

You can't do much
on an empty stomach.

But you can
help end
hunger.



What can't you do when you are hungry? Our answers to this question might be similar, or they could be very different. This September during Hunger Action Month, **WE'RE WORKING WITH FEEDING AMERICA TO GET THE NATION TALKING ABOUT HUNGER.** Join the conversation online on Facebook and Twitter!

1 Grab a plate

2 Write what you can't do
on an empty stomach

3 Then post and share to
your social networks with
#HungerActionMonth



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want to help?

Visit our website and subscribe to our email list. We'll send you legislative action opportunities so that our elected officials and policymakers will hear your voice!

Advocacy *By Oscar De Los Santos, Public Policy Manager*



It was the late 1970s. Jimmy Carter was preparing to leave office and the first personal computers were beginning to appear in homes. My parents, too, were arriving at their new home—the United States of America. They crossed our southern border out of desperation, risking their lives to break free from the crushing cycle of intergenerational poverty that plagued their pueblo in central Mexico. They were fortunate to find work here—first in the fields of central California helping deliver food to kitchen tables across our country, and later in the factories in and around Los Angeles.

Our family knew want and instability, but somehow, through immense sacrifice—and with the help of dedicated teachers and school lunch programs that ensured their children were well-fed and ready to learn—my parents were able to put all of their five children through college.

When I graduated, I followed in my sister's footsteps and became a teacher. I knew I wanted to give back to a place that had given me so much. It was my personal realization of the American Dream.

But the sad reality is that my family's story is the exception, not the rule. Today, **NEARLY 50 MILLION AMERICANS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS**—hardworking adults playing by the rules, young children in classrooms, and senior citizens trying to retire with dignity—**FACE HUNGER**. And in our state, the problem is worse.

Consider this: **TODAY IN ARIZONA, A CHILD IS MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN HUNGER THAN TO LIVE IN A COLLEGE DORM ROOM**. The hardest part of school shouldn't be wondering where your next meal is coming from.

Hunger is threatening the American way of life. It's a threat to the rural families in Yuma, to the immigrant families like mine in Tucson, and to the single mother and her son in Phoenix. That's wrong. And we need to fix it. So what can we do?

IDEAS FOR ACTION

Learn everything you can about hunger and its causes here in our state. We have resources at WWW.AZFOODBANKS.ORG to get you started.

Find out where candidates stand on hunger, and what their ideas are for helping children and families at risk. Then register and vote!

Talk to your friends and family about hunger in Arizona.

Talk about it online. Read the article in this issue of *Food Lines* about Hunger Action Month—What can't you do on an empty stomach? Post your pictures and stories.

Join our advocacy email list. Send me a note at OSCAR@AZFOODBANKS.ORG and I'll make sure to keep you posted on issues that are important for at-risk Arizonans.

Let's work together to find solutions so that more kids can find their American dream.

Children *By Chris Boyd, Children and Youth Program Manager, Tucson*

In Arizona, one out of every four kids is at risk of hunger. They may not get a nutritious meal during the day. Access to healthy meals for Arizona's children continues to be a pressing issue.

In July 2016, AAFB received additional funding from **SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S NO KID HUNGRY CAMPAIGN** to do more work in Tucson and southern Arizona. We'll work in partnership with schools throughout the region to gain a better understanding of how schools are implementing their meal plan programs.

We'll also work with schools to provide wider access to healthy meals for students. Thanks to the **VIRGINIA G. PIPER CHARITABLE TRUST AND DONORS LIKE YOU**, work is already underway in Maricopa County and surrounding areas. Now it's time to expand those outreach efforts in order to make a stronger impact throughout the state.



One of programs we're promoting is the **COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)**. CEP gives qualifying low-income schools the ability to provide free breakfasts and lunches to ALL of their students, every day. The benefits of CEP include reduced paperwork for schools and families, reducing stigma for students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals, and better access to nutritious meals for Arizona students.

In addition to getting more meals through CEP, we're working on how those meals are served. A 2014 study found that **FOR EVERY 100 YOUTH WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS, ONLY 52 ATE BREAKFAST. WE'RE PARTNERING WITH SCHOOLS TO UNDERSTAND WHY** so many students are skipping the most important meal of the day. We're also working to get more kids breakfast by starting new models, like serving breakfast in the classroom.

ARIZONA STATE TAX CREDIT INCREASE!

Arizona state tax credit increased to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for households.

People who submit tax returns in Arizona may be eligible for a tax credit for donations to AAFB, as we are a qualifying charitable organization that serves the "working poor." **THE CREDIT WAS INCREASED TO \$400 FOR INDIVIDUALS AND UP TO \$800 FOR MARRIED COUPLES FILING A JOINT RETURN.** You don't have to itemize, and you may get a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes owed. Talk to your tax advisor for details!



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!

Transportation

(Formerly known as the Arizona Statewide Gleaning Program)

Partnership was at an all-time peak at the end of this year’s produce season! With many generous donors giving food banks their excess produce as harvest season came to a close, the statewide Logistics Task Force worked hard to make sure we got as much produce as possible to clients.

ARIZONA IS A VERY DIVERSE STATE WHEN IT COMES TO AGRICULTURE. IT’S CRITICAL THAT WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY COUNTY GETS PLENTY OF FRESH PRODUCE. To make this happen, the Logistics Task Force, with members from AAFB and our member food banks, comes together whenever one food bank has met the need in their area. Then we work quickly to move it to another food bank that can use it.

THE LOGISTICS TASK FORCE RECEIVED AND TRANSPORTED OVER 12 MILLION POUNDS OF PRODUCE THIS PAST SEASON —NEARLY HALF OF EVERYTHING WE DISTRIBUTED! 90% of this produce came from Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona in Nogales, and Yuma Community Food Bank. They generously shared with all the other food banks in the state. This successful season kept our drivers very busy moving a large variety of produce. We saw everything from melons to salad to jicamas this season!

We are grateful for the hard work from our member food banks as well as for generous donors like you. **TOGETHER, WE’RE GETTING FOOD TO PEOPLE WHO NEED IT STATEWIDE.** Thank you!

OUR MEMBERS



Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

HONORHEALTH

Desert Mission Food Bank



St. Mary's Food Bank ALLIANCE



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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