

Audrey's Story

People struggle with hunger every day in Arizona. Our network helps provide emergency food to address that need. But the transaction of providing a food box is so impersonal. AAFB is fortunate to connect with individuals and families from across the state to share their experiences with hunger. We want to share some of them with you so we can all understand better why hunger still exists in Arizona. **THIS IS AUDREY'S STORY FROM WINSLOW, ARIZONA.**

I am so fortunate to have my job as a teacher's aide. It's stable work at \$10.77/hour, and I'm able to pay a reasonable cost for health insurance.

I was living with family in the Hotevilla Village on the Hopi Reservation, but I moved to Winslow for better job opportunities and a place of my own for me and my two kids. I couldn't make ends meet as a housekeeper at a local hotel. I started receiving SNAP in September 2017.

I am 27 years old, and my main expenses are rent and car insurance. My one-year-old has had a lot of health expenses too. I receive \$220 a month in SNAP, but the process to get SNAP can be complicated.

I use SNAP to buy the food my children need. When my youngest was an infant, she was on a special formula. I was enrolled in the WIC Program but needed a doctor's release for the formula, so I had to use SNAP to pay for the special formula. Now that my baby is one, she can drink whole milk, which really cuts costs.

If I didn't have SNAP, I would always be broke, living off ramen noodles and food from the Dollar Store. **I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN.**



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Getting help to where it's needed most: AAFB Hunger-Fighting Grants

Thanks to a generous donation from UnitedHealthCare and an appropriation from the Arizona state budget, agencies like soup kitchens and food pantries across the state received grants to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables they can get to Arizonans at risk of hunger. **ALREADY MORE THAN 60 GRANTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ORGANIZATIONS IN NEARLY EVERY COUNTY IN THE STATE, WITH SOME FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE!**

Many agencies needed new or upgraded refrigerators, and some used funds to innovate in other ways to get more healthy produce — much of which would have been wasted — to people who need it most!

Our thanks to **UNITEDHEALTHCARE, GOVERNOR DUCEY AND THE LEGISLATURE** for making this possible. Here are just a few stories from grant recipients across the state.



HAVEN TOTES, INC., TUCSON

Thanks to the generous grant to purchase the new refrigerator and freezer, we can offer our families the proteins they need along with the healthy benefits of vegetables/fruits and dairy products. Our plan is for the food bank to be open once each week to start. It will be open to the families of the children (over 500 citywide) we serve each week with weekend food, and each family may visit once each month, or more should they run out of food completely.

OUR FOOD BANK WILL NOW BE ABLE TO OFFER CANNED GOODS, DRY GOODS, PRODUCE, BREAD, DAIRY ITEMS AND FROZEN MEAT. Haven Totes is an agency partner with our food bank here in Tucson and will continue to pick up food items to fill our new food bank.



HARVEST COMPASSION CENTERS, PHOENIX

Thank you, Association of Arizona Food Banks, for your generous support to help us purchase new refrigerators for the Mitchell Swaback Charities to be used at our Harvest Compassion Centers.

HAVING THESE REFRIGERATORS NOW ALLOWS US TO ACCEPT AND DISTRIBUTE HEALTHIER STAPLES LIKE FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, and many more items that can now supplement a family's table and keep their children in better health.

We are excited to fill them with fresh vegetables, fruits, and other delicious and healthy foods for our families in need. Thank you for helping keep our 7,000 families and 1,600 children healthier for many years to come!



SISTER JOSE WOMEN'S CENTER, TUCSON

Sister Jose Women's Center was awarded \$10,000 to cover the cost of a Tuff Shed to house refrigeration units for fresh produce, eggs, dairy and meat. The Tuff Shed was purchased and installed mid-February. A concrete slab was poured to provide a solid foundation for the shed. We are so grateful for your help in purchasing this Tuff Shed! Our clients have increased to the point that we were struggling to have enough storage for our perishable food items. We are serving over 100 women per day in our Day Program and 38 in our Night Program. **WITH THE PURCHASE OF THIS SHED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO STORE FOOD MORE APPROPRIATELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO SERVE OUR CLIENTS.**

ow?

AFB and our food bank partners distributed almost **13 million pounds of tomatoes**. To put that in perspective, that's enough tomatoes to make pizza sauce for 2.8 million extra-large pizzas!



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!

End hunger 2 ways — order a box lunch and help kids at risk of hunger in Arizona!

Great news! For every Red Tractor Lunchbox ordered, **FARMBOY AMERICAN FARE** will donate 25 cents to AAFB to help the nearly 1 in 4 kids who are at risk of hunger in our state.

“Growing up on the farm, you didn’t think twice about helping someone in need. It’s just what you did to be a good neighbor,” said Zach Gibbs, owner of Farmboy American Fare. The ‘Red Tractor Lunchbox’ giving campaign is our way of carrying on that tradition. I can’t think of a better way to do that than by feeding people, which is what we love to do.”

End hunger in Arizona, and end your hunger with a delicious lunch by ordering online today at www.farmboyamericanfare.com.



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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 1,000 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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