

## **Benefits of Membership in the Arizona Food Bank Network (AzFBN)**

### **Membership in AzFBN:**

1. **Provides a forum** for constructive discussion on food banking issues. Food banks learn together and from each other, build relationships, problem solve, and identify issues among member food banks.
2. **Enables direct input** on new programs, and then members receive the benefits of those collaborations. Projects like the Southwest Produce Collaborative and Logistics Task Force are generated, shared with non-members and then directed by members.
3. **Lends credibility to food bank operations** and presents a united voice to Arizona about food banking issues and hunger as a societal problem. This extends to relationships with the food industry and other industry representatives. All members work together to seek food and other resources to feed hungry people.
4. **Provides access to operational expertise** from the collective experience of membership and the Feeding America Network. This expertise provides a body of knowledge about how food banks work so they can serve their communities effectively. When there is personnel turnover at food banks, AzFBN can provide or get access to technical knowledge to bridge the gap and educate new staff. AzFBN, in cooperation with member food banks, has provided guidance for the development of five food banks in Arizona, including the restructuring of one. Computer support services through AzFBN enables smaller member food banks to operate with current computer technology to ensure accountability to donors and the communities they serve.
5. **Builds relationships** between members that increases operational effectiveness. Trusting relationships add to smooth operations in the critical work of serving hungry people.
6. **Gives a voice** during planning around food bank issues. AzFBN opinions are solicited by government and nongovernmental groups to speak on behalf of members. In order to do that effectively, regular input is gathered.
7. **Offers food banks a coordination point when natural or manmade disasters strike.** AzFBN ensures coordination and collaboration during these stressful times and ensures that resources arrive when and where they are needed. AzFBN is a member of Arizona Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (Arizona VOAD).
8. **Enhancing accountability** through an adopted a Statement of Values and Membership Code of Conduct accepted by member food banks. AzFBN and members agree to adopt the Association of Fundraising Professionals Code of Ethics and the BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charitable Accountability.
9. **Enables access to supplies.** When food becomes available (usually government commodities or donated grocery products) member food banks share with each other to see that needs of people at risk of hunger throughout the state are met.
10. **Connects organizations** during natural or man-made disasters. AzFBN serves as a central point of contact for coordination of resources needed to assist those in need and a single point of contact for information to the public, relieving stress on member food banks.
11. **Gives access to up to the minute advocacy.** AzFBN monitors legislative issues that impact food banks and the people food banks serve at both the state and national level. During the Arizona legislative session, regular updates on important bills or rule changes are shared with member food banks for their information and action.

Things that AzFBN does **not** do for food banks:

- Control operations
- Control or limit fundraising efforts
- Dictate how things are to be done. In cooperative programs, all members who participate are part of the planning to carry out an activity or event and are part of the decision making process down to how funds and/or food are distributed among member food banks
- Limit or define service area
- Use food bank names or reputations to raise money for AzFBN operations
- Inspect, monitor, license or oversee food bank operations

AzFBN asks member food banks to provide:

**Financial Support**

Organizational member support fees are determined annually by the AzFBN Board of Directors. Alternatively, an amount of in-kind support that supports AzFBN's annual budget can be considered.

**AzFBN Board Representation**

One person who is on staff at the food bank to serve on the AzFBN Board of Directors (who meet quarterly) and a personal annual financial contribution, of any amount, and to serve on a Board Committee of their choosing.

**Assent to Code of Conduct**

Adoption of the AzFBN Membership Code of Conduct, BBB Standards for Charitable Accountability and adherence to the Association of Fundraising Professionals Code of Ethics.

**Annual paperwork**

Each member provides the following documentation to AzFBN:

- Most recent report to the Arizona Corporation Commission
  - Most recent financial audit.
  - Most recent Form 990
  - Most recent Annual Report
  - Most recent Strategic Plan
  - Current IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter
  - Current Certificate(s) of Insurance
  - Current Board of Directors List
  - Current Organizational Chart
  - Current Year Budget
  - Current / Amended By-laws
  - Current / Amended Articles of Incorporation
  - Other inspection reports
  - Collaborative Spirit
- Each member commits to working with all member food banks in a spirit of cooperation and coordination.
- Reporting
- Each month each member provides written reports of food distribution data which includes, but is not limited to, total pounds distributed/collected, number of agencies served and number of food boxes distributed.