increase in requests for assistance other programs have experienced in recent months.

"The need is just huge. It's hard. We don't want to turn people away. For many, this will be the only Christmas they get."

Most of the clients coming in are young families, Harvey said. As an indication of the economic downturn's impact, many are seeking assistance for the first time, he noted.

Registration is being taken from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays through Oct. 23 at The Salvation Army Family Store, 600 W. Catalina Drive.

People coming in are given a time slot so they don't have to stand in line for hours, Harvey said. "We're doing the best we can to help clients quickly, efficiently and with dignity."

Clients must provide the following items when registering:

- Photo ID
- Proof of residency in Yuma County
- Social Security cards for every member of the household
- Proof of all household income, such as recent pay slips.

Food boxes and toys will be distributed to the families Dec. 22-23.

"'Tis the season," Harvey said as he observed the long line of people waiting to register. "This is the first phase of a busy and intense holiday season. But I love the fact I can affect so many people's lives. That's what keeps me going."

Harvey noted that the agency's partnerships help it help others, such as the Yuma Community Food Bank and the Toys for Tots campaign.

But to help these families have a brighter Christmas, the organization also needs the help of the community, he said.

"Get involved. That's the bottom line."

Harvey said donations of food and toys are needed, as are hosts for the agency's Angel Trees, bell ringers for the annual Kettle Drive and volunteers to sort donations and help in other ways through the holiday season. He also issued a reminder that the family store needs donations.

"If a business will host an Angel Tree with tags of children's requests, that would be a great way to help," he said, adding that Angel Trees will start being placed in mid-November.

The Kettle Drive will kick off Nov. 21 with the goal of raising \$125,000, he said.

The Salvation Army also is making plans to serve Thanksgiving dinner for 1,000 people this year and will need food donations and volunteers for that effort.

"Last year we served 400," Harvey said. He explained that the number has more than doubled this year because dinner will be served in both Yuma and in Somerton the evening before Thanksgiving.

Donations can be brought to the store. To volunteer, call 783-0181. Financial contributions can be earmarked "Food and Toys" and mailed to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 6227, Yuma AZ 85366.

10/13: A bigger and better thrift store awaits GV shoppers

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2009/10/13/news/doc4ad4a18563d12614848890.txt>

By Regina Ford - Published Tuesday, October 13, 2009 10:01 AM MDT

The Country Fair White Elephant, Green Valley's most popular thrift store, unveiled its 17,200-square-foot building Wednesday after months of construction that isn't quite finished yet.

More than 480 patrons, many from as far away as Nogales, Sonora, stood in line for more than an hour waiting for the doors to open at 9 a.m. After the official ribbon cutting and a few words from Country Fair White Elephant President Jay St. John, the shopping began.

Each year proceeds from the sale of donated goods to the thrift store are given back to the community. A large number of non-profits, schools, and other organizations in Santa Cruz County are also awarded checks from the store, including St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, the **Amado Food Bank**, Santa Cruz Training Programs for the mentally and physically handicapped, as well as Santa Cruz County schools.

The new locale south of the existing facility doubles the size of the thrift store. The \$1.85 million project promises a roomier shopping area and about 250 parking spaces when the project is done in December.

"The new building also has public restrooms, something the shoppers really wanted," said Jim Fitzsimmons, CFWE facility manager. "That was a big issue, so in planning the new store, they were a must."

"Real" changing rooms were also requested.

"We'll have four new changing rooms that will also be staffed," said Karen Morales, general manager of the thrift store. "This is a real step up and we realize the shoppers will appreciate it."

Fitzsimmons and Morales agreed that the spaciousness of the new store is the biggest bonus.

"It will feel so open and inviting," Morales said. "We know the shoppers will really love it."

Construction, which began in March, will continue through mid-December. The existing building is being remodeled for store work space behind the scenes. The north end of that facility is closed starting Monday with no access to the public.

The store's popular patio area, which will now be housed indoors, is still under construction, too, and won't be completed until mid-December.

Until the project is complete, and during the final phase of construction, donations will be accepted at the new dock doors on the east side of building.

White Elephant management suggests that donations be dropped off between noon and 3 p.m., to avoid congestion during regular shopping hours, which are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. until noon.