

AAFB: Working Across Arizona to End Hunger

Who Do You Call for Help with School Breakfast? AAFB!

When the **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** called AAFB for help with school breakfast, AAFB staff answered and responded.

THE NAVAJO NATION'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH needed help training school nutrition professionals — including Food Access Navigators (FANs) — on topics ranging from food insecurity to the importance of breakfast for kids at risk of hunger. 20 people attended this training which was held in **WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA**.

Of course the training didn't stop there, as attendees worked on ideas to increase school breakfast and to find creative solutions for getting more meals to more students.

Every training also gives AAFB staff the opportunity to learn about the unique and diverse problems that navigators, school districts, health departments and teachers face when trying to get more and more students access to free and reduced-price meals. This listening opportunity also provides ideas that have worked from the people directly serving kids — many times teachers and food service directors — to share successful innovative approaches other groups can access.

This cooperative work gets everyone closer to living in a Hunger-Free AZ. AAFB's work to increase access to school meals is supported by **SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S NO KID HUNGRY**, the **WAL-MART FOUNDATION**, the **FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER**, and the **VIRGINIA G PIPER CHARITABLE TRUST**.



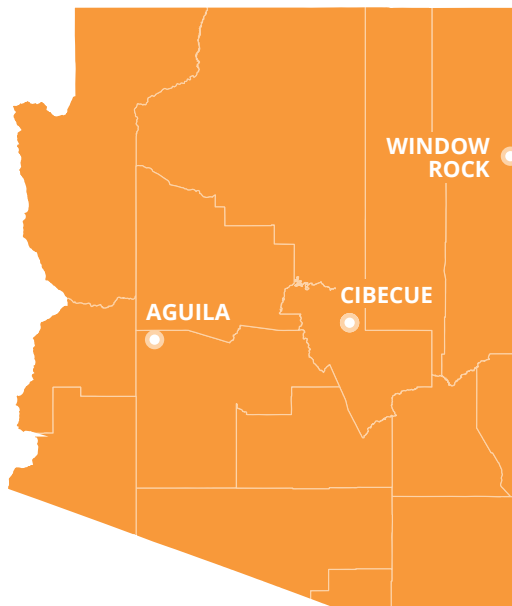
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Food in the Library? The Answer is Yes

When AAFB program staff brainstormed about how to get more kids a meal in the summer, one idea surfaced and took hold: go to the libraries.

THE LIBRARY IS A SAFE PLACE WHERE KIDS CAN GO WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT.

They get computer and reading time and can escape the oppressive heat that hits most of the state. The problem is that those kids many times don't have access to food that usually comes from school breakfast and lunch.

In summer 2016, 17 libraries in Arizona became places (called "sites") where kids 18 and under could get a meal. For 8 of them, supplies and support from their organizing hub (called a "sponsor") came from AAFB member **ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE**.

Libraries and other locations can become summer food sites if they meet federal eligibility criteria — and more than half of Arizona's libraries meet this standard.

When AAFB reached out in 2017 to see if more libraries wanted to serve meals, **BILL DUDLEY IN AGUILA, ARIZONA**, leapt at the chance. AAFB staff connected him with St. Mary's and from there it was a matter of figuring out the logistics.

Aguila is located off the US 60 about 20 miles northeast of Wickenburg, near Maricopa County's border with La Paz County. It takes 90 minutes to travel there from downtown Phoenix. St. Mary's drivers made food deliveries every two weeks. The pre-prepared food was stored in a freezer, and each day library staff thawed the next day's meal.

Thanks to this cooperative effort, **THE AGUILA LIBRARY STARTED THE "READ AND FEED" PROGRAM**, which ran from June 8 through August 2. When AAFB staff visited, the library was full of children reading and playing computer games. Library Branch manager Bill Dudley says he served between 30-50 children every day, and a side benefit for the library is that their circulation went up, too.

Building on this success, AAFB will continue to work with sites and sponsors statewide to get even more kids access to healthy meals in summer 2018.

CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT

Association of Arizona Food Banks is an **ARIZONA CHARITABLE GIVING TAX CREDIT ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION**. You may be able to receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit for your gifts to AAFB, up to \$800 if filing jointly or \$400 individually. Please consult your tax advisor for full details. Visit WWW.AZFOODBANKS.ORG to donate.

Cibecue Water Crisis

June in Arizona brings deadly heat. Imagine what would happen to you if suddenly, at the height of the most extreme temperatures in the state, you **LOST YOUR ACCESS TO ALL WATER SOURCES**.

This is exactly what happened in the small town of **CIBECUE, ARIZONA** in June. **THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE** declared a state of emergency for the town when pumps that powered the town's water supply failed and couldn't be repaired for days.

AAFB's staff went to work to find a solution, reaching out to member food banks and other organizations to get water to this very rural community. **THE SALVATION ARMY** had a truckload of water ready to go. That's when AAFB put a driver on the road to get the load to Cibecue.

Arriving the next day, the water arrived at the town school, which served as a distribution point for the community. This delivery arrived just in time, as the town would have run out of supplies that very day. And AAFB's member food banks **ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK ALLIANCE, COMMUNITY FOOD BANK** and **UNITED FOOD BANK** pitched in with supplies and deliveries with extra water that were channeled to agencies in the area.

Support from donors like you helps AAFB work in partnership with our members and the larger community of charities in Arizona that are working to end hunger. Together, we can solve urgent problems like the one in Cibecue, and the ongoing problem of hunger for all Arizonans.

One More Note About Summer

In 2016, AAFB conducted a series of focus groups to find out why, compared to those who access free and reduced lunch, so few kids go to summer feeding sites for meals when school is out.

The findings weren't shocking: transportation during the peak of the Arizona heat is a problem, but another problem has an easier solution. That problem is awareness — **PARENTS DON'T KNOW THAT FREE SUMMER MEALS ARE AVAILABLE**.

In Summer 2017, thanks to support from the **VIRGINIA G PIPER CHARITABLE TRUST**, AAFB was able to create an ad campaign online that targeted people in **MARICOPA COUNTY** searching for "free meals". These ads appeared on Facebook and in Google searches. As part of this campaign, AAFB President and CEO Angie Rodgers did a Facebook Live video to show parents how easy it is to get their kids a free meal. This video alone has been watched more than 40,000 times!



All of this work is only possible because of donors and friends like you, and partner organizations that make it all happen. Thank you all for caring about Arizonans at risk of hunger!



hunger relief license plate

Have you seen this license plate when driving around Arizona, or do you even have one yourself? The Hunger Relief license plate costs \$25 (plus postage and handling) and benefits AAFB. **Get yours when you renew your Arizona license plate** and help end hunger one “plate” at a time. A big thanks to everyone who has this special plate. See you on the road!

Staying Strong on SNAP

For years, **AAFB HAS BEEN WORKING TO ENSURE THAT ARIZONANS ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP (WHAT USED TO BE CALLED FOOD STAMPS) CAN ACCESS BENEFITS EASILY.** One big victory for people at risk of hunger in our state came at the end of the last state legislative session, when Arizona lawmakers decided to end the finger-imaging requirement that was a part of SNAP applications. Finger-imaging started as a way to delete duplicate applications and prevent fraud, but quickly became a barrier to people getting critically needed help.

With this change Arizona is no longer the last state in the US to have this requirement, and discontinuing finger-imaging (which didn't work as fraud prevention) actually saves Arizona nearly \$1 million from its general budget.

Good for Arizona, and good for families at risk of hunger.

Thank you to the many organizations, individuals and advocates who worked with AAFB to get this change on the books. Your voices made a difference!

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ABOUT AAFB Established in 1984, AAFB is a private, nonprofit organization serving five member food banks and a network of nearly 1,200 food pantries and agencies. AAFB partners with Feeding America and other hunger relief organizations nationwide to end food insecurity in our state and country. For more than 30 years, AAFB's programs, including transportation, the hunger hotline and getting children meals in school, have helped alleviate hunger in Arizona. Our advocacy efforts target reducing the need for emergency food from the charitable system. For more information about our organization and work, visit our website at www.azfoodbanks.org.

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